

India

National Urban Mobility Policies and Investment Programme

Completed

Basic information

Population	→	1,352,642,280 (2018)
Growth rate	→	1.1%
Percentage of urban population	→	34% (2018)
Urban population growth rate	→	2.3% (2018)
GDP per capita	→	USD 9,027
Percentage of the population living below the national poverty line	→	21.9% (2011)
Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)	→	Unquantified transport-related NDC
National GHG emissions per capita	→	1.728 (tCO ₂ eq)
Proportion of transport-related GHG emissions	→	Approx. 10% (2019)
Exposure to climate change	→	HIGH



Context

Home to more than one in six people on the planet, India possesses the size and weight of a continent. Each city has its own transport system, yet its levels of development vary. While cities experience steady economic growth, inadequate urban planning is juxtaposed with it, leading to mobility issues. Private modes of transportation are growing rapidly, overshadowing greener public and non-motorised transport options, which suffer from insufficient investment in infrastructure. The repercussions include road congestion, a scarcity of parking spaces, declining air quality in urban areas, and rising traffic accidents.

The MobiliseYourCity programme tailored for India aims to (1) support four pilot cities - Nagpur, Kochi, Aizawl and Ahmedabad - in reducing their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with urban transport by implementing sustainable urban mobility plans at the local level and (2) aid India in improving its sustainable transport policy at the national level. The programme is supported at the national level by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and the Government of India, and at the pilot city level by their respective municipal corporations.

At the national level, the primary objectives include aligning urban transport policies with GHG emission reduction goals and establishing a Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) framework to measure and report impacts, thereby facilitating access to climate finance. The envisaged strategy and its operational documentation tools will contribute to achieving the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) outlined by the Government of India under the

Paris Agreement, which aims “to reduce the emission intensity of its GDP by 33%-35% by 2030 compared to 2005 levels”.

This strategy, referred to as the “Climate Change Mitigation Strategy for Urban Transport (CCMSUT) in India and the definition and preparation of an MRV system”, is being developed with the support of the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Urban Mass Transit Company Ltd. (PIU of the MobiliseYourCity India Programme).

Support from the Partnership

Technical Assistance: Elaboration of a Climate Change Mitigation Strategy for Urban Transport

Type of NUMP: Policy NUMP

Funded by: EU Asia Investment Facility (AIF)

Funding amount: EUR 490,000

Implemented by: Agence Française de Développement (AFD) through the MobiliseYourCity India Project

Local counterpart: Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA)

Final NUMP report: No public NUMP report available

Main purpose of the NUMP:

Supporting India at the national level to improve its sustainable transport policy (policy-based strategy), notably by developing a Climate Change Mitigation Strategy (CCMS) that could be submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The improved sustainable transport policy shall encompass an updated vision for urban transport and identify strategic measures for its implementation, including institutional development, financing, and capacity building.

Supported activities:

- At the national level, MobiliseYourCity is assisting the Government of India (GoI) through the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in improving its sustainable urban transport policy.
- Connecting urban transport policies to GHG emissions reduction as part of the climate change mitigation agenda.
- At the local level, MobiliseYourCity is providing support to four pilot cities - Nagpur, Kochi, Aizawl and Ahmedabad - in their endeavours to reduce GHG emissions in the urban transport sector by developing and implementing SUMPs.

Status of project implementation

Project start: 2018 Q3

NUMP adoption date: 2023 Q4

Completed outputs:

- First Project Steering Committee meeting
- Climate Change Mitigation Strategy
- MRV System Inception
- 9 capacity building sessions were conducted at the national level
- Improvement of the toolkit to develop Comprehensive Mobility Plans (CMP)
- MRV System Implementation

Insights from practice: lessons learned from the technical assistance

The technical assistance under the MobiliseYourCity programme emphasised the need to build capacity at both national and local levels. Local capacity building, in particular, is crucial for ensuring effective and long-term implementation of CMPs.

Improvement of India's toolkit to develop Comprehensive Mobility Plans (CMP)

Comprehensive Mobility Plans serve as India's strategic planning framework for local governments. They resemble SUMP, aiming to establish a long-term vision and goals for a city's urban mobility system, design a plan that integrates urban mobility and land-use measures, and determine the necessary steps for implementation.

India's national government has a toolkit to guide cities in developing CMPs. However, the toolkit was outdated. With support from MobiliseYourCity, it has undergone updates and enhancements along the following lines:

- A self-assessment tool provides additional support to cities in identifying their current status and the preparatory steps required before developing or improving a CMP.
- Climate change plays a more prominent role, such as serving as a guiding principle for prioritising measures and recommendations.
- Comprehensive Mobility Plans are integrated as statutory documents in Master Plans.

Emphasis on the resilience of the public transport system and non-motorised alternatives due to the severe impact of the pandemic on profitability

Transportation is a rapidly evolving sector linked with infrastructure development, the adoption of new technologies, and innovative funding mechanisms. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has strongly reduced revenue and introduced new operational and management challenges. Collective transport, in particular, faces major issues, including decreased ridership, volatile demand, additional costs associated with security and disinfection measures, and staff availability.

During the pandemic, knowledge and guidelines were disseminated through webinars on addressing the financial and operational challenges faced by public transport systems, both for crisis management and for the post-COVID recovery. Electric buses might be part of the response strategy due to their lower operating costs, increased reliability, and lower GHG and air pollutant emissions.

Stakeholders involved in MobiliseYourCity India have made substantial contributions to knowledge development and sharing by organising webinars and publishing guidelines on smart mobility, non-motorised transport modes, the link between air quality and urban planning, tactical urbanism, multimodal integration, and other topics. This content is available online on the MobiliseYourCity knowledge platform.

Highlights in the past year

Since the conclusion of the MobiliseYourCity technical assistance, several national debates and initiatives have reinforced the relevance of this work:

- National Urban Mobility Fund (NUMF) proposal: Policy experts have advocated for a dedicated financing mechanism to aggregate domestic and international climate funds to support sustainable urban mobility, EV deployment, and non-motorised transport infrastructure.
- Renewed institutional focus on multimodal integration: Studies in 2025 stress that integrated public transport, last-mile connectivity, and walking/cycling are central to India's sustainable mobility transition.
- Implementation progress in MobiliseYourCity pilot cities: Reports published in 2025 describe the completion of Ahmedabad's SUMP and mobility observatories for Nagpur, Kochi and Ahmedabad, illustrating the continuity of MobiliseYourCity's legacy beyond the programme period.
- Urban policy discussions at national forums: The Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference 2025 placed strong emphasis on integrated land-use and transport planning and the need for resilient public transport.
- Scale of investment required: A World Bank-supported analysis estimates that Indian cities will require USD 2.4 trillion by 2050 for climate-resilient infrastructure, including transport, underscoring the significant financing challenge.

Last updated December 2025

¹ <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/climate-resilient-mobility-india-s-transport-transition-after-cop30>

² <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2772586325000243>

³ https://www.mobiliseyourcity.net/sites/default/files/2025-05/Nagpur%2C%20India_1.pdf

https://www.mobiliseyourcity.net/sites/default/files/2025-05/Ahmedabad%2C%20India_1.pdf

⁴ <https://metrorailtoday.com/article/india-charts-the-future-of-urban-transport-at-umi-2025-mobility-as-the-backbone-of-development>

⁵ <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/indian-cities-need-24-trillion-climate-infrastructure-by-2050-world-bank-says-2025-07-22>