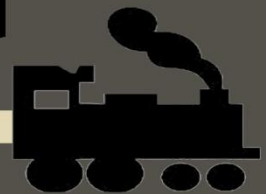


A blurred view from a train window. A yellow train is visible in the background, and a person's face is partially visible through the window. The foreground shows a metal railing and a window frame.

A Global perspectives  
project

# pUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



How does the use of public transport differ across countries?



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# INTRODUCTION

## The main incentive

In this essay there are examples of countries, which use public transport and which do not. To give a clearer picture we have made comparisons between the two. In the end of the report it will be very evident that public transport usage is also an equally

striking issue for economies across the globe, they can also lead to other global issues if not tackled as well as be devastating for countries and their citizens.





# PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN THE UK



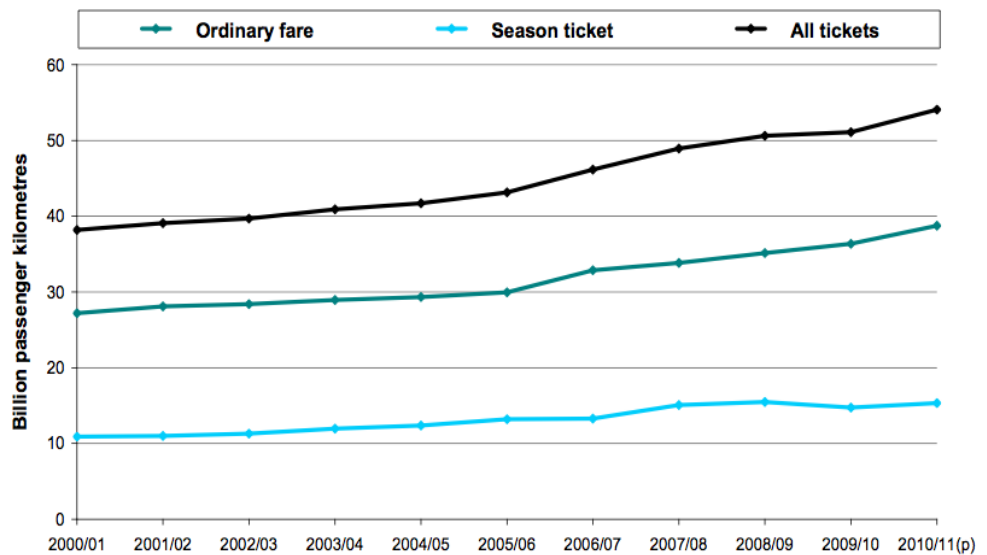
# United Kingdom

4

<sup>1</sup>The UK provides a wide range of public transport services. Trains along with buses and coaches provide cheap and quick transport around the UK. The Eurostar trains also link Britain and France at Folkestone, in Kent and Coquelles, in the Nord Pas-de-Calais<sup>2</sup>. The usage of trains has increased dramatically over the last decade. Public transport is used everywhere across UK, from Newcastle all the way to Southampton.



But having trains has never stolen the spotlight from the London public transport. The London Underground, or 'tube' as it is usually referred to, is the oldest underground train system in the world. With 250+ stations and the network expanding all the time you're never far from a station. Other than 'the tube', buses of London being one of the largest urban bus services provide cheap transport and sightseeing opportunities on the way.



5



Travelling in the central part of London from the outer part might have the passenger change a bus, as vehicles entering central London are charged quite a sum of money. Some bus services only run during the day, from about 06:00 to 23:00. However, many routes run a 24-hour service.<sup>3</sup> London cabs are well-known and accessible but are not used commonly as they are expensive and extra fare is required if central London accessed. A more popular way to go around the city is the buses and if they fall into your desired route, the London River Services. London River Services transports both, tourist and commuter boat services along the River Thames.

