

TRANSPORT POLICY IN THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

Naga Jayawardena

(Urban Development Authority, Colombo)

At the present time there is a great awareness and lively discussions are taking place on the state of the economy, energy usage and the environment. In this situation attempts to modify the urban system for future use with new investments, renovations and replacement of facilities becomes a complex problem.

One such service element in the urban situation is transportation. It is necessary to fashion this to satisfy the wishes and needs of the majority of the urban population within reasonable limits.

We are now at the cross road or at a crisis point in urban development. We are also in the process of changing the urban form by controlling the future location and intensity of land use which will have far reaching effects in the future. We have to visualise the role of the movement of people and goods within the total concept of the city and its environment by regulating accessibility and within the available resources manage the mobility of the people to improve the quality of life.

Coherent policy is needed for guidance, to identify and anticipate problems connected with movement locational planning, assessing and coordinating the relative roles of the different modes of transport, optimising the use of the existing infrastructure and ensuring safety of the urban population.

This Paper attempts to survey the present situation in urban transport, focus on the need for policy formulation, identify the outlook, the basic elements for a rational policy and the steps needed for implementation.