

Kochi, India

Partner city

Status of the project: ongoing technical assistance



Basic Information

Urban area: 632 km²

Population: 2,100,000 (2011) | Growth rate: 1%

Coastal City

GDP per capita: USD 2,800 (2017)

GHG emissions per capita: 1,7 tons (India, 2014)

Modal share:

Motorcycle: 26%

Cars: 10%

Public bus: 42%

Cycling: 3%

Walking: 12%

Other motorized: 7%

National GHG emissions per capita: 2.41 (tCO₂eq)

Context

Kochi, one of the most important cities in South India is also known as the commercial capital of Kerala. Its influence area spreads much wider than the municipal corporation area of 95 km² and its 650,000 inhabitants. The mobility demand in the city is exploding and as per the latest estimates, the metropolitan region accounts for almost two million passenger trips per day (CMP, 2017).

AFD has supported the city of Kochi in the construction of a light metro and the restructuring of its urban mobility. An innovation-driven project that greatly contributes to transforming Kochi into a Smart City.

Kochi has initiated various successful initiatives for the multimodal integration of the first phase of the metro in development. The city has introduced an integrated smart card, has an agreement with rickshaw associations, and integrated metro stations with walking and cycling infrastructure.

The city has two railway stations, namely Ernakulam North and Ernakulam South, with an estimated daily passenger volume of 65,000. The two stations are linked through a 3.8 km corridor with major activity centers, including Ambedkar Stadium, Lissie Hospital, KSRTC Bus terminal & depot. However, the connectivity is poor, and dominant modes of transport are walking and auto-rickshaw (intermediate public transport). And despite continuous efforts, the urban local authority has not been able to improve the connectivity between the two stations because of lack of a suitable design and clarity on the optimal movement patterns.

In the recent years, there has been a renewed interest on the need to improve mobility along the corridor. The City plans its development as a green corridor, improving connectivity as well as aesthetics, cleanliness, and security, thereby raising land value all along. The intent is also to facilitate multi-modal integration by improving the accessibility of metro stations with the identified activity centers. The specific objective of the project is to promote mobility focusing on pedestrians and non-motorized modes to create a more walkable, safe, environment friendly and humane city.

Several challenges remain to be tackled: lack of appropriation of the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) by the involved stakeholders, the lack of consideration for climate impact in the CMP, disappointing metro ridership and revenues (probably caused by inappropriate fares and competition with city buses), and lack of data availability on urban mobility.

Support from the Partnership

Technical Assistance: Improve existing city mobility plan and support prefeasibility study for priority pilot project

Funded by: EU Asia Investment Facility (AIF)

Funding amount: Approx. USD 700,000

Implemented by: AFD through the MobiliseYourCity India Project, supported by WRI for project management and coordination

Local counterpart: City of Kochi

Supported Activities:

1. Elaboration of a toolkit for the preparation of sustainable and appropriated Comprehensive Mobility Plans (CMPs), and definition of monitoring indicators;
2. Capacity-building for Municipal Corporations and Unified Metropolitan Transport Authorities to (i) implement the toolkit in their cities, (ii) elaborate strategies for low carbon transport with the city stakeholders, (iii) ensure monitoring of the implementation of those strategies through data collection, and (iv) transfer the data at the national level;
3. Preparation of CMP improvements with city stakeholders: bus route rationalization study in Kochi;
4. Preparation of a prefeasibility for a priority pilot project: North South Green Mobility corridor in Kochi;
5. Creation of a dedicated unit within Urban Local Bodies to collect data and monitor the progress of CMP implementation as a "mobility observatory."

Status of implementation

Project start: 2018 Q4

Expected project completion: 2021 Q4

Completed outputs:

- Mobilise Days
- Launch of the Bus Route rationalization study

Next expected outputs:

- Diagnosis report
- Draft final report
- North-South Green Mobility corridor

Highlights in the past year

Kochi includes the development of green and active mobility in its mobility budget

The MobiliseYourCity project in Kochi promotes mobility focusing on pedestrians and non-motorized modes to create a more walkable, safe, environment friendly and humane city. It is undertaken within the framework of NUTP 2006 and in coherence with various other sustainable and smart mobility projects being implemented in Kochi. The study duration six months and the kickoff meeting with the selected SUEZ consultants was held in December 2019.

In March 2020, implementation of the study recommendations got the adhesion of a broad stakeholder base and was approved in the Kochi Municipal Corporation budget for the financial year 2020-21.

With a view of overcoming and tackling the urban mobility challenges, Kochi is the first MobiliseYourCity member in India to execute a green mobility corridor connectivity between two railway stations.