



**PAKSTRAN**  
PAKISTAN SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT PROJECT



National Exposure Visit on  
**RAPID BUS TRANSIT**  
Lahore and Islamabad



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## Executive Summary

The transport sector is the key area for socio-economic development of a country. The transport sector in Pakistan is characterized by the issues of traffic congestion, absence of dignified and sustainable public transport, lack of infrastructure and high levels of vehicle emissions. Major cities of Pakistan are facing rapid increase in population and number of vehicles which is contributing towards rise in the problems of commuters. In this scenario, PAKSTRAN project is undertaking initiatives to promote the sustainable urban transport through awareness raising and capacity building of key stakeholders.

In continuation of such initiatives, CIU-IUCN has planned to organize two national exposure visits on Bus Rapid Transport (BRT), as part of the Annual Work Plan-2015 of "PAKSTRAN" project. The objective of the exposure visits was to facilitate the capacity building of policy makers and concerned federal and provincial departments in the field of sustainable transport. This activity was beneficial to examine the already developed BRT projects in Punjab and explore avenues for the replication and implementation of similar mass transit transport projects in other provinces and cities. The participants of this national exposure visit got the opportunity to get an understanding of sustainable transport concept and its importance for the socio-economic progress at the provincial levels.

The key speakers on the occasion were Dr. Saleem Janjua, National Project Manager PAKSTRAN Project, Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema Country Representative IUCN Pakistan/Component Director CIU-IUCN, Ms. Fauzia Bilqis Malik, Component Manager CIU-IUCN, Mr. Ozair Shah General Manager (operations) Punjab Metro Bus Authority, Lahore and Dr. Murtaza Bukhari Representative Urban Unit, Lahore.

## 1. Introduction

To achieve the objective of capacity development of key stakeholders and streamlining the sustainable transport concerns at policy level CIU-IUCN organized two exposure visits on Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) at Lahore and Islamabad. The participants of this activity involved PAKSTRAN project partners and a diverse group of government officials from relevant federal and provincial departments. The participants were nominated by the head of departments to whom an official letter of participation/nomination was sent few days prior to the event.

- i. Punjab Metro and Mass Transit Authority
- ii. Capital Development Authority
- iii. National Highways and Motorway Police
- iv. Islamabad Traffic Police
- v. Multan Traffic Police
- vi. Lahore Traffic Police
- vii. Pakistan Environment Protection Agency
- viii. Transport and Mass Transit Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- ix. Energy and Power Department, Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
- x. Sindh Transport Authority, Government of Sindh
- xi. National Transport and Research Center, Ministry of Communications
- xii. The Urban Unit, Punjab
- xiii. University of Engineering and Technology, Lahore
- xiv. NED University Karachi
- xv. National University of Science and Technology

## 2. Orientation Session of National Exposure Visit on BRT

The exposure visit officially started with an orientation session that was organized at PC Hotel, Lahore. During this session participants were briefed regarding the PAKSTRAN Project and the purpose of the National Exposure Visit. The session was formally started with the recitation of few verses from Holy Quran followed by a quick round of introduction of the participants.

### 2.1 Welcome address by Country Representative IUCN Pakistan

Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country Representative IUCN Pakistan said a warm welcome to the participants of the exposure visit. On the occasion Mr. Cheema said that the development of Metro Bus System in major cities of Pakistan by is a right step towards sustainable development and there is a dire need that people should get aware of the socio-



economic and environmental benefits of sustainable transport.

Mr. Cheema appreciated the efforts and commitment of “PAKSTRAN” project and IUCN team in successful implementation of the project’s capacity development plan this year by engaging national and provincial government departments.

He also expressed that he is hopeful that our distinguished guests will use this forum to enhance their learning and knowledge for the promotion of sustainable transport in Pakistan. Mr. Cheema concluded his remarks by encouraging all stakeholders and participants to continue similar activities of awareness raising and capacity building.

