

TERI Sustainable Urban Freight Workshop Series
Workshop 4: Sustainable Urban Freight for Bengaluru

27th April 2021

TERI in collaboration with Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) conducted the workshop on ‘Sustainable Urban Freight for Bengaluru’. A closed workshop was conducted on 26th April with the aim to discuss the current issues related to Urban Freight in Bengaluru and finding out feasible solution to make urban freight more sustainable and efficient. A diverse group of stakeholders attended the workshop including Government officials, public sector units, OEMs, private companies and research organisations.

The workshop started with the opening remarks from Mr Narsimha Raju, Director of TERI SRC. He mentioned that the recent trends of the urban development and of e-commerce suggests that better and efficient planning is required to manage the transportation sector more efficiently. Ms V Manjula (IAS), Commissioner of DULT highlighted the increase in the e-commerce sector and expressed the lack of the data and knowledge to finalise the better strategies to deal with issues of Urban Freight. She expressed the interest of DULT for collaborating with stakeholders to plan efficient urban freight system. The presentation by Mr Aravind Harikumar, Research Associate at TERI highlighted the recent trends and nature of urban freight in Bengaluru and clearly stated the scope of electrification in order to achieve sustainability.

The first session of the workshop was focused on the experience sharing of deployment of EVs in different segments. Ms Sulajja Motvani, Vice Chair Person of Kinetic Engineering shared the cost benefits of EVs, stating as urban freight has lesser loading requirement and shorter run, EVs are more suitable in terms of cost and environment as well. Mr Yash Kariwal, Senior Manager from Let’s Transport emphasized on the issues of EVs: Reliability of Technology and Finances. He also mentioned that EVs are more cost efficient when it comes to operation and maintenance.

The panel discussion ‘Pathways for reducing the Cost and Emission from Urban Freight in Bengaluru’ was focused on discussing the possible solution to the current issues of the Urban Freight. The panel comprised of the experts from various fields, namely, Ms V Manjula, Commissioner, DULT; Mr Shivaraj Patil, Additional Commissioner of Transport; Prof Ashish Verma, IISc; Mr Dimpy Suneja, RMI and Mr Saurabh Rohilla, SIAM. The panellists talked about the current issues and emphasised on the lack of availability of data regarding nature and spread of Urban Freight in Bengaluru. Given the reliable data is available, better CMPs focused on the Urban Freight can be planned and various models can be developed to efficiently manage the urban freight. Apart from EV LCVs, other options like use of NMT and PT as well

as the use of electric bicycles and bikes can be explored. Along with the innovations in the technology, the plans and strategies shall also be focused on the issue of traffic congestion, road safety and parking & charging infrastructure.

This workshop was a part of TERI's sustainable urban freight initiative: Sustainable Urban Freight Coalition (SUFC). It is a national initiative to bring together industry, academia and civil society for knowledge creation, dissemination and sharing for sustainable urban freight (SUF) practices. SUF group includes Urban Local Bodies, Vehicle Manufacturers, Research Institutions, Central and State Government agencies, Civil Society members and all other stakeholders of Urban Freight in India. This working group aims to act as a guidance facility for cost and emission reduction from urban freight in India.