International Journal of Scientific Research in Engineering and Management (IJSREM)
Volume: 09 Issue: 03 | March - 2025 SJIF Rating: 8.586 ISSN: 2582-3930

Enhancing Transit Smoothness in Bhopal's Urban Transportation Network- A Case Study of Bittan Market and Arera Colony

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Abstract - Bhopal, being a fast-progressing city, has numerous ongoing infrastructural projects (industrial, residential, commercial, and mixed-use) located across different regions. These developments necessitate an efficient transportation network and system to support their activities. A robust transportation system is required to interlink different areas and ensure smooth connectivity to other parts of the city. However, the diversity of vehicles on the same road leads to a range of problems, including increased trip time, congestion, and wastage of valuable resources. The growing urban population, due to migration and higher birth rates, further exacerbates these issues. The efficiency of individuals' commutes, from residential to commercial zones, is directly impacted by the quality of the transportation system. This paper explores the current transportation challenges in Bhopal and proposes a multi-faceted approach to optimize the transport network for sustainable urban mobility.

***Key Words*:** Traffic congestion, migration impact, commute efficiency, transportation network, vehicular diversity, urban population growth.

1.INTRODUCTION

Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh, India, has witnessed substantial growth in recent years. With this rapid urbanization comes an increased need for well-planned infrastructural developments to accommodate the growing population. The city is experiencing expansions in industrial zones, commercial areas, mixed-use spaces, and residential neighborhoods. However, the lack of a well-integrated and efficient transportation network is emerging as a major challenge.

An efficient transportation system plays a crucial role in ensuring seamless connectivity, reducing travel delays, and minimizing congestion. However, with the rapid increase in vehicular density on city roads, traffic congestion has become one of the major urban challenges. The growth in private vehicle ownership, coupled with insufficient public transportation options, has led to increased trip duration, bottlenecks, and inefficiencies in road usage. Furthermore, the mixed nature of transport—comprising bicycles, motorcycles, cars, buses, and heavy commercial vehicles—creates additional difficulties in managing traffic flow. This research aims to analyze the current transportation challenges in Bhopal and propose solutions to optimize mobility, enhance traffic flow, and reduce resource wastage.

2. LITERATURE SURVEY

Several studies have emphasized the significance of an efficient transportation system in fast-growing cities. According to Agarwal et al. (2019), transportation inefficiencies in developing cities lead to substantial economic losses, with wasted time in traffic directly impacting productivity. Singh & Gupta (2021) highlighted that traffic congestion significantly affects the quality of life, with extended commute durations leading to reduced work-life balance.

Sharma (2017) analyzed urban sprawl in Bhopal and emphasized that transportation infrastructure has not kept pace with urban expansion, leading to longer travel times and increased congestion. Jain et al. (2020) noted that while mixed-use developments have been growing, transport planning has lagged, causing conflicts among various vehicle types, from light two-wheelers to heavy trucks. Research on urban transport in Indian megacities like Mumbai and Delhi suggests that an integrated approach—including road network enhancement, public transport expansion, and traffic management policies—can alleviate many transportation problems (Patel, 2022). Their study proposed the implementation of intelligent traffic management systems that dynamically adapt to real-time conditions, significantly improving traffic flow.

Research on transportation systems in growing **Indian** cities, such as **Mumbai** and **Delhi**, indicates that an integrated approach that includes road development, public transport expansion, and traffic management policies could mitigate some of the problems **Bhopal** is facing. **Patel** presented a model for optimizing traffic flow by using smart traffic management systems that adapt to real-time traffic conditions, significantly reducing delays in major intersections.

3. METHODOLOGY

To tackle the transportation challenges in Bhopal, a comprehensive methodology is proposed, comprising multiple components

3.1 Traffic Flow Analysis

A detailed traffic flow analysis will be conducted at key intersections and routes throughout the city. Data will be collected using automated traffic counters, GPS tracking, and commuter surveys. This analysis will identify high-traffic areas, congestion hotspots, and peak-hour traffic patterns.

