

Need to develop a comprehensive policy framework to put in place the modern tram system in Bengaluru and other cities ? Laid

SHRI TEJASVI SURYA (BANGALORE SOUTH): In line with the Government's National Urban Transport Policy vision, which emphasizes 'moving people' rather than 'moving vehicles' and seeks to provide sustainable mobility and accessibility to all citizens, I suggest the re-initiation of a modern tram system in our cities, especially Bengaluru. With over 1.2 crore population, Bengaluru faces peak-hour average traffic speeds of 12-15 kmph, inadequate last-mile connectivity from Metro stations, rising vehicular emissions and unaffordable transport options for short to medium distances. Despite major investments in Metro rail and bus systems, there remains a critical infrastructure gap for travel within 2-15 km ranges, a gap that can be addressed by surface tram systems. Modern tram systems offer a viable and proven solution that lies between Metro and bus services. These systems can integrate seamlessly with existing infrastructure by sharing road space with other vehicles while maintaining dedicated corridors where necessary, reducing capital costs drastically and requiring significantly lower civil infrastructure. Their implementation timeline is also quicker allowing cities like Bengaluru to respond rapidly to transport crises. I hereby request the Government to support bringing back a modern tram system in our cities, especially Bengaluru, and develop a comprehensive policy framework for urban tram systems across India.