



Abstract no.

160

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Transportation Issues of Cities In Developing Countries - Case Study of Nairobi, Kenya

Track or session Planning Activism and Social Justice

Keywords

Abstract This paper aims critically analyzing the urban transportation problems in Nairobi, Kenya as a case in point of transportation problems in urban cities within developing countries. Identifying and resolving transportation problems is a key issue challenging governments in most developing economies like Kenya. Despite increased expenditures on urban transport systems, the current transportation problems continue to worsen due to poor execution of transportation planning models and ideas, lack of supportive governance structures and ultimately corruption within the overall transport sector. This puts developing countries at a significant disadvantage with the lack of efficient and safe transportation being a major crisis (Klopp, 2012). In Kenya, urban transportation problems have been dealt with by the construction of larger roads, by-passes and broader dual carriage ways. However, these road projects have not been a solution as they have proven as being unable to achieve the broader plan of traffic management. Road projects need to be part of an overall transportation plan that includes traffic management and transit systems that majorly support public transportation. Similarly this need to fit into a broader metropolitan urban plan.

The principles of sustainable transport encourage utilization of low cost public transport capable of performing well in mixed land use systems, and densely populated urban areas. This paper will seek to highlight the core problem of the failure of the transportation policy in Nairobi to develop and manage the public transport system to provide a higher level of mobility, equity and environmental sustainability. It will similarly explore inter-related features of decision making that may impact how transportation projects and policies can move forward in Nairobi

Key Words; Developing countries, transportation problems, transportation policy

Paper Structure

Introduction.

The introduction will focus on the principles of sustainable transportation that are in contestation presently within Nairobi. It will then draw out the transportation and land use problems from a historical perspective. Finally, the chapter should outline the challenges within the present transportation networks visible in Nairobi. Initial recommendations based on solutions employed on transport problems in other developing countries experiencing urbanization coupled with rapid population growth will be presented with notable examples of South African cities that have adopted Bus Rapid Transit models.

Transport Issues within Cities in Developing Countries.

It will include literature review on public transport systems to identify the most important

components of a metropolitan transport system that can be replicated in developing countries. An effort to identify the Key Performance Indicators for a Sustainable Transportation Model in Nairobi would be applied to analyze the compatibility of the chosen components that would then contextualize the objective by means of area, population, car ownership etc.

Conclusion; Return to Optimal Design Principles

This will conclude the paper by a shift in the focus to the urban transport agenda over the long term. I will consider the link of successful transport policy to economic development through identifying major actors and their role in the institutional and regulatory frameworks, and specific mechanisms to maximize choice in transportation. As an example of a practical solution I will also give sketches of a sample decongestion plan on Nairobi's city's central business district as an alternative to the transportation network challenges experienced at present due to the paratransit modes available currently.

References

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Klopp, J. M. (2012, March). Towards a political economy of transportation policy and practice in Nairobi. In *Urban forum*(Vol. 23, No. 1, pp. 1-21). Springer Netherlands

Synopsis Despite increased expenditures on urban transport systems, current transportation problems in cities within developing countries continue to worsen. Will a shift to an increase reliance in the use of inter-related features of decision making in transportation planning enable cities achieve goals of sustainable transport in the long run?

Keyword Transportation Problems

Keyword Developing Countries

Keyword Poverty

Additional information