

Cycle City by Design: A Case of Kathmandu

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By 2030, the world will be urbanized by 60%. It is anticipated that the demand for urban mobility will increase massively potentially worsening greenhouse emission and livability. Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal, a developing country has an urbanization rate of 4% per year is no exception demanding more and more journeys on a daily basis that currently are mainly made by cars and moped. The capital has already been facing serious problems like traffic congestion, road accidents, high economic loss in importing petroleum product, degradation in air quality, low-quality urban life and many health issues. The worsening of these conditions will have higher and longer impacts on living, economy and environment.

This research based design is a unique opportunity to analyze these issues and investigate a sustainable low-cost approach that will create more sustainable, livable, healthy and friendly city. This provides a comprehensive design approach on how bicycle can be promoted in Kathmandu. International site visit, case studies and questionnaire survey has been undertaken in order to better understand both soft and hard dimensions/metrics for promoting bicycle.

In Kathmandu, it was observed that the green space per inhabitant is very less and the rivers are treated like garbage disposal channels, yet because of the rivers location they provide a great opportunity to become primary cycle network. At the same time they are well suited to the distribution of destination's land uses. Similarly, secondary and tertiary network completes an overall bicycle network system providing bicyclist a freedom to move in the city.

This study identifies a continuous, direct, attractive, accessible and integrated bicycle network that will allow people to travel more conveniently in short time leaving zero carbon. It was observed that cycling (a simple & convenient sustainable mode) can be one of the low cost drivers to regenerate Kathmandu not only in terms of leisure activity but also as a sustainable transportation mode, activating river, enhancing urban green, cleaning city and enjoying urban life.