

TECHNOLOGY FACTSHEET

MASS TRANSPORT¹

Introduction

In Kenya many people use mini buses/Matatus or private vehicles to go to work. Modern mass transit is an outgrowth of industrialization and urbanization.

Technology Characteristics

- Shared transportation open to all.
- Rapid transit
- Saving in Energy
- High passenger load

Country Specific Applicability and Potential

Mass transport has high potential in Kenya as the concept has just taken off in the city of Nairobi where roads and highways are being widened to cater for more lanes. For example the Nairobi-Thika highway with eight lanes. This has drastically reduced traffic congestion between Nairobi and Thika with hundreds of public vehicles now moving with a lot of ease.

The concept should be extended to other cities and towns in the country.

Status of technology in country

As mentioned above this technology is just taking off in parts of Nairobi City and has the potential to be extended to the other urban centres.

¹ This fact sheet has been extracted from TNA Report – Mitigation for Kenya. You can access the complete report from the TNA project website <http://tech-action.org/>

Benefits to economic/social and environmental development

Mass transport is a shared system that caters for thousands of passengers at a go. It moves faster and results in energy saving.

Climate change mitigation benefits

Mass transport has the overall result of reducing Greenhouse gas emission to the atmosphere. A recent study feasibility study by CES, 2011, indicated reductions of between 4,832 to 5,696 ktCO₂ per year in Nairobi depending on how traffic is controlled.

Financial requirements and costs

Initially the cost of mass transit may be high but in the long run the overall effect is reduction in cost.