## 2.2 Overview of PAKSTRAN by National Project Manager PAKSTRAN

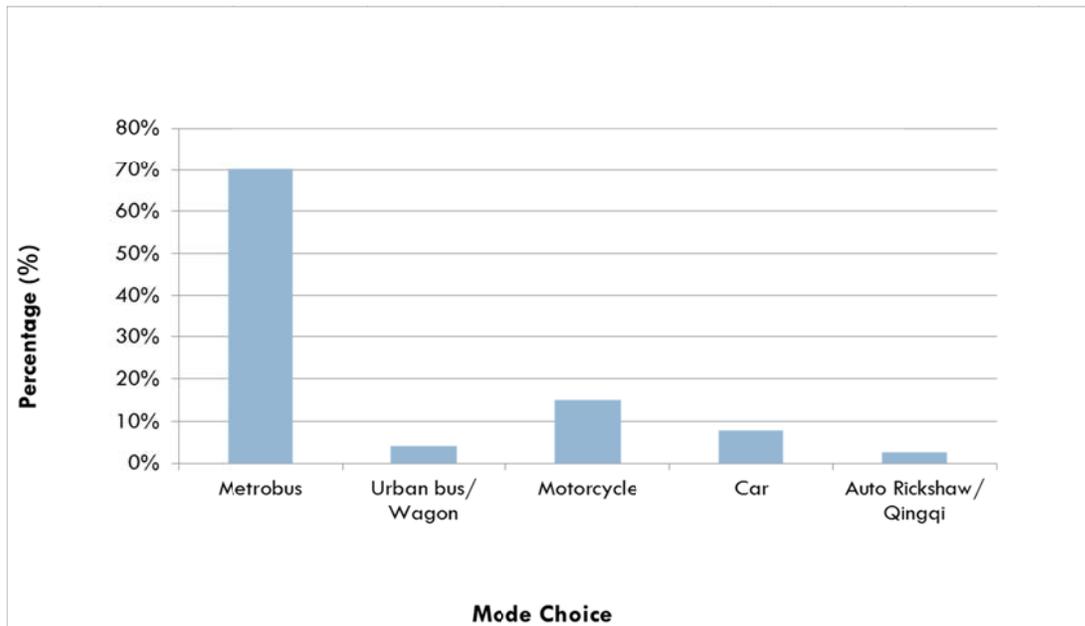
Dr. Muhammad Saleem Janjua, National Project Manager of PAKSTRAN Project gave a brief overview of the PAKSTRAN Project and expressed his pleasure on presence of government officials in that day’s session. While briefing on the objectives and achievements of the PAKSTRAN project Dr. Janjua informed that PAKSTRAN project is working



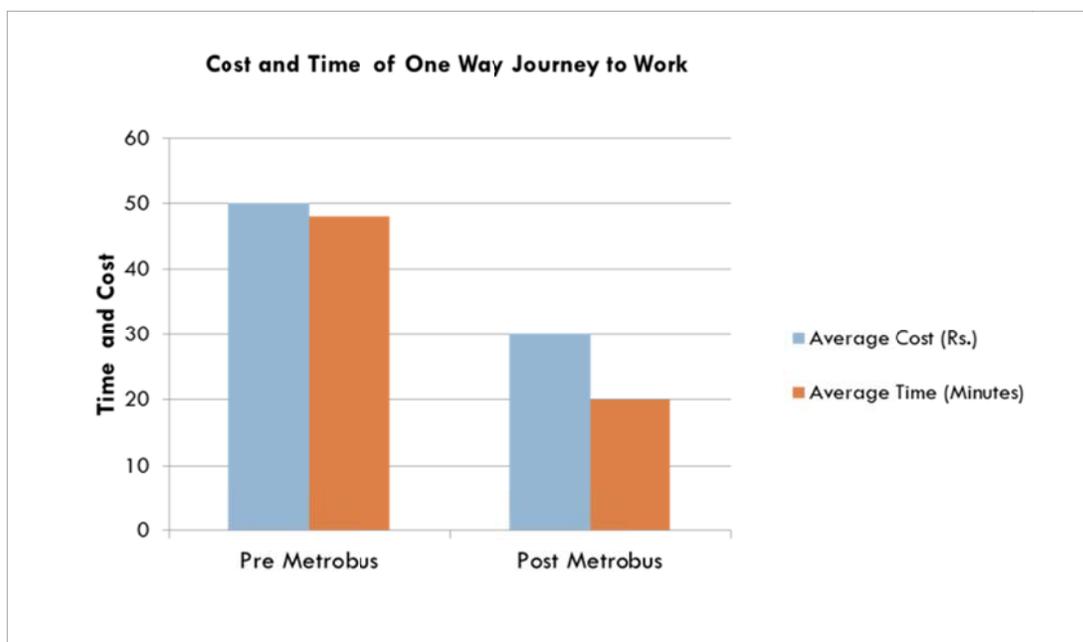
with the Government departments in order to provide technical support by conducting various studies relevant to sustainable transport along with enhancing the institutional capacity of key stakeholders. He added that team of CIU-IUCN is doing remarkable job in implementing the awareness raising and capacity development component of PAKSTRAN Project. Dr. Janjua also appreciated the work of Government of Punjab and Federal Government of Pakistan in implementing the transport and road network development projects. He also said that the sustainable transport is the key towards social and economic progress of the country. Dr. Janjua emphasized on the need of streamlining environmental concerns attached with the development of country.