1- <http://www.visitbritain.com/en/Transport/Getting-to-Britain/Eurotunnel-train-to-Britain.htm>  
 2- <http://www.visitbritain.com/en/Transport/Getting-around-Britain/London-Transport.htm>  
 3- [http://i.telegraph.co.uk/multimedia/archive/02226/transport-apps\\_2226054b.jpg](http://i.telegraph.co.uk/multimedia/archive/02226/transport-apps_2226054b.jpg)  
 4- [http://i.telegraph.co.uk/multimedia/archive/02226/transport-apps\\_2226054b.jpg](http://i.telegraph.co.uk/multimedia/archive/02226/transport-apps_2226054b.jpg)  
 5- [http://www.busandcoach.travel/images/newsletter/october\\_2012/transport\\_poverty.png](http://www.busandcoach.travel/images/newsletter/october_2012/transport_poverty.png)

# PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN USA



## United States of America

6

Unlike its economy, American public transport is not that developed. Cabs are available in major cities like New York, but because they are expensive and are only limited to local limits, are used less. Metros and underground railways are limited for local transit, that to in very few cities in the USA.



There are private companies that offer national travel. Greyhound and Trail ways are some companies that have buses running around the USA. Americans do not prefer buses, as they are slow modes of transport. Long distance travel by train is uncommon in the USA as it is equally as expensive as taking a flight but takes more time. Few people who wish to enjoy a journey or watch the countryside use trains. Private vehicles such as cars and airplane transit are the most common methods of transportation in the USA. This is because they are believed to be more convenient and faster. Regular usage of flights also gets you benefits on other services such as purchasing fuel, making airfare more inviting.

7



6- <http://us.123rf.com/400wm/400/400/rorem/rorem1112/rorem111200012/11457953-yellow-nyc-taxis-on-times-square-new-york-city.jpg>

7- [http://3.bp.blogspot.com/\\_Uls6-gaeYw/SPdVvDitUcl/AAAAAAAP7g/8hyl-4nHGnu/s400/bus\\_merger\\_02\\_t640.jpg](http://3.bp.blogspot.com/_Uls6-gaeYw/SPdVvDitUcl/AAAAAAAP7g/8hyl-4nHGnu/s400/bus_merger_02_t640.jpg)





Münchner Verkehrs- und Tarifverbund

# PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN GERMANY

München XXL  
Tarifzone

## Germany

8

The public transportation system of Germany is very efficient and highly developed. With a top speed of 180 mph the Inter-City Express trains take people to many destinations, quick and safe. Unlike the US or Canada, you can really get anywhere by train, bus or subway.



The stations are often located convenient in the centres of the cities. Cabs can be found anywhere near train or bus stations. They are much more expensive than the public alternatives, especially in big cities and on the weekends. Another possibility for travelling through Germany is taking the plane. There are many airports across the country and it is the fastest transport from one city to another. However it is expensive as it is private. Germany being a country of car-lovers has an excellent road network. However, almost all bigger cities suffer from a severe parking problem. Space is scarce and expensive. One-way streets and traffic jams often take the enjoyment out of the journey. When driving on Germany's motorways, drivers should be aware of frequent tolls, which can make the cost of their journey considerably higher. Public transport is excellent. Germany's rail network is comfortable, reliable and fast. Whenever possible, taking the train is to be recommended over taking the bus which although cheaper is far less comfortable.

All major cities feature impressive public transport systems. Tube, tram and busses assure reliable transportation. During the night, there often exists a network of night buses, obviously a cheaper alternative to taking a taxi.

