

Minutes of the meeting dated 01/09/08 at 3:30 PM of the Empowered Technical Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development, at Vidhana Soudha meeting hall, presided by the Hon'ble Home Minister

Ministers&Members of the Committee present	Officers present
Dr. V.S.Acharya, Home Minister	A.Ravindra, Chief Secretary (Retd)
Suresh Kumar (Minister for Law)	R.Shrikumar, DG & IGP
A.N.Yellappa Reddy, President, EC	Abhijit Das Gupta, Commissioner, Metro Project, BMRDA
Shirdi Prasad Thekur, Member, EC	Lata Krishna Rao, Chairman, BWSSB
Dr. H.Paramesh, Member, EC	M.V.Murthy, Commissioner, Traffic Police
<u>Dr. D.C.Sharma, Member, EC</u>	H.K.Jagadish, aCF, BBMP
M.R.Suresh, Member Secretary, EC	Shivaram, Commissioner, Food & Civil Supplies Ltd
	P.S.Sandhu, Director, Env't Dept, BMTC
	M.V.Amarnath, ACF, BDA
	S.Prabhala, Trustee, BET
	Govardhan, Member, BET
	Jayaprasad, Technical Advisor, BBMP
	Krishna Reddy, Chief Engineer, Major roads
	Dr.Nandini (Reader, Environment Section, Bangalore University)
	N.Jayaram, CF, BMRCL
	H.A.Appeasah, Urban Planning Dept
	Praven Sood, Additional Traffic Commissioner

Shri V.S.Acharya, Honble Home Minister, Shri Suresh Kumar, Minister for Law, Mr. Yellappa Reddy, Chairman of the Empowered Technical Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development, and M.R. Suresh, Convenor of the Empowered Technical Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development welcomed everyone present to the gathering.

The Honble Home minister requested the officials present to put forward suggestions for easing traffic congestion and protecting Bangalore' environment. Discussing the need for easing traffic congestion in the city, he asked officials from BBMP, BWSSB, BESCOM, Pollution Control Board and Forest Department to consult with each other in order to take up road widening works for ensuring smooth traffic flows in the city.

He said that on roads where widening works were underatekn, steps to shift the drain pipes, electric poles, and water pipes should be taken at the earliest, and officials from the concerned departments should cooperate with each other.

The Hon'ble Home Minister said that road widening, metro works, construction of underpasses and other basic infrastructure should be undertaken without affecting the city's environment, and tree felling and transplanting should be undertaken as per the directions of the High Court constituted Empowered Technical Advisory Committee on

Sustainable Development. He said that road widening being critical, it should be undertaken at the earliest.

Following this, Additional Commissioner pointed out that in 30 roads where road widening works have been carried out, electric poles and transformers have not been shifted. Because of this, in quite a few occasions, accidents have occurred. As parking facilities are not proper, vehicles are parked haphazardly on the roads, which obstructs traffic flows. In some places, the bus stop is located at the signal, and the consequent movement of pedestrians and autos disturbs traffic flows. Imposition of fine is not a solution, people should be made aware and bus stops should be shifted away from signals.

Dr.Lata Krishna Rao, said that funds had not been transferred from BBMP to BWSSB for shifting of drainpipes and water pipelines during the construction of subways and flyovers; BWSSB will find it difficult to do this unless funds are released from BBMP.

She pointed out that speedbreakers and dividers have not been constructed properly, and the location of drainage pipes is not carefully considered while implementing road works, at present. While planning, provision for parking at the cellar level is provided for, but very often, this space is let out to commercial establishments leading to parking on the road and further congestion.

On Residency Road, 30 spots have been identified as suitable for use as 'pay & park' spaces, to ease smooth flow of traffic. The question of why auto stands were not provided near Forum and Garuda Mall was raised by her.

Govardhan Rao said that the need of the hour was to reduce the number of vehicles in Bangalore city. Shrikumar from Police Dept said that for this, public transport had to be strengthened. For this, all buses of the BMTC had to be fitted with a GPS system, for stricter monitoring.

The Honble Home Minister and Shri Yellapa Reddy welcomed this suggestion. He said that an eco-tax had to be levied on persons owning more than one vehicle.

Shri suresh Kumar, Minister of Law, said that BBMP allows for the construction of huge apartment facilities without looking into the parking facilities. Because of this, residents park on roads, and this adds to congestion.

The Honble Home Minister said that all present should meet once in two months, to review the progress of works and dismissed the meeting.

Chairman

Empowered Technical Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development

(Sd on 15/09/08