## 2.3 Presentation by Representative Urban Unit

Dr. Murtaza Bukhari representative from the Urban Unit Punjab gave a presentation on Social and Economic impacts of Lahore Metro Bus System. While briefing he informed that as compared to other mode of transportation public at Lahore prefer to travel on Metro Bus system as it is economical and secured. Also, the development of Metro Bus System in Lahore has facilitated a large number of populations because of its positive socio-economic impacts.



Dr. Murtaza Bukhari further presented a comparative analysis of the cost and time of one way journey to work in the pre-Metro Bus and post-Metro Bus scenario. This comparison clearly depicts that the Bus Rapid Transit system improves the socio-economic conditions of the urban commuters.



Moreover, Dr. Bukhari also presented some facts and figures based on different surveys conducted on the users of Metro Bus system which revealed that implementation of the Metro Bus project in Lahore has increased social mobility, improved the standard of living

and provided dignified and environment friendly public transport in Lahore. While mentioning the achievements of Lahore Metro Bus System he mentioned that the project has reduced travel time, improved accessibility, and improved quality of service, reduced signal time and is based on international standards of Bus Rapid Transit system. Dr. Murtaza also informed the delegation that Metro Bus project also has few limitations which includes lack of integration with other modes and pedestrian network non connectivity. He told that Government of Punjab is working and devising strategy to improve the Metro Bus system in different cities of Punjab to facilitate maximum public.

#### **2.4 Briefing by Component Manager, CIU-IUCN**

Ms. Fauzia Bilqis Malik, Component Manager CIU-IUCN briefed the participants regarding the work of IUCN in raising awareness and capacity development in the field of sustainable transport. She also highlighted the purpose and objective of the exposure visit on the Bus Rapid Transit and involvement of key stakeholders. Furthermore, Ms. Fauzia Bilqis gave an



overview of the programme and plan of three days of the national exposure visit. It was informed that after the orientation session delegation will visit the office of Punjab Mass Transit Authority followed by the experience of travel on Metro Bus system of Lahore.

### 3. Field Visit at Lahore

After the orientation session the delegation went to the office of Punjab Mass Transit Authority at Arfa Technology Park Tower, Lahore. During this visit Mr. Uzair Shah, Managing Director, Punjab Mass Transit Authority gave a detailed presentation on the routes, technical features and maintenance plan of Lahore Metro Bus system. The briefing concluded with the Question and Answer session where delegates' questions were addressed by Managing Director of Punjab Mass Transit Authority. Afterwards the participants were shown the control center of Metro Bus System which was equipped with latest technological facilities and highly trained professionals.

The group of national exposure visit delegates then went for an experience of travel on Metro Bus at Lahore. The group was given briefing on the electronic ticket system at Gajumata Metro Bus Terminal followed by start of the travel on Bus. After viewing and crossing several Bus terminals and city areas delegation stopped its travel at Secretariat Metro Bus Terminal of Lahore.



#### 4. Proceedings of National Exposure Visit at Islamabad

During the last day of the national exposure visit on Bus Rapid transit at Islamabad the proceedings started with a briefing session at Islamabad Hotel where participants were informed about that day's activities including travel on Metro Bus System at Islamabad followed by a De-Briefing session. During the last session of the activity participants appreciated the efforts of PAKSTRAN Project in involving them for this informative and useful exposure visit. Delegates were of the view that after learning about the developed Metro Bus systems in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Islamabad they have understood the importance of sustainable transport and mass transit system. The officials from KPK mentioned that after going back in their



departments they will inform their seniors about the need of Bus Rapid Transit system for the economic progress at provincial level.