9



8- <http://germany-explorer.com/uploads/pics/transport.jpg>

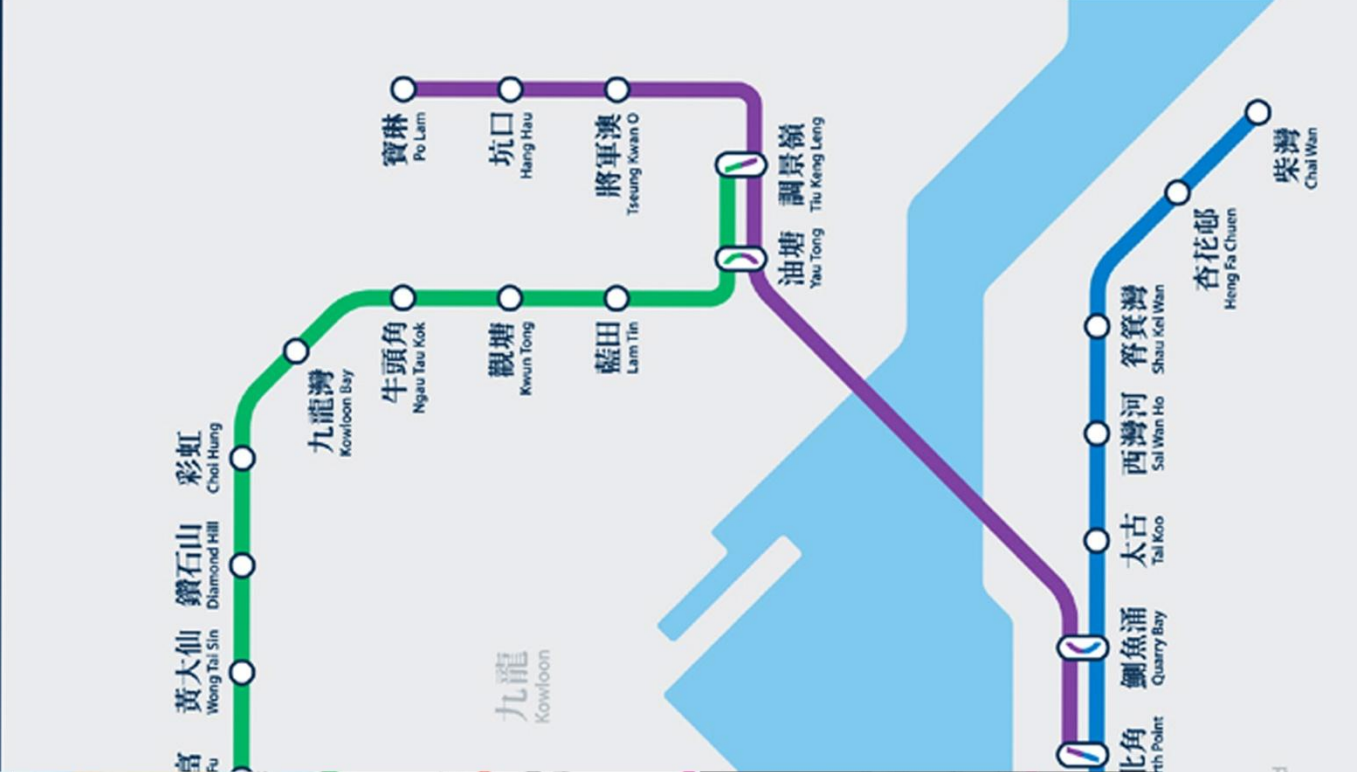
9- <http://www.blogcdn.com/travel.aol.co.uk/media/2011/12/german1.jpg>

# 地鐵路綫圖

MTR system map

www.mtr.com.hk

# PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN HONG KONG



## Hong Kong, China

Hong Kong is the most developed cosmopolitan city in Asia, located off the southern coast of China. Hong Kong has seen substantial change in the past decade in the transport and infrastructure sector. An estimated crowd of 6.4 million travels in the metro daily.

In 2005 the metro train was extended to the Disneyland in Hong Kong to cater to large proportion of tourists. During the Asia World Expo the Metro was extended to create the Airport Express, which helped avoid a major transport problem in the city. It eased the traveller and decreased the travel time.

In 2008 a Public Transport Information System was set up in Hong Kong for the awareness of public transport for tourists and citizens. This has promoted the usage of public transport considerably. As people start settling in Hong Kong, road networks need to be expanding in the entire area with metro service to be expanded towards its Eastern Island.

