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Short Communication Article

Engineering Solutions for Sustainable Urban Transportation Systems

Neha Sharma*

Department of Civil and Transportation Engineering, Meridian University of Technology, India

***Corresponding author E-mail: bhatt.soundrya@gmail.com**

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INTRODUCTION

Urban transportation systems are under increasing pressure due to rapid urbanization, rising populations, and environmental concerns **(Onodugo OD et al., 2019)**. Traditional modes of transport often contribute to traffic congestion, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. Sustainable transport engineering seeks to design and implement systems that balance mobility needs with environmental stewardship, economic viability, and social equity **(Blair M 2016)**. Solutions include electric and hybrid vehicles, mass rapid transit systems, non-motorized transport infrastructure, and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). This paper discusses the engineering strategies, innovations, and challenges associated with building sustainable transportation networks for modern cities **(Tino S et al., 2019)**.

DESCRIPTION

Sustainable transport solutions integrate multiple engineering disciplines, including civil, mechanical, electrical, and systems engineering **(Kibirige D et al., 2014)**. Electric buses and Light Rail Transit (LRT) systems reduce reliance on fossil fuels and lower emissions. Infrastructure for cycling and pedestrian pathways promotes active mobility and reduces vehicular demand. ITS technologies, such as adaptive traffic signal control and real-time passenger information, improve traffic flow and commuter experience **(Gunda DW et al., 2020)**. Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) corridors, like those implemented in Curitiba, Brazil, and Ahmedabad, India, have demonstrated cost-effective mass transport solutions. Additionally, integration of renewable energy sources—such as solar-powered charging stations—supports the electrification of vehicle fleets **(Ngwogu K et al., 2012)**.

DISCUSSION

Engineering sustainable transport requires a holistic approach that considers environmental, economic, and social factors **(Emeka PM et al., 2017)**. Electrification of public transport fleets significantly reduces urban air pollution, but challenges remain in battery technology, charging infrastructure, and lifecycle emissions. Non-motorized transport infrastructure must be designed for safety, accessibility, and connectivity to encourage adoption **(Bonsembiante L et al., 2021)**. ITS improves efficiency but relies on extensive data collection, raising privacy concerns. Funding and governance play crucial roles—public-private partnerships can accelerate project implementation. The shift toward sustainable transport also requires behaviour change, supported by policy incentives such as congestion pricing, subsidies for electric vehicles, and dedicated cycling lanes **(Petersen KF et al., 2003)**. Future innovations may include autonomous electric buses, dynamic carpooling systems, and hyperloop technology for intercity travel. Integrating these systems with urban planning will be essential for long-term success. Without coordinated planning, piecemeal solutions risk inefficiency and underutilization **(Kahn SE et al., 2006)**.

CONCLUSION

Sustainable urban transport engineering is central to creating livable, resilient, and eco-friendly cities. By combining technological innovation with policy frameworks and public engagement, cities can transition toward cleaner and more efficient mobility systems. While infrastructure investment and behavioral shifts present challenges, the benefits in reduced emissions, improved public health, and enhanced quality of life are significant. As engineering solutions evolve, the focus must remain on integrated, multi-modal, and people-centered transport systems.

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