

# The Implementation of Transport Systems in Delhi as a Way to Improve Air Quality and Mobility Management

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## Summary

In 2004 and 2005 I contributed to a research program for the cities of South America under the sponsorship of the Clean Air Initiative. While studying vehicle emissions, the key findings were that high levels of air pollution and lack of mobility were a common problem for large cities in that region. By continuing the research of these topics in India, looking at the Asian context, similar conclusions were reached: not only the problems were common, but so were the weaknesses and barriers for implementation. While policies and programs to deal with these issues may be in place, and funds for public spending are made available, inadequate institutional arrangements seem to be the barrier for implementing the necessary actions. The aim of this paper is to describe the common issues that were observed in two different regions of the developing world.

**Keywords:** air quality, mobility management, policy implementation, governance

## Abstract

Urban air quality has been identified as a serious threat to human health that must be tackled to guarantee healthy living environments as cities grow. Air quality management should be analysed in a systemic, multidimensional way, in which multiple urban problems can be solved using integrated solutions. For example, building sound transport infrastructures and considering transport as an element of urban planning is a way to advance towards sustainable conditions.

This study looked into the city of Delhi, in which significant improvement has been achieved in the past 10 years, by taking measures in the transport sector to improve air quality. The city has developed an ambitious plan to build an integrated transport system suitable for the growing population. To achieve this goal a set institutions have been created.

While the planning aspects seemed to be on the right track, this study identified that the main hurdle to sustainable urban planning was its implementation. This issue was then been examined in detail, by identifying and engaging the main transport sector players. The aim of the analysis was to understand the role of the implementation agencies and determine the level of integration in the transport system.

The main findings are that most of the weaknesses in the system are a consequence of the lack of institutional capacity and governmental support. In other words, they are signs of poor governance.