E1 – 23

Transport demand models for Western province of Sri Lanka

Transportation planning has become a vital factor in the implementation of transportation in urban areas with the increase of traffic which relates to various socio-economic factors. The traffic volume in under developed countries is continuously increasing achieved. Lack of proper planning in various contributing factors has resulted in many drawbacks in the transportation sector.

The transportation planning is the key that leads to decisions on Transportation Policies. The planning process relies on the travel demand forecasting. In general, travel demand forecasting attempts to quantify the amount of travel on the transport system. Demand for transportation is created by separation of urban activities. It is important to know the problems of the traffic flow in order to develop the Road and Traffic Management.

In an urban area, travel demand forecast might include number of vehicles on a future highway or limitations on the use of vehicles pursuant to new policies. The travel demand forecast will be used for the planning of the future transport system and for vital decisions made in Transportation Policy Programs.

The transport system of the Western Province which has been considered in this study is generally not well developed and it hardly provides the travel needs of four million people. This study is to develop mode choice models to predict traffic demand for different types of vehicles traveled from one zone to another zone in the Western Province in terms of significant socio-economic data of trip end zones and the travel variables such as travel distance and travel time.