



# Clean Air News

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1

JAN 2013 (JAN 1 - JAN 31)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Will Night Buses Still Ply from Next Month?** 2

**Traffic Police to Teach Bus Drivers Politeness** 3

**MTPD Penalizes 400 Taxis** 3

**Transport fares to go Up by 50 Percent** 4

**Road Expansion Campaign Going Great Gun- PM Secy** 4

**Mexico City to Win 2013 Sustainable Transport** 5

## Pokhara Plans 115 Km Cycle Track

By Santosh Pokharel

The local authority here has decided to construct a 115 km cycle track in and out of Pokhara city as part of an initiative to promote local tourism in the area. Kaski District Development Committee (DDC) has already completed a survey of the proposed cycle route.

According to Kaski Local Development Officer (LDO) Ishwor Poudel, the construction of cycling track was aimed at promoting local tourism in the rural areas of the district.

"After the track is ready, both domestic and foreign tourists will find it easier to visit nearby rural areas. This will give a boost to local tourism

in the areas around the Pokhara city," said Poudel.

The cycle track will give tourists an additional reason to visit Pokhara, said Poudel. "If we can bring tourists to rural areas, the natural beauty would lure them to extend their stay, which means good business for us," added Poudel.

The cycle track will start from Bindhyabasini temple and pass through Sarangkot VDC, Bhadaure Tamagi VDC, Chapakot VDC, Pumbibundi VDC, Bharat Pokhari VDC, Nirmala Pokhari VDC, Kritinachnechaur VDC and Leknath municipality.

Poudel informed that the construction of the first phase of the cycle track would require

an estimated Rs 50.34 million.

"After the completion of first phase, about 12 truss bridges have to be built over the rivers that cut across the cycle route," said Poudel.

"Since 90 percent of the land demarcated for the track fall under forest areas, the cyclists will encounter wild animals and birds along the way," said Poudel. The whole route can be cycled in three days, informed Poudel.

According to Poudel, only 12 km of the total cycle track needs to be constructed. "The remaining sections comprises of gravel roads and paths that pass through villages. We just need to widen them a bit," said Poudel.

## Pedestrian Deaths on Rise in The Valley

The Metropolitan Traffic Police Division has expressed serious concern about increasing number of road accidents involving pedestrians in recent days and has appealed all to take extra precautions on the road.

As many as 14 people were killed and 300 were injured, 17 critically, in 283 road accidents in the Kathmandu Valley in the past one month. Of the 14 deceased, six

were pedestrians, while 65 of the injured were pedestrians.

According to MTPD spokesperson, DSP Pawan Giri, most accidents occur from 5 am to 12 pm and 6 pm to 12 midnight.

"Most of the victims of road accidents that occurred in the morning and in the evening were found to be people going out for morning walk and students returning from schools and colleges," he

said. Three pedestrians, including a Grade XI student of Bafal-based Siddhartha Academy, were killed in road mishaps in the past two days.

Pedestrians enjoying music using the headphone and those using mobile phone, he said, pointing that people wearing caps and mufflers to ward off cold cannot listen to warning signals of moving vehicles.

Speeding vehicles, poor visibility resulting from fog and drivers driving under the influence of alcohol are also behind the rise in road accidents.

MTPD has appealed the pedestrians to take extra precautions while walking and crossing the road — to not walk in

an inebriated state, to wear fluorescent jackets or white colour clothes, use zebra crossings and overhead bridges and shun the use of mobile phones as well as headphones while walking.

Source: [www.thehimalayantimes.com](http://www.thehimalayantimes.com).

[January 3, 2012](#)

## Will Night Buses Still Ply From Next Month?

If you are a regular passenger of night bus service operated recently by the Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC), there's bad news. As the six-month trial period for the service nears its end, the fate of the night bus service hangs in balance.

The KMC had provided a cash subsidy of Rs 4.5 million to National Federation of Nepal Transport Entrepreneurs (NFNTE) to run the service for a six-month period which ends in the second week of February.

The KMC is not in a position to continue the cash subsidy to NFNTE, said Kedar Bahadur Adhikari, the chief of KMC. "We should seek an alternative," he added.

According to Adhikari, one alternative could be asking commuters of the night bus to pay more. Another alternative may be stopping public transports other than the NFNTE run night buses from plying in the night. If these two alternatives do not work out, then we can think of a way for the KMC and transportation entrepreneurs to jointly operate the service, Adhikari said.