3.2 Road Network Assessment
An assessment of the current road infrastructure will be carried out to evaluate road capacity, design, and vehicle compatibility. This evaluation will highlight areas that require expansion or redesign to support future traffic demands effectively.

3.3 Smart Traffic Management System (STMS)
A smart traffic management system (STMS) will be implemented to optimize signal timings and manage traffic dynamically. This system will integrate sensors and cameras to monitor real-time traffic conditions and adjust signal cycles accordingly, thereby reducing congestion at major intersections.

3.4 Multi-modal Transport Integration
A multi-modal transport system will be introduced to integrate buses, metro rail (where applicable), and non-motorized transport options like bicycles. This approach aims to reduce dependency on private vehicles by offering efficient and environmentally friendly alternatives.

3.5 Public Awareness and Behavioral Change Programs
Public awareness campaigns will be launched to educate citizens on the benefits of efficient transport use. The campaigns will focus on promoting carpooling, increased use of public transport, and adherence to road safety regulations.

3.6 Simulation and Modeling
Using simulation software such as VISSIM or AIMSUN, traffic flow scenarios will be modeled to predict the impact of proposed changes before their implementation. This predictive analysis will help optimize urban mobility planning.

Figure 1 shows all the major landmarks between **bittan market** and **10 no market** and all the main roads connecting them and arterial roads going towards residential area. The major congestion points are also marked in this which also shows the circulation pattern of traffic flows.

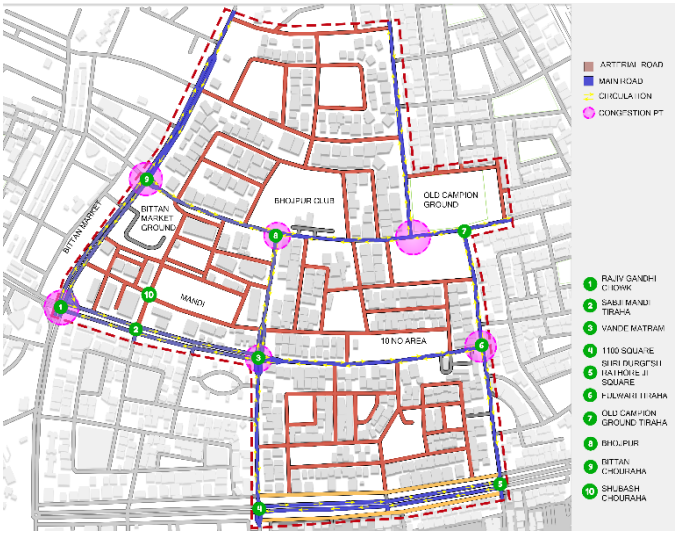

Figure 1

4. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS
To evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed methodology, a pilot study was conducted at three major intersections in Bhopal. Traffic flow, trip duration, and congestion levels were measured before and after implementing initial traffic management measures.

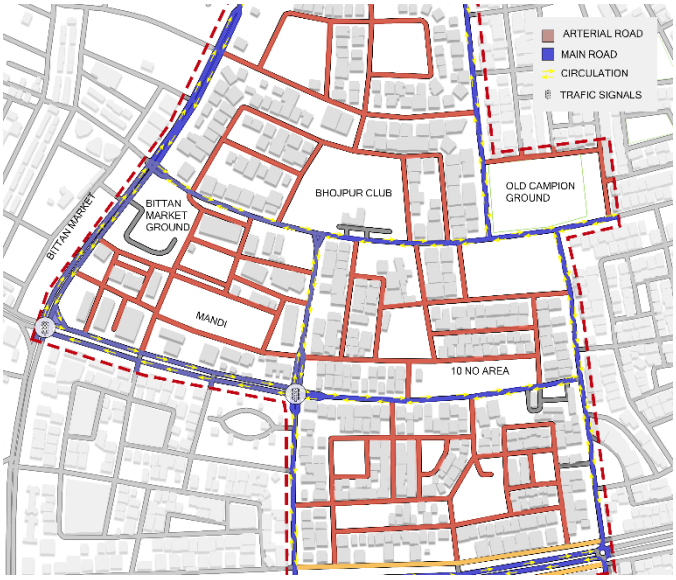

Figure 2 : Map showing existing traffic signals after a pilot study of the vicinity.

