

Peshawar, Pakistan

Partner city

Status of the project: Ongoing preparation of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan



Basic Information

Urban area: 1,217 km²

Population: 4,269,079 | Growth rate: +3.29%

GDP per capita: USD 1,406 (Pakistan)

Modal Share:

Formal public transport (excl. BRT): 16%

BRT: 4%

Private cars and motorbikes: 25%

Walking: 55%

National GHG emissions per capita: 1.99 (tCO₂eq)

Exposure to climate change: HIGH

Context

Peshawar is the capital city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. This city is located 160 km west of Pakistan's capital city Islamabad. It has 1,970,042 inhabitants, spread over an area of 157 km². The metropolitan area counts 4,269,079 inhabitants spread over an area of 1,217 km². The city is run by the Peshawar Municipal Corporation.

The city has recently introduced a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, the "Zu Peshawar". It was conceived and built with assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and started operating in August 2020. Operated by TransPeshawar, the BRT system includes one main corridor stretching over 28 km from Chamkani in the east, to Hayatabad and Karkhano Market in the west, and is complemented by a 68 km long network of 8 feeder routes, which connects the main corridor system and provides service to other parts of the city.

According to a feasibility study conducted ahead of the implementation of the BRT system, the modal share of cars and motorcycles dominated largely, representing respectively 62% and 22%. Public transport, including Rickshaws only represented 15% of the modal share.

Peshawar lacks a sufficient public service offer, forcing people to rely on private cars which leads to traffic congestion, road safety issues and poor air quality. The city does not have a sufficient road network, infrastructure for non-motorised transport or proper traffic management. The city has also identified a need for better control of land use and urban development.

To overcome these challenges and prepare a comprehensive plan addressing not only transport issues but also improving the quality of life in the city the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Urban Mobility Authority (KPUMA) has decided to develop a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP). The SUMP would also consider local economic development and health issues, among other mobility-related topics.

The SUMP should allow to develop a Transport Management Plan and establish a Road Safety Authority. It will also include measures to improve non-motorised transport. Another area of the SUMP should consist in equipping the city to better monitor traffic and GHG emissions. Finally, it will build capacities in KPUMA for sustainable mobility planning.

Support from the Partnership

Technical assistance: Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP)

Funded by: AFD

Funding amount: EUR 1,200,000 (budget includes SUMP for 3 cities in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province)

Implemented by: AFD and ADB through MobiliseYourCity Asia

Local counterpart: Transport Department Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Urban Mobility Authority

Supported activities:

- SUMP elaboration for the city of Peshawar
- Conceptual design for identified priority projects (i.e., BRT transit corridor and line extensions, cable car)

Status of the SUMP process

Project start: 2021 Q3

Expected project completion: 2023

Completed outputs:

- Inception Phase
- Diagnosis report

Next expected outputs:

Action plan, including following measures:

- Development of urban mass transit corridors
- Consolidation of the existing public transport network
- Improvement of the road and parking management
- Institutional reform

Core impact indicators baselines

The diagnostic data will be published as part of the adoption of the SUMP by the local authorities and is not available at this stage.

Highlights in the past year

Zu Peshawar: The First Gold Standard BRT in Pakistan is Changing the Way People Travel

The authorities responsible for urban mobility in Peshawar have an ambitious vision to transition towards more sustainable urban transportation. As the SUMP is in preparation with support of MobiliseYourCity partners, significant investments are foreseen, including the development of Zu Peshawar BRT, the first Gold-Standard BRT in the Indian sub-continent.

The ambition and efforts of Peshawar in the area of sustainable mobility have been recognised internationally. In 2022, the city was nominated with an honorable mention by the International Transport Development Policy (ITDP) Sustainable Transport Award. This recognition highlights Peshawar's commitment to prioritising the needs of its citizens and to ensuring that their transportation needs are met in a sustainable and inclusive manner. As the city moves forward with its SUMP and planned investments, it is poised to become a leader in sustainable urban transportation in the region and beyond.

Find out more in a [case study, co-developed by ITDP, TUMI and TransPeshawar](#).