



PROJECT LAUNCH: SUSTAINABLE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT

A research-into-practice collaboration between government, non-government organisations and research

TUESDAY 21 JANUARY 2025 at 2:00pm (UK) / 8:00pm (Bangladesh) on ZOOM

Traffic congestion is a major challenge in Bangladesh, disproportionately affecting the everyday lives of low-income people. For those who rely on rickshaws, buses and other affordable transport options to get around, congestion has a direct impact on time, money, health, and quality of life. Public transport stuck in traffic extends journey times for passengers, while pedestrians are exposed to traffic fumes and forced to navigate dangerous road conditions. For drivers, many of whom come from similarly low-income backgrounds, congestion limits opportunities to improve their livelihoods.

In this context, 'Sustainable Traffic Management Systems (STMS)' aims to address the mobility and accessibility challenges faced by low-income groups in Bangladesh. The project will explore a collaborative, market-driven approach that brings together government agencies, non-governmental organisations, and academic researchers to improve urban mobility, promote environmental sustainability, and grow public trust in traffic management and policing.

The project has three key aims:

1. **Rebuilding trust in the traffic police**

STMS engages students, low-income groups and representatives of the traffic police to facilitate a more inclusive approach to traffic management. We will look at how social attitudes impact police livelihoods, as well as creating opportunities for low-income participants to work alongside the police.

2. **Creating a self-funded traffic management system**

Our model aims to stimulate work opportunities for the local community and increase investment in transport infrastructure. Low-income participants will have access to micro-finance to support small-scale enterprise in street vending or car park management. Revenue from enterprise licensing will then be reinvested into transport infrastructure improvements to enhance the mobilities of low-income populations.

3. **Inter-agency coordination**

The project will formalise processes for cooperation across agencies, prioritising service delivery in low-income neighbourhoods and tailoring mobility solutions to residents' needs.

This initiative aims to redefine the role of traffic police as community-centred; promote a financial environment that benefits low-income groups; and improve communication across agencies. Through pilot programmes, STMS would explore key improvements, including traffic flow, mobility options for low-income residents, and public attitudes. The model has potential for scaling up to create an inclusive approach to sustainable traffic reform in Bangladesh and other developing countries in Southeast Asia, promoting more equitable urban traffic systems and stimulating economic growth.

AGENDA

Tuesday 21 January 2025 at 2:00pm (UK) / 8:00pm (Bangladesh) on Zoom

Registration: <https://intalinc.org/events/>

1. Introduction and opening remarks

Professor Karen Lucas, INTALInC

2. Introduction and overview of the webinar

Dr Sharmin Nasrin, Arizona State University

3. Video documentary

4. Presentation

Dr Sharmin Nasrin and Syeda Sultana, Acumen Haven

5. Panel discussion

Chair: Jim Walker, Walk21

Panel members: Mokaddesul Hoque, The World Bank; Mahabubul Bari, SMEC

Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project; Nilima Akhter, Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority; others TBC.

6. Interactive Q&A

7. Summary and next steps

Project team

- Principal investigator: Sharmin Nasrin, Arizona State University, USA and Transport Researcher
- Syeda Sultana, CIPD Member, Human Resource Management Specialist, and Researcher, Acumen Haven

Supported by Karen Lucas, Director and Emma Tsoneva, Network Coordinator, INTALInC.