4.1 Traffic Flow Comparison
A comparison of vehicle counts before and after implementing optimized traffic signal cycles and lane restructuring is shown in **Table 1**.

Intersection	Pre-Implementation (Vehicles/Hour)	Post-Implementation (Vehicles/Hour)	% Change
Sector-1	1,200	1,050	-12.50%
BHEL Square	1,800	1,500	-16.70%
MP Nagar	2,100	1,850	-11.90%
10 no Market	2,300	2,000	-13.04%
Arera Colony	1,700	1,450	-14.71%
Bittan Market	2,500	2,100	-16.00%

Table -1: Comparison of average vehicle counts.

As shown in **Table 2**, the vehicle count has decreased at all three intersections post-implementation of the initial traffic management strategies (including optimized traffic light cycles and lane restructuring).

4.2 Trip Duration and Congestion Reduction
The introduction of STMS led to a reduction in trip duration across multiple test routes. Table 2 highlights congestion levels, measured in Vehicle Hours Traveled (VHT), before and after implementing a multi-modal transport system.

Route	Pre-Implementation (VHT)	Post-Implementation (VHT)	% Reduction
10 No Market to Commercial Hub	4,800	4,000	-16.67%
Bittan Market to Industrial Zone	6,200	5,400	-12.90%
Arera Colony to Residential Zone	4,500	3,800	-15.56%

Table -2: Showing congestion levels before and after implementation

5. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Discussion

The pilot study results indicate a positive impact on traffic management, with an overall reduction in vehicle counts and trip duration. The smart traffic systems led to optimized signal timings, which improved traffic flow and reduced congestion. However, large-scale testing is required to assess the long-term sustainability of these interventions. Additionally, integrating multi-modal transport options, such as expanded bus services and potential metro rail development, can further reduce the reliance on private vehicles.

Conclusion

Bhopal's rapid urbanization presents significant challenges to its transportation infrastructure. A combination of technology-driven solutions, infrastructure improvements, and behavioral changes can enhance urban mobility. This study proposes a holistic approach that integrates traffic management systems, multi-modal transport solutions, and strategic urban planning to reduce congestion and optimize travel times. The findings indicate that these measures can contribute to improved mobility, economic efficiency, and an enhanced quality of life for Bhopal's residents.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I sincerely appreciate everyone who contributed to the successful completion of this study. First and foremost, I am deeply thankful to the residents, business owners, and urban planners of 10 No. Market and Bittan Market for their valuable time, insights, and cooperation during surveys and interviews. Their perspectives played a crucial role in shaping the findings of this research. I also extend my gratitude to urban planning authorities and local government bodies for granting access to essential zoning maps, planning documents, and historical records.

My heartfelt thanks go to my research supervisor and academic advisors for their continuous guidance, support, and constructive feedback throughout the research process. Their expertise was instrumental in refining this study and ensuring its quality. I am also grateful to my research assistants and colleagues who assisted with data collection, analysis, and site visits.

Lastly, I deeply appreciate the unwavering support, patience, and encouragement from my family and friends, which kept me motivated throughout this project. The contributions of all these individuals and organizations were invaluable, and I am truly grateful for their support.

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BIOGRAPHY

A budding architect with an unwavering passion for shaping spaces that tell unique stories. Known for pushing boundaries and fostering innovation, I approach every project with creativity and dedication.