## Suggestions/ Way Forward

The activity of exposure visit was highly commended and appreciated by the delegation and participants of the national exposure visit on BRT. The participants suggested that PAKSTRAN and CIU-IUCN team should organize such awareness raising and capacity building activities in future as well. Moreover Salman Nisar, Deputy Director Transport and Mass Transit Department Government of KPK recommended that officials from our department should study the model of existing Bus Rapid Transit systems in order to initiate the sustainable transport projects for the progress of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Mr. Yar Muhammad, Component Manager CIU-Sindh PAKSTRAN project recommended that there is a dire need to inform the policy makers and concerned government authorities in Sindh province to implement the Mass Transit projects in Karachi in order to overcome the alarming situation of traffic congestion and increased air pollution in the city. Mr. Zia Ud Din Khattak, Director Pakistan Environment Protection Agency said that PAKSTRAN project team is doing acknowledgeable efforts in streamlining the environment aspects attached with the transport sector and it is very beneficial to involve relevant stakeholders and institutions for the sustainable development of the country. Mr. Khattak recommended that similar activities should be continued next year for the institutional capacity development to reduce the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation.

On the basis of the suggestions and recommendations CIU-IUCN under the umbrella of PAKSTRAN project will be executing exposure visits and capacity building activities based on the innovative participatory methodologies next year as well.

**Annex- A**

**Schedule of National Exposure Visit on BRT  
September 1 – 4, 2015 in Lahore and Rawalpindi / Islamabad**

<b>Day 1: September 1, 2015 - Arrival of Delegates to Hotel PC Lahore</b>			
<b>Day 2: September 2, 2015 - Orientation Session</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Speaker/ Facilitator</b>	<b>Venue</b>
08:30am	Registration Pre-event Evaluation	CIU-IUCN Team	PC Hotel, Lahore
09:00am	Recitation from Holy Quran		PC Hotel, Lahore
09:05am	Welcome Remarks	Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country Representative IUCN / Component Director CIU-IUCN PAKSTRAN	PC Hotel, Lahore
09:15am	Remarks by National Project Director PAKSTRAN	Mr. Hasan Nasir Jamy, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water & Power/ NPD, PAKSTRAN Project	PC Hotel, Lahore
09:30am	Introduction to PAKSTRAN Project with Aim and Objectives	Dr. Saleem Janjua, National Project Manager, PAKSTRAN Project	PC Hotel, Lahore
09:45am	Environmental and Socio- Economic Aspects of Lahore Metro Bus Project	Dr. Nasir Javed, CEO, Urban Unit Punjab/ Component Director-Punjab, PAKSTRAN	PC Hotel, Lahore
10: 00am	Importance of Awareness Raising Initiatives for Sustainable Transport in Pakistan	Ms. Fauzia Bilqis Malik, Component Manager-PAKSTRAN, IUCN	PC Hotel, Lahore
10:15am	PAKSTRAN Documentary	CIU-IUCN team	PC Hotel, Lahore
<b>10:45am</b>	<b>Group Photo and Tea Break</b>	CIU-IUCN team	PC Hotel, Lahore
<b>Exposure Visit</b>			
11:15am	Departure of delegates for the exposure visit	CIU-IUCN team	PC Hotel, Lahore
12:00pm	Visit to Metro Bus Control room	CIU-IUCN team	Arfa Karim Tower, Lahore
12:15pm	Overview of Lahore BRT and its operations	Representative of BRT Lahore	Arfa Karim Tower, Lahore
12:45pm	Experience of travel on Metro Bus Service (from Gajju Mata station to Secretariat) and back to hotel	CIU-Punjab team	Metro Bus Terminals
<b>02:00pm</b>	<b>Lunch and Prayer</b>		<b>PC Hotel, Lahore</b>
03:00pm	De-briefing meeting	CIU-Punjab team	PC Hotel, Lahore
04:00pm	Tea break	CIU-IUCN team	PC Hotel, Lahore
<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Dinner with CIUs and Delegates</b>	<b>CIU-IUCN team</b>	<b>TBC</b>

