There are various elements of the street that ought to come together to make any street a ‘sustainable street’. An amalgamation of natural and built fabric is required which not only incur benefits of movement but also, green environment. Taking forward the discussion on ‘planning and designing safe streets’ from the L3C Webinar-4, in this webinar, the panellists discussed on delivering liveability and environmental benefits through road projects while simultaneously achieving mobility and road-safety.

‘Streets’ are Multi-functional

- Street as a social space
  - Streets are for exchange; roads are for movement.

- Street as an economic generator
  - Streets to become environmentally sustainable, should be economically stable.
  - There needs to be a better sharing of space so streets can act as ‘economic generators’ and adjacent land-uses can prosper.

- Street as a valuable space
  - People traffic and car traffic are diametrically opposed in their needs and requirements.
  - The shape of your city dictates street behaviour and therefore form.
  - Function comes first; form is second.

Approach towards Creating Sustainable and Complete Streets

- Questions to ask while planning and designing ‘sustainable streets’
  - What functions should the street perform?
  - What activities should happen on that street?
  - What infrastructure is needed to support those activities?
  - What form does it need to have?

- Achieving sustainability requires systems thinking. 5 principles that drive sustainability.
  - Interconnected symbiotic systems
  - Nature-based water systems
  - Post-carbon infrastructure
  - Climate-adaptive infrastructure
  - Inclusionary & participatory process

Catalysts in Creating Sustainable Streets

- Organization
  - There are large number of stakeholders involved in street planning and designing but all of them are currently working in silos.
  - Holistic Planning at micro level is required.

- Regulation
  - Creating sustainable streets should be taken up as a non-negotiable requirement.

- Information
  - Advocacy experts need data and information to build the arguments ‘for’ sustainable streets. It is imperative to document all the schemes, projects and learnings so as to provide evidence-based arguments.

- Design
  - Photographic documentations and inspiring designs play an effective role in convincing all the stakeholders.

- Training through work
  - In India, ITDP has played a major role by advocating for sustainability and complete streets to city / state officials, thereby, providing an easy way for the consultants to plan, design and implement such streets.

- Proper budget allocation

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