17

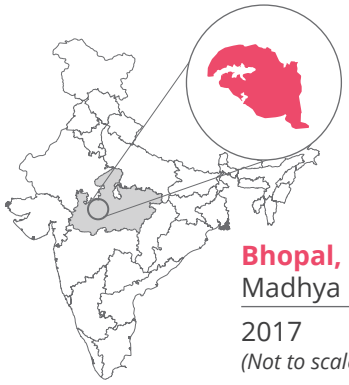
PUBLIC BICYCLE SHARING SYSTEM AND CYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE IN BHOPAL

Project Highlights

- Aimed at improving the usage of cycling and increasing the catchment area of BRTS and public transport in Bhopal through provision of first and last mile connectivity
- Public bicycle Sharing System comprising of 500 cycles spread across 50 stations, focused on important trip generating and attracting points including connectivity to bus/BRTS stops
- Cycling Infrastructure: 5 meter wide and 12 km long dedicated and segregated cycle track
- Another 55 km cycle track under construction along with expansion of PBS stations

Background

Bhopal, is the capital of Madhya Pradesh. Like any other city Bhopal was facing issues due to rapid urbanisation, For a city like Bhopal which is the youngest (65 years) and the fastest sprawling city (850 Sq Km) Public bike sharing fully integrated with the BRTS was seen as a apt solution to encourage a shift in mode share and reduce the issues of pollution.



Bhopal,
Madhya Pradesh

2017
(Not to scale)

Project Objectives

I. To improve mode share of cycling in the city and reduce dependence on motorized private vehicles
II. To reduce pollution, improve environment and well being by promoting healthy commuting options

Key Stakeholders

Bhopal Smart City Development Corporation Limited (BSCDCL), Urban Administration and Development Department (UADD), Bhopal Municipal Corporation (BMC), CharteredBike (Operator) and Citizens

Approach

The project adopted an integrated approach to improve the mode share of cycling and reduce the negative impacts of increased motorization in the city. City authorities carefully strategized activities being undertaken under the initiative as indicated below:

- Creating awareness around importance of cycling and its usage through Raahgiri Day and using the platform for citizen inputs and feedback on the project
- Planning and designing of public bicycle sharing system to improve cycling mode share as well as increase the catchment of existing public transport system
- Integration of PBS with existing public transport in terms of station placement and payment integration
- Provision of cycling infrastructure in conjunction with PBS system through dedicated and segregated cycle tracks

Financial Structure of the initiative

- Capital cost for PBS jointly funded by government and private operator
- 40% subsidy on operating cost provided to PBS operator by government based on performance against pre defined service level benchmarks
- Major sources of revenue for operator are user and membership charges, advertisement and sponsorship revenue
- The infrastructure cost is completely borne by city government

Achievements

Benefits

- The stations are unmanned and linked to the Central control system and this data is used to make decisions on redistribution of cycles around stations during the hours of operations
- The PBS acts as a feeder service to the BRTS and this has improved the catchment area of the public transport in the city
- The system now has 2.35 rides per cycle per day
- The Infrastructure for Bhopal PBS now has 500 cycles and 50 stations
- More than 5000 kgs of CO_2 emissions saved from being released, equivalent to planting almost 1200 trees

Co-Benefits

- Improved public transport usage through provision of first and last mile connectivity
- Improved awareness around benefits of NMT usage

Success Factors

- More than 50 thousand registered members and around 2.35 rides per bicycle per day
- Achieved 12 km of 5m wide Cycle tracks integrating BRTS to Public Bike sharing

Limitations

Funding to sustain and expand the PBS as well as infrastructure

Future Prospects

The city is planning to extend the cycle network to spread across the city connecting through green links, simultaneously expanding the coverage of PBS stations and number of cycles

Source: As received from WRI

For more Information

https://www.citylab.com/transportation/2017/07/can-bike-sharing-survive-in-india/533610/
https://smartbhopal.city/public-bike-sharing-system
https://smartnet.niua.org/sites/default/files/webform/PBS%20Bhopal%20DPR_23%20JUNE%20(2%20files%20merged).pdf