The government of Hong Kong has bought many benefits to its citizens by the extensive usage of their public transport such as waiving of fuel tax and lowering rent for the land depots.



10- [http://therealsingapore.com/sites/default/files/field/image/376023201\\_8c16727370.jpg](http://therealsingapore.com/sites/default/files/field/image/376023201_8c16727370.jpg)

11- <http://www.disfrutahongkong.com/fotos/metro-hong-kong.jpg>

video clip  
to rainbow@myjiva.co.za



**P**UBLIC  
TRANSPORT **IN SOUTH AFRICA**

## South Africa

12

Public-transit system in South Africa is not reliable, efficient or user friendly. Also, it can be quite dangerous. The public train system in Cape Town is extensive but the comfort can't even be compared to that of the European trains. Also, security is an issue. If you have to use the public transport, don't let anything expensive in sight. Public transport in Johannesburg is very limited. While in Pretoria, you can use the public bus service but you should be really careful with your valuables.



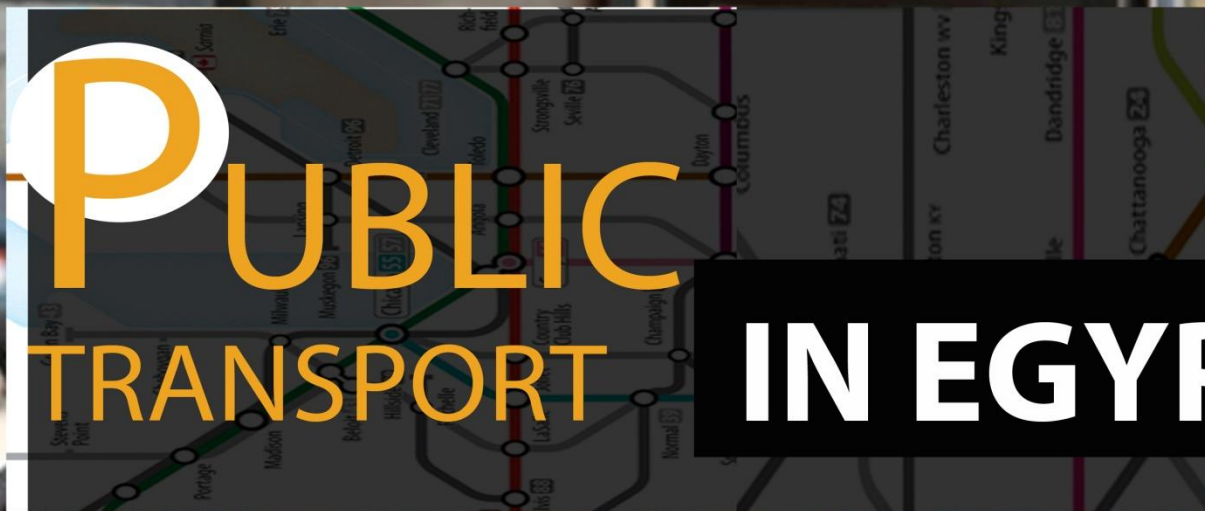
Currently, the transport system in South Africa is under scrutiny from the public. The taxi system is an immense industry, as it appears to be the main mode of transport for most citizens in South Africa. However, the system is often unsafe and very inadequate for the roads. Jerome Boer, a taxi driver for "Elite Cabs" states in an interview that "90% of the taxi industry is made up of mini-bus taxis, and only 10% is made up of meter cabs." He also states that "the mini-bus taxis are extremely unsafe and many of them are often illegal." The public transport system, such as taxis, need to be improved in South Africa.

In Cape Town, a woman was not "allowed out of a mini-bus taxi until she gave her belongings to the taxi driver" says Boer who believes that the "mini-bus taxis are a large danger to its passengers as well as the other people on the road." To be an Elite cab taxi driver, you need to have your "professional driving permit" This ensures that the meter cabs are run by people who are legalized drivers. "90% of the other taxi drivers don't need anything to allow them to drive, this is why they are so hazardous on the roads" Boer says.



