

## Public Discussion

### **Commuter Rail Services – A potential option for Bangalore?**

10.30 AM, 15<sup>th</sup> July, Students Christian Mission (SCM) Hall, Mission Road

Organized by ITEC, Praja, Hasiru Usiru, Concern (IISc)

*Can Bangalore have a commuter rail system? What are the advantages and disadvantages? If it's good for us, why don't we have it? What can we do about it?*

**Join the public discussion to understand the commuter rail option better and build a citywide campaign for an effective commuter rail service in Bangalore**

#### **PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

10.30 AM to 10.45 AM – Introduction by Hasiru Usiru

10.45 AM to 11.00 AM – Keynote Address by Prof Sitaraman, CiSTUP

11.00 AM to 11.15 AM – Presentation on Commuter Rail by Praja

11.15 AM to 11.30 AM – Tea Break

11.30 AM to 12.20 PM – Q& A and Open Discussion among participants

12.20 PM to 12.40 PM – Panel discussion with Dr. Sudhira (Urban Transport Researcher, Gubbilabs), Mr. Chopra (an expert on Bangalore Railways) and a Representative from DULT

12.40 PM to 01.00 PM – Planning Next Steps & Conclusion

#### **Background**

Bangalore's traffic scenario is a growing mess. Road space is increasingly taken up by the large number of motorised vehicles. There have been large amounts of investments to widen roads, build flyovers, elevated roads, and signal free corridors, to cater to the ever increasing vehicular traffic. However, none of these has improved the traffic situation. Bus service, while fairly good, is still inadequate in many neighbourhoods, routes and in terms of frequency. Bus based solutions like BRTS and bus priority systems are neglected in the city's planning. Metro Phase-1 (which in all likelihood will not be ready before 2015) and Phase-2 (with its planned completion in 2018) will still cater to only a small section of the population, despite its high costs.

In this context, commuter rail becomes an attractive possibility for Bangalore. The city has a large rail network and many people already use trains for their daily commute to work. Many sections of the society can potentially benefit from a well planned commuter rail network. Commuter rail has been a success in cities like Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad and Pune, quickly and efficiently moving large numbers of people to and from several destinations. It also has other advantages like lower energy consumption, less land usage, better accessibility and affordability, reduced congestion and fewer accidents compared with road transportation.