"If all the alternatives fail to keep the night bus service afloat, we can compel all public transport service providers to operate buses till late night," said Adhikari.

Bagmati coordinator of NFNTE Dharma Raj Rimal said, "We can not continue to operate the night bus service without government subsidy." The transport entrepreneurs are asking the KMC to provide cash subsidy for another six-month period.

The transport federation also wants the KMC to develop basic infrastructure for the night bus service within the extended trial period to ensure safe traveling for commuters.

According to Adhikari, the KMC is going to install 150 solar lamps at various points along the route of the night bus. "Besides, we are also discussing many other plans to save the night bus service," he said.

Transport entrepreneurs claim that they have incurred huge losses despite the government subsidy. "Even the subsidy is not enough to offset the losses," said Rimal. "For the survival of the night bus service, various measures need to be taken apart from another round of subsidy."

Chitra Bahadur Bhatta, who owns and drives a night bus, says, "Other public vehicles have also started providing night service after the night bus run by NFNTE came into operation. It has benefited many night commuters, but at the same time, it has posed a challenge to

our night bus service."

As many as 14 night buses are in operation from 8pm to 11pm on six different routes in Kathmandu and Lalitpur. There are two buses each for Satdobato-Lagankhel-Ratnapark, Koteshwar-Sinamangal-Jorpati, Kalanki-Ratnapark, Jorpati-Ratnapark and Bansbari-Ratnapark routes, while four buses ply Koteshwor-Kalanki ring road.

"Each bus makes Rs 500 to Rs 700 on average in the first trip. But after that, there are very few passengers. Without the government's subsidy, we cannot continue the service," informed Bhatta.

However, he thinks preventing other public vehicles from plying after eight in the evening and revising the night time fares can still save the night bus services.

Meanwhile, KMC chief Kedar Bahadur Adhikari said, "As we have received positive response from all quarters, we do not want to halt the service. We are holding talks with the Department of Transport Management, KMC, Ministry of Finance and NFNTE to explore other alternatives."

Source: [www.myrepublica.com](http://www.myrepublica.com), [January 17, 2013](#)

## Traffic Police to Teach Bus Drivers Politeness

With a mind to address the massive number of complaints about service delivery and the behavioral aspects of public transport drivers and their help and minimize the accident rate, the Metropolitan Traffic Police Division (MTPD) plans to hold a nationwide training program for drivers and helpers from mid-February.

According to DSP Pawan Kumar Giri, spokesperson at MTPD, traffic police have been consulting transportation entrepreneurs and vehicle labor associations in this connection.

“We are discussing various aspects of the training but entrepreneurs have raised serious concerns over the schedule, training mechanisms and training shifts,” he said.

They are soon to figure out the appropriate mechanisms so that 25 to 30 persons can participate in one training shift, he added. A meeting among represent-

atives of the transportation ministry, MTPD, entrepreneurs and transport laborers held at the Prime Minister’s Office on Sunday decided to create a monitoring committee for a nationwide training mechanism.

The committee will design training for drivers and their help to improve their behavior and encourage polite service delivery to passengers, said Dol Nath Khanal, general secretary of the Federation of National Transport Entrepreneurs.

He said, “We hope the training will be fruitful in minimizing accidents caused by human error and nature.”

Because of the cold the country saw several fatal accidents in the Valley in recent weeks.

General Secretary Khanal further said, “We have difficulty managing training schedules as drivers and helpers are

busy at work also, but we will find the best way to involve them in the training.”

Meanwhile, MTPD on Monday completed a month-long ‘Service with Smile’ training focused on behavioral improvement among traffic police.

Addressing a closing ceremony, IGP Kuber Singh Rana said, “I am hopeful about the impact of the training. I am ready to support MTPD with other training and awareness programs.”

According to DSP Giri, about 975 traffic police of different ranks participated in the training imparted by professors, artists, writers and poets, human right activists, legal experts and journalists.

Source: [www.myrepublica.com](http://www.myrepublica.com), January 29, 2013

## MTPD Penalises 400 Taxis

More than 400 taxis have been booked since the Metropolitan Traffic Police Department (MTPD) began a crackdown on cabs overcharging passengers. The MTPD charged 407 taxis for irregularities in the past 10 days.

