



Annual Report 2016

Introduction

The Urban Works Institute (UWI) is a public charitable trust registered with the Government of Tamil Nadu (India) under Article 64, to undertake projects for reducing air pollution through development of infrastructure for public transport and other sustainable transport facilities; for the development of urban and rural areas spread all over India with objectives which would benefit the public at large.

After inception, UWI has explored possibility with several philanthropic organisations for sustainability of the organisation. In year 2016 The Institute for Transportation & Development Policy (ITDP), which is a New York-based not-for-profit organisation, involved in promoting sustainable & equitable urban transportation world-wide, agreed to support UWI.

Based on the support letter from ITDP, UWI has applied and obtained prior permission from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India. Following the grant of permission on 19th July, 2016, UWI entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with ITDP on 18th October, 2016 and started operation in November 2016. As per the MoU, UWI has been requested to use the brand name of ITDP while communicating with government departments, in publicity material etc., especially in projects which are financially supported by ITDP.

Activity Report

Staff Orientation Program (December 2016)

Staff members from all offices of UWI met in Bangalore in December 2016, to discuss the work done until then and brainstorm about strategies and future goals, and also participate in a study trip along well-designed Complete Streets in the city.



Update from the field offices:

Tamil Nadu

Meeting with Transport Secretary

The Transport Secretary, Govt of TamilNadu convened a meeting to discuss the role of UWI in sustainable projects/initiatives of the State. UWI explained its involvement in various projects such as preparation of the Detailed Project Report for Chennai BRT, public transport initiatives as part of the Chennai Smart City Proposal, augmentation of bus services, T. Nagar Depot redevelopment, route rationalisation of city bus service, parking management in Chennai, etc., as well as initiating BRT in Coimbatore. The Secretary appreciated the efforts made by UWI and offered his full support in order to improve street quality and reduction in traffic congestion.

Meeting with Commissioner and other members from Greater Chennai Corporation

UWI along with media house The Hindu and partner organisation City Connect met the Commissioner and other members from Greater Chennai Corporation to discuss the trial run for the Pedestrian Plaza in T.Nagar. The consultant for the project presented the overall idea, parking layout and traffic rerouting plans. It was decided that UWI along with The Hindu and City Connect would come up with events and activities for the trial run. UWI suggested one dedicated lane for buses and two-wheelers on either side of the median, with the remaining road space available for pedestrians. Benches and potted plants would be placed along the route, as per activity requirement. Parking spaces and traffic rerouting were discussed and modified.

Steering committee meeting for Smart and SUT solutions for small and mid-sized cities

UWI along with members of the steering committee were invited for a round-table discussion chaired by MAWS Secretary. The agenda was to discuss and offer suggestions on Draft Strategic Mobility Planning (SMP) toolkit prepared in collaboration with NITI Aayog. A small presentation was made by UWI providing an overview of the Strategic Mobility Planning toolkit as a step-by-step planning tool to assist cities prepare an SMP. It was also discussed that services of existing SPV formed for Chennai and Coimbatore smart city will be utilized to oversee the planning, implementation, and monitoring of projects identified in SMP.

First meeting of Technical review committee for Chennai BRT Inception report

A technical review committee was formed to review the consultant's work with inputs from members of key Govt. departments (highways, traffic police, GCC, MTC, CMDA, IIT-Madras) and UWI/City Connect. The committee has asked the Consultant to revise and submit the Inception report with suggested changes.

Meeting with Transport Secretary, Government of TamilNadu

The UWI was invited by Transport Secretary to discuss the present status of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Chennai BRT prepared by consultants. UWI highlighted the areas where the consultants need to add necessary information and conduct surveys to collect more information about the system.

The meeting was Chaired by the Transport Secretary, and Planning Secretary & members from KfW, MTC, PTCS, ICRA, and Chennai City Connect were present there.

Maharashtra

Towards better street design in Nashik

UWI was invited by the Nashik Municipal Commissioner and Public Works Department to explain the importance of getting streets designed by urban street designers. The Commissioner and PWD saw the benefits and are interested in creating a panel of such designers. The panel will design streets under the Smart Cities Mission as well as other major streets in Nashik.

Conceptual drawing of mid-block pedestrian crossing was submitted to NMC, along with a note that explained things to be kept in mind on-site while constructing a crossing. During the follow-up meeting, footpath improvements and mid block crossings on one of the roads in the city (Gangapur road) were discussed with NMC staff and the contractor. It was decided to have a one-day workshop/discussion before the actual work started.

Preparing future leaders: introduction to SusTrans concepts in Pune

UWI was invited to introduce concepts of sustainable transportation to aspirants of the upcoming Pune Municipal elections. The "walk-bus-cycle" trio was emphasised upon with projects from Pune for better understanding.

UWI presented ideas on how to reduce traffic congestion on the road by improving public transportation in addition to improving walking and cycling infrastructure in the city.

Meeting with Maharashtra Transport Commissioner

UWI met the Maharashtra Transport Commissioner and discussed the possibility of drafting a policy for managing and planning shared mobility options in the state of Maharashtra. The Commissioner showed interest and requested UWI to continue dialogue to understand various facets of the topic.

Meeting with Aurangabad Municipal Commissioner

UWI met Aurangabad Municipal Commissioner (AMC), City Engineers and Ernst & Young representatives to understand Aurangabad's smart city proposal. AMC sought UWI's help in preparing a public transportation (PT) plan. The Municipal Corporation and students from Marathwada Institute of Technology, jointly conducted relevant surveys at 5 major transfer hubs in the city. The data from all surveys was analyzed by UWI and submitted to AMC along with future plan.

Jharkhand

Meeting with Urban Development Minister Mr. C. P. Singh

UWI Team met with Mr. C. P. Singh, Honb'le Minister for Urban Development and Housing Department, Government of Jharkhand, and discussed the possibilities for sustainable development of the capital city of Jharkhand. He was excited and requested us to include two more cities (Dhanbad & Devghar) and asked to develop a work plan. He also assured his full support for the cause.

Meeting with Government Officials

UWI team met with several senior level government officials regarding a Sustainable Transport workshop to sensitize representatives from municipal corporation on how the city should be designed to cater to everybody.

During the workshop, the resource person from UWI explained the concept of complete streets and conducted hands-on training for intersection redesign and a colourful zebra crossing based on the budget and possibilities.

Meeting with SUDA (State Urban Development Agency) Director

UWI Team met Mr. Rajesh Kumar, Director, State Urban Development Agency (SUDA), to discuss about Public Bike Sharing system, especially in Ranchi. The idea was received with much interest and the director requested UWI for a feasibility study regarding Public Bike Sharing system. It was discussed that at-least 3 major corridors could be set up in the first phase of PBS.