

# Davao, Philippines

Partner city

Status of the project: Ongoing implementation support



## Basic Information

Urban area: 2,444 km<sup>2</sup>

Population: 1,776,949 (2020 census)

Growth Rate: 2.21% (2000-2020)

GDP per capita: USD 4,480 (2022)

National GHG emissions per capita: 1.2 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq (2022)

Exposure to climate change: High

## Context

Davao City, located on Mindanao Island, is the third-largest city in the Philippines, with a population of approximately 1.8 million. The city is the capital of the Davao Region and represents the primary urban centre and economic hub on Mindanao Island. It also plays a key role in the nation's economy. The Davao Region experienced remarkable annual economic growth of 8.1% from 2014 to 2019, exceeding the national average of 6.6%.

The compound annual growth rate for the population of Davao City was approximately 2.2% from 2000 to 2020. The city's growth brings challenges, particularly traffic congestion. The rapid increase in private vehicles, including cars and motorbikes, combined with the lack of reliable public transport and inadequate infrastructure for non-motorized transport, significantly contributes to congestion in the city's urbanised areas while deteriorating air quality and the urban environment.

Over the past decade, several actions have been taken to modernise Davao City's road network and public transport system. In 2017, Davao City developed a comprehensive Transport Roadmap to address its urban mobility challenges. This roadmap outlines strategies for enhancing the city's transportation system, including infrastructure development and traffic management improvements.

In 2023, ADB approved a USD 1 billion loan to help establish the Davao Public Transport Modernization Project (DPTMP). It aims to implement a modern public transport system in Davao City with modern electric buses and Euro-5 standard diesel buses, standardised operations and reliable timetables, an intelligent transport system to support bus operation, designated bus stops with shelters and lighting, and designated bus lanes in selected road sections.

Supporting this project, a "Complete Streets."<sup>1</sup> Concept Design Study is to be conducted in 2025 under the framework of MobiliseYourCity. This initiative aims to enhance accessibility to public transport, promote active modes, and improve residents' quality of urban life while reducing GHG emissions.

<sup>1</sup> "Complete streets" is a multimodal approach to roadway design and safety that considers all users of transportation infrastructure. A street is considered complete if it facilitates the safe movement of users of all ages, abilities, and transportation modes. This approach allows urban communities to reach safety, accessibility, equity, connectivity, mobility, and environmental goals.

The “Complete Streets” Concept Design Study for Davao City comprises components aimed at enhancing urban mobility and accessibility: NMT and junction surveys; concept design to implement the “Complete Streets” approach, prioritizing safe crossings and enhanced access to public transport to promote inclusive and sustainable mobility; preliminary design for a pilot transit corridor, incorporating pedestrian and cycling facilities, transit access, and roadway organisation, along with drainage and lighting/signage solutions.

## Support from the Partnership

**Technical Assistance:** “Complete Streets” Concept Design Study for Davao

**Funded by:** Agence Française de Développement (AFD)

**Funding amount:** To be determined

**Implemented by AFD and ADB through MobiliseYourCity Asia**

**Local counterpart:** Davao City Local Government Unit, DPTMP Project Management Office (PMO) from the Department of Transportation, DPTMP Project Management Unit (PMU) or Davao Bus Office

**Supported activities:**

- “Complete Streets” Concept Design Study for Davao

## Status of project implementation

**Expected project start:** 2025 Q2

**Expected project completion:** 2026 Q1

## Highlights in the past year

Implemented in collaboration with AFD and ADB, MobiliseYourCity seeks to support and enhance the ADB-led Davao Public Transport Modernization Project (DPTMP) by delivering added value through the sustainable approach it promotes.

Within this context, DPTMP so far underscores the importance of community engagement, flexible planning, financial readiness, technological integration, and collaborative partnerships in the successful implementation of urban transport modernization initiatives.

In August 2024, Davao City demonstrated its commitment to sustainable mobility by officially joining the MobiliseYourCity Partnership.

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