According to MTPD data, 100 taxis were booked for tampering with the price meter, 64 for dysfunctional meters, 92 for not using their existing meters, 63 for lacking vehicle documents, 18 with broken meters and 11 without meters. According to MTPD Spokesperson Pawan Giri, 182 taxis have been

sent to the Nepal Bureau of Standards and Metrology (NBSM) for meter testing, while 225 have been sent to the MTPD and the Department of Transport Management.

The MTPD, in association with the Kathmandu Metropolitan City and the NBSM, has been conducting a taxi monitoring campaign in the Valley since January 13. The drive, which will continue for a few more days, aims to control tampering of fare meters, leading to passengers being routinely overcharged. The MTPD said a joint team

from the three government bodies is conducting surprise checks on taxis regularly. Currently, the campaign is being conducted at busy areas like the Buspark, Durbar Marg, Baneshwor, Bhadrakali, Singha Durbar, Putalisadak and Koteshwor.

Source: [www.ekantipur.com](http://www.ekantipur.com), January 24, 2013

## Transport Fares to Go Up By 50 Percent

By Ramesh Shrestha

Public transport and cargo carrier fares are rising by 5-10 percent within the next two months. The Department of Transport Management is working to review the fares based on parameters such as inflation rate, price of spare parts and lubricants, fuel price and bank interest rates, among others.

As a part of the preparation, the department has started gathering information required from agencies concerned such as the Nepal Rastra Bank, Nepal Oil Corporation and customs offices.

"We will acquire the required information about the inflation rate, fuel price, increment in spare parts' prices and bank interest rates within a week," said Mohan Bhattarai, mechanical engineer at the department. He said the scientific fare determination mechanism put in place since 2009 also demands a revision in transport fares.

The mechanism says public transport fares have to be determined annually based on 35 percent contribution of fuel factors and 65 percent contribution of non-fuel factors. Non-fuel factors include bank interests for vehicle loan, price of spare parts, administrative costs and maintenance, among others.

As per the understanding between transporters and the department, the government can also review the fares if the fuel price fluctuates by at least Rs 5 per litre. Five months ago, the department, based on the same ground, had hiked transport fares by 3.75 percent and freight charges by 4.45 percent on the Tarai routes and by 4.50 percent on the Kathmandu-Pokhara-Narayanghat route.

An official at the department said the fares were likely to go up by up to 5-10 percent as per the preliminary estimation. "We will propose a certain percentage for approval from the Ministry of

Physical Planning, Works and Transport Management based on the parameters such as consumer price index and annual increment in fuel charge," the official added.

Transporters' organizations—Nepal Federation of Nepalese Transport Entrepreneurs, Federation of Truck Tanker and Transport Entrepreneurs and Nepal Metro Taxi Entrepreneurs' Association—have been demanding that the government increase the fares.

An official said especially taxi operators were pressing for a fare hike as taxi fares have not been revised for the last 10 months.

The department had last raised taxi fare in March 2012 when the price of petrol was Rs 116 per litre. Currently, the petrol price has gone up to Rs 123 per litre.

Source: [www.ekantipur.com](http://www.ekantipur.com), January 7, 2013

## Road Expansion Campaign Going Great Gun: PM Secy

Secretary at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Krishna Hari Banskota, has said the road expansion and reconstruction campaign has witnessed significant progress in recent days. On Saturday, a team led by Banskota conducted site inspections of various roads under construction and reported that the work was progressing at a rapid pace.

According to Banskota, a number of roads are on the verge of being blacktopped and in the meantime, footpaths are being built on already expanded roads. However, he proposed that the concerned authorities complete the assigned work without any compromise on construction quality. He urged authori-

ties to stick to the plan of disabled-friendly footpaths and relocate utility poles as soon as the road is expanded, together with tree plantation in areas with adequate available space. Banskota also called on officials to develop Tinkune and Narayanchaur as green belts.

A statement released by the PMO confirmed the blacktopping of various roads, including stretches at Dillibazar-Bhatbhateni to the Bhairavnath Battalion (3.3km), Kamal Pokhari to Maitidevi (1km) and Gairidhara to Baluwatar (1km). Other smaller blacktopped strips include Chabahil Chowk (150m), Kalikasthan (700m), Naniganj Gairidhara

(300m), Gairidhara Chate Ganesh (280m), Gairidhara police headquarters (300m), Maitidevi Seto Pul (320m), Chabahil Ganeshthan (500m), Bhatbhateni to Bishalnagar (700m) and Kandevthan to Liladhar (900m).

