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# THE PHILIPPINES: BUS RAPID TRANSPORT SYSTEM

**CASE STUDY/INSIGHT**



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# BUS RAPID TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Raising economic development and lifestyle is increasing the use of personal vehicles in major cities across the countries. The rapid increase in the use of personal vehicles is expected in coming years as the basic road and transport infrastructure has been developing continuously. But this also has a downside as more on-road means that more traffic congestion in the cities causing increased fuel consumption, air pollution and GHG emissions. All these mean detrimental to our Mother Earth. To address this, governments are taking initiatives to promote the use of public transport.

Bus rapid transport system (BRTS) is one such approach for mass mobilization. The BRTS consists of a dedicated lane for the public transport buses alone. This way, the users of the BRTS can avoid traffic congestion and reduce their travel time between the destinations. The BRTS offers the advantages of the Metrorail system with the existing bus transport system at a lesser investment.

From energy efficiency and carbon footprint reduction points of view, the operation of buses under BRTS leads to increased fuel efficiency as the average speed of buses is improved (due to avoided traffic) and the percentage of passenger per transit is higher.

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The buses also need comparatively less maintenance and face lesser breakdowns. As an induced effect, when the passenger switch from personal cars to the BRTS, a significant portion of the traffic on the normal roads is also avoided. The passengers using BRTS also reduce their travel time between destinations thus made available more productive hours.

The first BRT of The Philippines was developed for the greater Cebu Metropolitan Area in 2017. When completed, the initial length of Cebu BRTS will be around 11 km. The system will have 33 stations with a fleet of 176 buses. It is expected that around 300,000 passengers will be using the BRTS every day. The system is proposed to be completed by 2023.

This is a climate change project designed to reduce the global carbon footprint. Once complete, the project will contribute to the achievement of GHG emission reduction facilitating the NDC commitment of the Philippines.