

16th November, 2008

To,

The Commissioner,
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike,
Bangalore

Dear Sir,

Re: Proposed Underpass Construction at Tagore Circle /Traffic Junction

I understand that there is a proposal to build an underpass at Tagore Circle /Junction. Having lived almost all my life in Bangalore, I know that Basavanagudi has wide streets & is one of the oldest & best areas in the city & I was'nt sure why such a decision was made. I was quite surprised to note that the most recent CTPP report has also recommended an underpass here.

To clear my doubts, one Mr.Arun, who is also a praja member & who lived in the area was consulted. I also drove on all the main thoroughfares in Basavanagudi, observing traffic & taking pictures, some of which are attached. My observations are as follows :

- 1) KR rd has a lot of traffic, bound from Banashankari side towards City Market /Majestic /MG rd & Vice versa.
- 2) The 4-lane two-way flyover built at National College over KR rd does not cater to much traffic, at present, & was seen almost empty throughout the hour that I spent there.
- 3) Vani Vilas road, though widened, does not have much traffic either.
- 4) Gandhi Bazaar rd is highly crowded with a lot of shoppers & through traffic, proceeding from Bull Temple rd to BP Wadia rd, KR rd, etc.
- 5) Kanakapura rd, commencing from Sajjan Rao circle upto KR Park has a lot of traffic, too.
- 6) Most of the intersections do not have traffic signal lights. The only signals fitted are at National College circle, below flyover.
- 7) Provision has been made below the National College flyover for U-turns on both sides.
- 8) Metro stations are also planned at Nat'l College & Lalbagh west gate as also at South end circle.

Thus, generally, Vani vilas rd, though wide & equipped with a flyover, was being avoided by traffic (possibly due to waiting time at Kanakapura rd intersection, which has

lot of traffic & is manned by traffic police). Traffic tends to use the Gandhi bazaar route due to absence of traffic signals, & a lone policeman that mans the BP Wadia rd intersection at Tagore circle.

I strongly feel that an underpass is unnecessary at Tagore circle & will spoil the area. It will invite even more traffic through Gandhi Bazaar, whilst the flyover at National College will continue to remain under-utilized. This is highly undesirable, both in terms of pollution & also high risk of pedestrian casualties since Gandhi Bazaar is a market that attracts high pedestrian movements.

Minor restrictions could alter the traffic flow patterns & divert traffic over the flyover. It can also rid Gandhi Bazaar of the excessive traffic. I propose the following measures :

- a) Forbid right turns at both ends of Gandhi Bazaar. Thus - at RK Ashram, traffic should only be permitted to turn left on to Bull Temple rd towards BMS College & at Tagore circle, traffic should only be permitted to turn left on to KR rd, towards National college.
- b) To avoid conflicts on Vani vilas rd, forbid right turns from & into the narrow Shankar Mutt rd, Parallel rd & Ranga rao rd. (all three rds are between RK Ashram & Nat'l college flyover), & extend median dividers along the whole length of Vani vilas rd from Lalbagh west gate to RK Ashram, except for an opening at Kanakapura rd intersection.
- c) Install traffic signals at Tagore Circle – BP Wadia rd intersection : permit traffic from BP Wadia rd & KR rd (approaching from both ways) to take any road past Tagore circle, including Gandhi Bazaar.
- d) Install traffic signals at Kanakapura rd – Vani vilas rd intersection : permit traffic from each direction to move on all possible routes, except for prohibition of right turn from Kanakapura rd (from KR Park side) to Lal bagh West gate since traffic can use the diagonal rd (MN Krishnarao rd).
- e) Install traffic signals at KR rd – Dewan Madhavrao rd intersection (near Netkalappa circle) : permit flows in all possible directions, from any road.

Please see the attached drawing & pictures for better understanding.

These measures will result in higher turning traffic under National College flyover between Vani vilas rd & KR rd (to & from RK Ashram side). One of the two roads adjacent flyover (the one adjacent National college) is not very wide & traffic may fill up the lane in peak hours, waiting to take a right turn. This should still not pose any problems as any fresh traffic arriving will avoid waiting & start proceeding over the flyover & turn right at Kanakapura road, since this alternative route exists.

With these controls, traffic entering Gandhi Bazaar will become localized, mostly & use of it as a thoroughfare will be well under control. Thus, Tagore circle will also see a reduction in traffic & conflicts will be avoided, negating the need for an underpass. Vanivilas rd & National College flyover will be much better utilized, & some traffic restraints will also be in place favoring public transport use, especially when the Metro comes up, which is desirable.

I would greatly appreciate if this were tested soon & implemented in full if found feasible. I am confident that these measures will prove beneficial to the area, in the long run, & are far better than installation of an underpass at Tagore circle, which might actually worsen things.

Thanking You for your Kind attention,
Your's faithfully,



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Cc : Mr.Ravi S, Dy Commisioner of Police (South Zone)

Attached: 9 Photos + Map (10 files)