



To,
Sh. Arvind Kejriwal
Chief Minister, Delhi

3rd level, Delhi Secretariat, I.P.Estate, New Delhi-110002

Dear Sir,

Greetings from Public Transport Forum Delhi,

Public Transport Forum Delhi is a collaboration of multiple right based groups, communities and civil society organizations dedicated to the issues of bus transport in Delhi. The forum aims to identify issues bus users face in Delhi, disseminate information regarding the importance of bus transport, recognize gaps and collectively work for strengthening the bus transport infrastructure in Delhi.

We are writing to express our concern regarding the current state of public transport in Delhi, and to request that the government increase its investments in public transport in the upcoming state budget 2023-24. As you are aware, Delhi is facing a severe air pollution crisis, and the lack of sustainable transport options is contributing significantly to this problem. We need to take immediate action to address this issue, and we believe that investing in public transport is the best way to do so.

The provision of reliable and safe public bus service is crucial for meeting the mobility needs of citizens in Delhi. As the population of Delhi is estimated to have increased from 16.78 million as per 2011 census to 20.57 million in 2021, there is an increasing demand to expand and improve the public transport network in Delhi with a special focus on bus transport. The private vehicles that take disproportionate space on our city roads while commuting proportionately less people, are one of the key contributors to the city's air pollution crisis. An efficient public bus system provides environmental benefits while ensuring an affordable, equitable and accessible transportation system for every citizen.

We appreciate the various steps taken by the Delhi Government to improve public bus transport, but there is still a need to take more urgent steps to make the bus system safely accessible and reliable for all.

We, therefore, urge your government to consider the following recommendations during the upcoming state budget 2023-24, to achieve affordable, safe and reliable bus-based public transport in Delhi for all.

1. Dedicated Sustainable Public Transportation Fund

- As advised by **National Urban Transport Policy 2014 (NUTP)**, Delhi must create a **separate urban transport fund** to ensure an efficient transportation system that prioritizes people, not private vehicles. Such a plan should have legal binding through a **comprehensive urban transport act** to cover all aspects of urban transport. The Delhi government should establish the unified metropolitan transport Authority which could monitor the transport fund.
- Introduce polluters pay principle and add additional sales tax/cess on fossil fuel, additional registration fee on four wheelers, congestion tax, green tax, advertising revenue on transit corridors etc.
- Levy road charges for big cars (SUVs) with less than 3 passengers.
- To improve the financial viability of public transport, the state government could provide tax concessions to all public transport systems including para transit.

2. Increase the strength of public transport

- According to the Ministry of Housing and Urban affairs' benchmark, Cities need 60 buses per one lakh population. Based on this benchmark, **Delhi needs at least 15000 buses for its 20.57 million people, but there are only around 7000 buses in the city.** As per the Economic Survey of Delhi (2020-2021), the number of DTC operated bus fleet have only increased from 3469 in 2005-2006 to 3760 in 2020-2021 which is significantly less taking into consideration the population increase. More buses should be procured on a priority basis and commitment must be made to achieve **a target of at least 11000 buses by 2023.** **Electric buses** powered by renewable energy should be prioritized while augmenting the bus fleet size.
- Procurement of mini buses by DTC which can ply on routes where roads are narrow.

3. Make buses safe, accessible, affordable and reliable

- The Delhi government is spending around 216 crore on free travel facilities for women. This amount needs to increase and the government should provide an additional 200 crore to extend the scheme for free bus travel to cover all children, people with disability, senior citizens, trans community, students, and all bus users at least on certain specified days per week.
- If a proper accounting of the social cost of cars is done and if the cost-benefit analysis of fare-free bus transport considers the less tangible and long term benefits in public



health, climate resilience and democracy in cities, it is perfectly possible to make public transport fare-free and invest in other public services.

- Start special feeder buses exclusively for women and other sexual minorities
- Reserve seats and make the bus free for the trans community which includes both trans men and trans women.
- Provide sufficient budget to ensure bus stops have proper shelters with amenities like toilets, public announcement and information display system and CCTV cameras.
- Improving the bus transport infrastructure in villages of Delhi. Expand routes and add more buses in villages of Delhi.
- Employee welfare: Only permanent, well-trained and well-paid workers working in a safe and relaxed environment can be expected to contribute fully towards achieving a good bus service for Delhi. Drivers should be entitled to fair compensation for their services.

I hope that you will take our concerns into consideration and work towards creating an even more sustainable transport system in Delhi. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

By: Public Transport Forum, Delhi and supported by Greenpeace India