<b>Day 3: September 3, 2015</b>			
09:30am	Departure from Lahore to Islamabad and arrive Islamabad Hotel		
<b>07:30pm</b>	<b>Dinner with CIUs, Delegates and Stakeholders</b>	<b>CIU-IUCN team</b>	<b>TBC</b>
<b>Day 4: September 4, 2015</b>			
09:00am	Overview of Operations of Rawalpindi / Islamabad BRT	Representative from BRT Islamabad	Islamabad Hotel
09:30am	Departure of delegates for visit	CIU-IUCN team	Islamabad Hotel
09:45am	Experience travel on the Metro Bus Rawalpindi-Islamabad (from Secretariat to Saddar) and back to hotel	CIU-IUCN team	Metro Bus Terminals
12:00pm	De-briefing Session	IUCN team	Islamabad Hotel
12:40pm	Post Event Evaluation and Feedback	IUCN team	Islamabad Hotel
12:50pm	Distribution of Certificates	Dr. Muhammad Saleem Janjua, NPM	Islamabad Hotel
<b>01:00pm</b>	<b>Lunch and Prayer</b>	IUCN team	Islamabad Hotel
02:00pm	Departure of Delegates	IUCN team	Islamabad Hotel

## Annex-B

### Press Release- National Exposure Visit on BRT

The national exposure visit on Bus Rapid Transit for relevant government departments has been initiated from September 1 to 4, 2015 in Lahore and Islamabad by International Union for Conservation of Nature in collaboration with PAKSTRAN project. The activity aims to examine the already developed Bus Rapid Transit projects in Punjab and explore avenues for the replication and implementation of similar mass transit transport projects in other provinces and cities.

On the occasion Mr. Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, Country representative of IUCN emphasized on the importance of mass transit systems for the economic progress and reduction in GHG emissions in Pakistan. While highlighting the objective of the national exposure visit Mr. Mahmood Cheema informed the delegates that this activity aim to examine the already developed BRT projects in Punjab and explore avenues for the replication and implementation of similar mass transit transport projects in other provinces and cities.

Dr. Muhammad Saleem Janjua, a renowned environmentalist and National Project Manager of PAKSTRAN Project said that while focusing on the socio-economic dimensions we should not ignore the environmental aspects attached with the Bus Rapid Transit systems in Pakistan. He further said that the initiative of exposure visit at national level is an important and appreciable activity of PAKSTRAN Project. In order to achieve the objectives of the Project, engaging all the relevant stakeholders is a pre-requisite. I am extremely pleased to see the representation of government officials from federal and provincial departments in this activity and it is important to streamline the role of institutions to promote sustainable development in Pakistan.

During the first day of the activity delegation visited Metro Control center where they were given an overview of Metro Bus System of Lahore by General Manager of Metro Bus Authority at Arfa Kareem tower. The diverse group of delegates from different provinces also experienced the travel on Metro bus from Gujjumata to Secretariat Bus terminals.

The activity continued for two more days and the delegation also learnt about the Metro Bus System of Rawalpindi and Islamabad. At the end of the event participants appreciated the effort of PAKSTRAN Project team in organizing the highly informative exposure visit which enhanced their learning and understanding on the sustainable transport and its related issues.

#### **About PAKSTRAN**

To address the transport and related problems in the country, the Pakistan Sustainable Transport Project (PAKSTRAN) is supported by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and is being implemented by Government of Pakistan.

The objective of the Project is 'to reduce the growth of energy consumption and related greenhouse gas emissions from Pakistan's transport sector, while simultaneously improving urban environmental conditions and improving Pakistan's competitiveness'.

The Implementing Partner is:

i. Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Water and Power.

The Responsible Parties are:

ii. Government of Punjab, through Urban Unit, Planning & Development Division (Component 1 of PAKSTRAN)

iii. Government of Sindh, through Transport Cell, Transport Department (Component 2 of PAKSTRAN)

iv. Planning Commission of Pakistan (partnership decision pending for Component 3)

v. IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, Pakistan (Component 4 of PAKSTRAN)

**The National Exposure Visit received good media coverage in print and electronic media. The news of the activity was published in leading newspapers including; The News, The Nation, Daily times, Pak-Observer, Express Tribune and Business Recorder.**

The links are available online and given below;

<http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/islamabad/06-Sep-2015/mass-transit-system-will-help-reduce-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-6-338477-Mass-transit-system-to-help-in-progress>

<http://nation.com.pk/islamabad/06-Sep-2015/mass-transit-system-vital-for-urban-areas-speakers>

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2015/09/05/news/mass-transit-will-reduce-ghg-emissions-increase-economic-growth/>

<http://www.brecorder.com/business-a-economy/189/1224550/>



[www.pakstran.pk](http://www.pakstran.pk)



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