12- [http://www.ipsnews.net/slideshows/transportinsouthafrica/600\\_450/img\\_4430.jpg](http://www.ipsnews.net/slideshows/transportinsouthafrica/600_450/img_4430.jpg)

13- [http://led.co.za/sites/led.co.za/files/imagecache/fw675/images/story/2012/saledn7991\\_traffic\\_jam.jpg](http://led.co.za/sites/led.co.za/files/imagecache/fw675/images/story/2012/saledn7991_traffic_jam.jpg)



# PUBLIC TRANSPORT

# IN EGYPT



# Egypt

Egypt is located on the northern tip of the African continent. Egypt has a very poor public transport system. Cairo is one of the megacities of the Middle- east and the population of 17 million is still on a rise.

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15



The city bus service is available on in Cairo and Alexandria. There is no way of transporting around the city. A few taxi services have come up in the past 3 years, but are of no use, as the people of the working class; who have to travel long distances to reach their work can't afford. The train network, which undeveloped offered only journeys to 4 cities in the whole country. Therefore transportation is a problem in Egypt. The municipality has with difficulty chipped in money in the last 5 years by collecting heavy taxes. This money is to be used for creating a Metro service in the city of Luxor and its suburbs. There are future plans of introducing the BRTS facility in many cities across Egypt. I think that facility would help cope up the problem. The UNDP (United Nation Development Program) has also introduced plans for development of public transport in Egypt.

14- <http://galenf.com/egypt/cairo53.jpg>

15- [http://al-shorfa.com/en\\_GB/articles/meii/features/2012/10/09/feature-02](http://al-shorfa.com/en_GB/articles/meii/features/2012/10/09/feature-02)



# Mumbai Suburban Rail Network

Western	Central
Churchgate - Virar (Fast)	Mumbai CST - Kasara / Khopoli (Fast)
Churchgate - Borivili (Slow)	Mumbai CST - Kalyan (Slow)
Virar - Dahanu MEMU Shuttle	Vasai Road - Diva
<b>Harbour</b>	Thane - Navi Mumbai
Mumbai CST - Andheri / Panvel	Nerul / CBD - Uran (Under Construction)
MRTS (Under Construction)	

