

# 1. PUBLIC BICYCLE SHARING – BHOPAL

## *“Availability of multimodal connected networks”*

– Strategy of Bhopal as expressed for in its Smart City Proposal (SCP)

### CONTEXT

Bhopal has a population of 2,371,061 (2011). It is one of the greenest cities in India and an international tourist destination famous for its lakes, heritage and UNESCO world heritage sites etc. Being the capital city of Madhya Pradesh, it is also a hub of economic activity. As a result of this, the city needs to sustainably manage the increasing local travel demand of both its resident as well as a sizeable floating population.

Bhopal suffer from high levels of vehicular pollution; additionally due to large number of motorized vehicles, there are traffic congestions. The city roads are also prone to accidents leading to loss of life and disability. All these have a high socio-economic cost and leads to loss in GDP.

Bicycle is a safe, economical, healthy and eco-friendly mode of transport for individual to go to nearby places and to connect to other public transit modes. However, most Indian city roads are not planned for bicycles transit.

### THE INTERVENTION

#### Project description

In order to promote bicycle ride and provide for first and last mile connectivity to BRT, Smart City Bhopal has initiated a public bicycle-sharing program in the city. The prominent features of this program are:

- 12 km of dedicated bicycle tracks have been constructed
- Around 50 locations within the city have been identified where bicycles are placed and from where one can hire a bicycle
- A public bicycle-sharing app is available, where users may register themselves, choose a suitable bicycle-sharing plan and pay for the same
- Direct/ without registration, public bicycle-sharing is also available, where one can hire a bicycle for an hour of half an hour by making direct/ on-site payments

The project is scheduled for completion on 20 June 2017

### Key outputs/ outcomes

A large number of people are using the public bicycle-sharing program, where more than 50% of the users are registered members. Currently 250 bicycles are placed/ available in 40 location for hiring with plans for increasing the number of bicycles to 500 at 50 locations in the city.

### Impacts

It is expected that in the medium to long term, there will be reduction in vehicular traffic of the city and lesser demand for vehicle parking. This should result in safer transport and less pollution/ congestion on roads. This will also have a favorable impact on the health of citizens. The program is also expected to contribute significantly to the first and last mile connectivity to BRT in the city.

### Support and mobilized resources

The project has an outlay of approximately INR 7 crore, where INR 3 crore has been financed through Smart City Mission (SCM) funds and INR 4 crore has been invested by the private sector concern.



Public bicycle sharing docking station in Bhopal