

# Kurunegala, Sri Lanka

Partner city

Status of the project: Completed Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan



## Basic Information

Urban area: 11 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 122,172 | Growth rate: 1.4%

Region capital city

GDP per capita: USD 3,853

Modal Share:

Formal public transport: 25.3%

Informal private transport: 16.2%

Walking: 11.8%

Cycling: 1%

Private cars: 22.3%

Private motorbikes or 2-wheelers: 18.7%

Taxis: 1.3%

Other: 3.4%

National GHG emissions per capita: 1.67 (tCO<sub>2</sub>eq)

Exposure to climate change: LOW

## Context

Kurunegala has 120,000 inhabitants, including 30,000 in the urban core. Despite being a relatively small city for Sri Lanka, it is the capital city of both the North-western Province and the Kurunegala District.

According to the National Physical Plan (NPP) updated by the National Physical Planning Department (NPPD) of the Ministry of Megapolis and Western Development (MMWD) in 2018, Kurunegala urban area could grow to 1,000,000 inhabitants by 2050. This city should meet an annual growth rate of 2.5%, the highest of Sri Lanka. Kurunegala should become one of the main urban centres – even a “metro region” – of the East-West Development Corridor that guides the spatial and economic development at the national scale. Consequently, Kurunegala will face many challenges regarding urban development, employment, and transportation. The city must plan its internal transport as well as connections with the other cities of the corridor and with Colombo, the national Capital City.

The city has a railway station (located in the Southeast of the urban core) and is located on a rail axis, but it does not play a major role in daily commuting as people usually commute by private motorised vehicles (car, motorbike and tuk-tuk) or by public bus. Currently, the Municipality of Kurunegala (the SUMP local counterpart) does not have the mandate or responsibility to finance mass public transport infrastructure nor the authority to borrow from international finance sources. The running costs of the collective transport system are, however, part of the public authority's budget.

The objective of the project is the elaboration of a SUMP for the city of Kurunegala from the ground up since there is neither an existing public mass transit system nor an existing transport master plan for the city.

## Support from the Partnership

**Technical assistance:** Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP)

**Funded by:** AFD

**Funding amount:** EUR 400,000

**Implemented by:** AFD through MobiliseYourCity Asia

**Local counterpart:** Municipality of Kurunegala

### Supported Activities:

- MobiliseDays (35 participants)
- Diagnosis workshop (32 participants)
- Public Transport focus group
- Scenario analysis workshop

## Status of the SUMP process

**Project start:** Q1 2019

**Project completion:** Q4 2021

### Completed outputs:

- Inception report (September 2019)
- Diagnosis report (March 2020)
- Scenario elaboration and comparison report (1st Draft, May 2020/ Revised Draft, December 2020)
- Final SUMP report

## SUMP key measures and cost estimates

The following table highlights the most significant measures identified in the SUMP.

Measure	Cost Estimate	Implementation Period
Introduce a road hierarchy for Kurunegala	60,000	2021-2023
Speed regulation and enforcement	80,000	2021-2023
Parking Management	60,000	2021-2023
	120,000	2023-2026
Outer Ring Road		
Develop Green Corridors/Pedestrian/Bicycles	60,000	2021-2023
City Center Calming	120,000	2021-2023
Introduce linked ATM system for city including PT priority at signals	100,000	2021-2023
	100,000	2023-2026

Measure	Cost Estimate	Implementation Period
Develop Transit Corridor	To be costed in feasibility study (FS)	TBD in FS
Provide mini-bus stands at the city centers	To be costed in FS	TBD in FS
Provide park-and-ride at the city centers	To be costed in FS	TBD in FS
Develop Multimodal hub at rail central station	To be costed in FS	TBD in FS
City bus network (Current services improvement)	80,000	2021-2023
City bus network (Public Service Obligation)	200,000	2023-2026
Develop ITS for Public Transport (ticketing, digital mapping)	60,000	2021-2023
	120,000	2023-2026
Develop fare integration within KMC area (for PT, rail)	200,000	2023-2026
School bus parking	60,000	2023-2026
Freight Transport	120,000	2023-2026
Bike and E-rickshaw promotion	200,000	2021-2023
Preparation & promulgation of auto rickshaw regulations	120,000	2021-2023
Institutional support and progressive development of coordinated urban transport arrangements	440,000	2021-2023
Improve pedestrian and vehicular access to the Kurunegala Teaching Hospital	F.S to be costed	F.S to be costed
Street design toward inclusion pedestrians and non-motorised transport	120,000	2021-2023
Muttetugala overpass	F.S to be costed	F.S to be costed

## Projected impacts

Indicator	Impact 2030 (SUMP vs BAU)	Baseline - 2018	Projected 2030 BAU	Projected 2030 SUMP scenario
<b>Total annual GHG emissions (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>eq)</b>	-0.0002 Mt CO <sub>2</sub> eq	0.0827 Mt CO <sub>2</sub> eq	0.0935 Mt CO <sub>2</sub> eq	0.0933 Mt CO <sub>2</sub> eq
<b>Veh.km of formal public transport</b>	Formal public transport:	Formal public transport:	Formal public transport:	Formal public transport:
Increase of the availability of public transport	7,698 Veh.km	51,209 Veh.km	66,748 Veh.km	74,446 Veh.km

## Highlights in the past year

### Kurunegala's SUMP prioritises measures for their implementation

The implementation of the SUMP has been structured by identifying primary and secondary actions. The former refers to main SUMP projects that will be developed and implemented on their own and on a priority basis. The latter will function to enhance the impact of primary projects and are considered as subordinate to these.

In total, 26 measures were identified in the SUMP, and two development scenarios were proposed that could be implemented separately or collectively, depending on their level of ambition. Considering the project objectives, scenario two was finalised for implementation. It focused on medium-term goals (till the year 2025) regarding public transport development and implementation of governance structures overall shaping the mobility framework for the city of Kurunegala.

The Kurunegala Municipal Council (KMC), Road Development Authority (RDA), and SriLankan Transport Board (SLTB) oversee the implementation of most of these measures. The funding for the different measures is expected to be assumed with support from International Funding Institutions (IFI), and will be complimented by KMC, RDA, and Urban Development Authority (UDA). The financial mechanism for these measures is rather complex as it involves multiple stakeholders for the different measures, and to date remains unclear.

### Political unrest puts Kurunegala's mobility plan on hold

Due to the current political climate in Sri Lanka, the approval and implementation of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan of Kurunegala have been put on hold. As a result, the city might struggle to address important mobility-related challenges, including traffic congestion, air pollution, and limited access to public transportation. The future of the plan remains uncertain until the political situation stabilises.