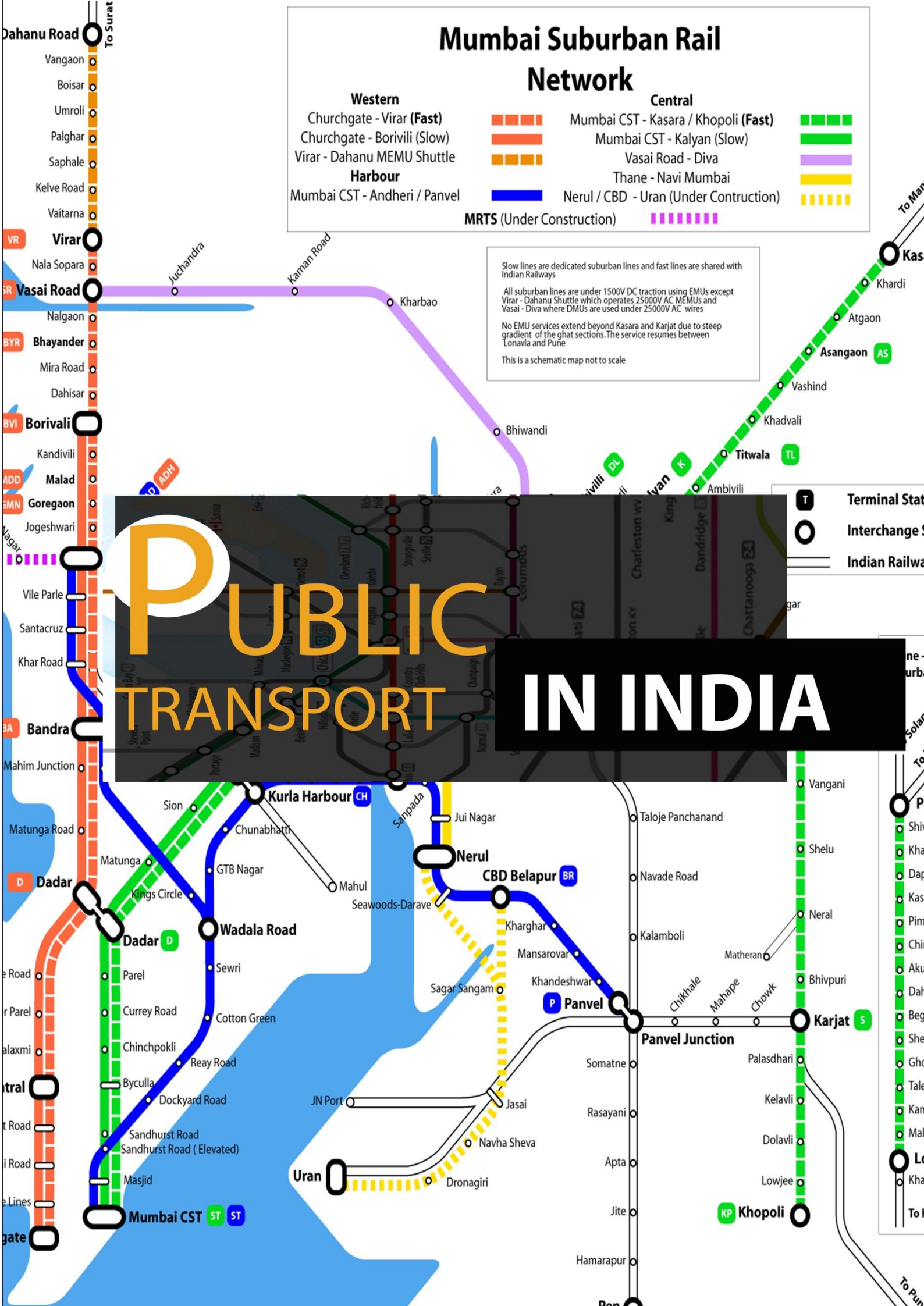
Slow lines are dedicated suburban lines and fast lines are shared with Indian Railways

All suburban lines are under 1500V DC traction using EMUs except Virar - Dahanu Shuttle which operates 25000V AC MEMUs and Vasai - Diva where DMUs are used under 25000V AC wires

No EMU services extend beyond Kasara and Karjat due to steep gradient of the ghat sections. The service resumes between Lonavla and Pune

This is a schematic map not to scale

# PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN INDIA



- T** Terminal Station
- O** Interchange
- ||** Indian Railways

## Mumbai, India

16

Mumbai is the financial and commercial capital of India. Mumbai would not have achieved this benchmark without its local trains. Any large and densely populated area requires a fast and cheap method of transportation. For Mumbai, it is the local trains, which is used daily by the people to travel over varying distances ranging from 10 to 60 kilometres per day.



The Mumbai local railway network branches out through three main lines – Central, Western and the Harbour, connecting a distinct part of the city to another. It may be considered as one of the best example of strategic management in transport. Most people use this means of transport to travel for their job, profession, business and educational purposes. Most travellers travelling on a daily basis hold season passes that makes the local train travel even more cost-efficient. This transport system has played its role for now about 150 years and carries a population of 22 million every day.

17



Railway budget for the year 2012-13 announced is INR 4,410cr. India held the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest railway network in the year 200 despite of various administrative glitches. Mumbai local train makes long-distance travel possible on a daily basis, so the government started developing towards the efficiency of the public transport.

Road transport is very difficult in Mumbai as the growing rates of car ownership cause traffic congestion, not only in rural but also the urban most areas of the city. After talking with people who travel in Mumbai often, we have learnt that road transit is time consuming and tiring. Another significant issue is also over –crowding, the commuters travel in jam-pack compartments every day.