The PMO's third inspection of the road expansion campaign included chiefs and officials from the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works, the Kathmandu Metropolitan City, the Kathmandu Valley Town Development Implementation Committee, the Ministry of Local Development, Kathmandu Upetyeka Khanipani Limited and the Nepal Police.

Source: [www.ekantipur.com](http://www.ekantipur.com), January 27, 2013

# Mexico City Wins 2013 Sustainable Transport Awards

The Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP), together with an international committee of transportation and development experts, awarded Mexico City the 2013 Sustainable Transport Award for its Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system, cycling and walking infrastructure, parking program, and revitalization of public space. Established in 2005, the Sustainable Transport Award recognizes leadership and visionary achievements in sustainable transportation and urban livability, and is presented to a city each January for achievements in the preceding year. The Sustainable Transport Award was presented to Mexico City on January 15, 2013 at an awards ceremony during the annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board, one of six major divisions of the

U.S. National Research Council. ITDP board president and former Mayor of Bogotá Enrique Peñalosa presented Mexico's Minister of Transport, Rufino Leon, and Minister of Environment, Tanya Muller with the award. The former Mayor of Mexico City, Marcelo Ebrard, who oversaw much of Mexico City's sustainable transport projects, made closing remarks at the ceremony. Janette Sadik-Khan, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Transportation, delivered the keynote address. Mexico City has implemented many projects in 2012 that have improved livability, mobility, and quality of life for its citizens, making the Mexican Capital a best practice for Latin America. The city expanded its BRT system, Metrobus, with Line 4, a corridor that extends

from the historic center of the city to the airport. It also piloted a comprehensive on-street parking reform program (ecoParq), expanded its successful public bike system (Ecobici) and revitalized public spaces such as Alameda Central and Plaza Tlaxcoaque. The finalists and winner were chosen by a Committee that includes the most respected experts and organizations working internationally on sustainable transportation. "Sustainable transport systems go hand in hand with low emissions development and livable cities. Mexico City's success has proven that developing cities can achieve this, and we expect many Asian cities to follow suit," says Sophie Punte, Executive Director of Clear Air Asia.

Source: [www.itdp.org](http://www.itdp.org), January 16, 2013

## Good Reads:

1. [What Ails KVDA?](#) - Nirjana Sharma, Republica, January 29, 2013
2. [After Roads, Bridge Await Expansion](#) - Samik Kharel, The Kathmandu Post, January 28, 2013
3. [Road Dividers An Answer To Lane Discipline, Traffic Congestion](#) - Ashish Gajurel, The Kathmandu Post, January 28, 2013
4. [A City of Cardiac Patients if Air Pollution Untamed](#) - Anjali Subedi, Republica, January 17, 2013
5. [Sick City](#) - Anna-Karin Ernstson Lampou, Nepali Times
6. [Bus Blues](#) - Sudeshna Thapa, Republica, January 22, 2013
7. [Riding Low on Road Civic Sense](#) - Samik Kharel, The Kathmandu Post, January 15, 2013
8. [Cycle City](#) - Prashanta Khanal, The Kathmandu Post, January 18, 2013
9. [Price of Mobility](#) - Editorial, The Kathmandu Post, January 8, 2013
10. [Chaos in the City](#) - Jagannath Adhikari, The Kathmandu post, January 3, 2013

Compiled by : Kritya Shrestha  
Edited by : Anjila Manandhar and  
Prashanta Khanal

**Clean Air Network Nepal (CANN) is a network of organizations and professionals involved in air quality management in Nepal. The goal of CANN is to increase the ability of professionals and other interested stakeholders to effectively address the problems of air pollution in Nepal. We encourage you to join hands with us to expand our campaign for clean and better Air.**

**CANN is a Country Network of Clean Air Asia and hosted by Clean Energy Nepal.**

**For more information:** [www.cen.org.np](http://www.cen.org.np)

[www.cleanairinitiative.org](http://www.cleanairinitiative.org)

### Clean Energy Nepal

POB No. 24581, 140 Bulbule Marg,  
Thapagaun, Baneshwor,  
Email: [info@cen.org.np](mailto:info@cen.org.np)  
Web: [www.cen.org.np](http://www.cen.org.np)  
Tel: 977-1- 4464981

### Building Partnership for Clean Air

To contribute articles, news items, or event announcements for the next issue, send an email with the complete details and URL source to [info@cen.org.np](mailto:info@cen.org.np) or [anjila@cen.org.np](mailto:anjila@cen.org.np)