16- [http://s.wsj.net/public/resources/images/OB-JP905\\_Church\\_G\\_20100819111422.jpg](http://s.wsj.net/public/resources/images/OB-JP905_Church_G_20100819111422.jpg)

17- [http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/42/Public\\_transport\\_in\\_Mumbai.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/42/Public_transport_in_Mumbai.jpg)

## Rajkot, India

Rajkot faces many problems with current functional hierarchy of the road network. Lack of pedestrian facilities also adds up to the problem. Absence of service lane on the majority of the main road mixes long distance and local traffic. There are more than 950 km of road unpaved. There are no functional traffic signals and lights present.

Bus Rapid Transit system is a new form of public transportation which visualizes to use buses as an improved high-speed transit system. Bus Rapid Transit System is high-quality, customer orientated transit that delivers fast, comfortable and low-cost urban mobility. Bus Rapid Transit involves coordinated improvements in a transit system's infrastructure, equipment, operations and technology that give preferential treatment to buses on urban roads. The recently introduced service seems to have bright future as it receives good response from the residents of Rajkot.

Parking issue is a serious concern in the city. There is absence of adequate off-street parking facilities as a result of which parkers are forced to park their vehicles on the streets reducing the effectiveness available for the movement of traffic. Public transport in the city includes: *Chhakdas*, *Auto rickshaws*, *BRTS city bus*. Autos and *Chhakdas* mainly cater public transport in the city for long time but with the growth of city need for better public transport system are felt. In City development plan it was envisaged that Rajkot was provided with the city bus services, and started operating in 2007. Privately owned vehicles seem to be the most common mode of transport in the city. The situation of Public transport before city buses is not very good as the population has grown, and transportation is controlled by the privately owned small vehicles. State Transport Corporation and Municipal Corporation both operated the city bus services but none of them lasted. Major problem was the low demand therefore didn't allow the both corporations to sustain the operations. Within some time the provision of city bus transport stopped. City Transport operated 46 schedules (each schedule consists of one or more routes) daily on 208 routes. Total km. operated is 8170 km and total trips are 848 per day by the City Transport. It carried about 10,000 passengers every day. City bus transports had main control points at *Trikon baugh* Garden and *Bhaktinagar* circle. And Rajkot does not seem to be effected by absence of the service.



# Comparison

Development of infrastructure of public transport does not depend on the economic status of a country. Development of transit-systems depends on its usage and its demand from the commuters.

Using public transport can help us tackle many problems. These are examples of the countries that have problems caused by lack of public transport, and in response to that, examples of other countries which have worked on the problem by improving the public transport: -

## Pollution

America has the second highest carbon footprint after china. The USA emits 5,461,014 tons of carbon-dioxide, which makes 18.27%, while UK ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the list contributing to world's carbon emissions by only 1.75%. American transit is based on airfare, which makes it very vulnerable to problems, both technical and natural in kind.

## Time consumption

Egypt is highly undeveloped in terms of public transport. Even after the introduction of taxis in the country, travelling in developed part of the country such as Cairo and Alexandria takes a lot of time. Similarly India is also a less economically developed country, yet has many good public-transit solutions. Mumbai local trains, Delhi metros and city bus services across the nation give the citizens fast mean of transport.

## Traffic Congestion

The American citizens are fed up of the usual traffic in cities and on highways. This has become a very common phenomenon. Other than air pollution, this causes the nation to be dependent on fuel supply and also cause noise pollution. Traffic in central London; imposing tax for driving in the premises has controlled United Kingdom. Hong Kong has also managed to lower traffic congestion by promoting transport by subsidizing transport.

## Lowering expenses

South Africa is not a safe place to use public transport. But if it has to be used, the locals cannot afford it. Similarly the USA makes less use of public transport, resulting in a considerable fraction of its income on fuel for cars or on airfare. Hong Kong and UK subsidize public transport and similarly India has yearly passes for usage of public transport. This can result in considerable savings for people who are job workers and dependent on wages/salary.



THANK YOU