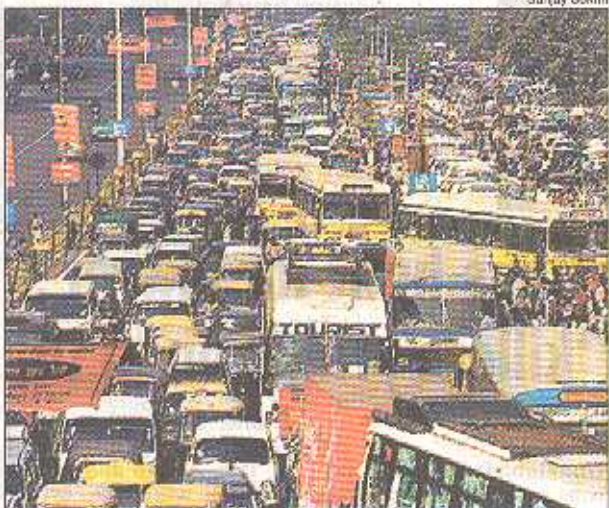


IIT says ITO flyover not a bright idea

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STUCK FOREVER? No end to ITO's traffic woes.

By Nidhi Sharma/TNN

New Delhi: This is one project that remains jinxed. Even after all clearances, the flyover project to ease ITO's traffic woes has run into rough weather. This time around, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, has pointed out problems saying the flyover will be a road block in implementing other transport projects.

IIT's Transportation Research and Injury Prevention Programme (TRIPP) coordinator Dr Dinesh Mohan has written to Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit pointing out problems with the project. In his letter, Mohan has said a flyover on Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg will jeopardise transport projects like the high capacity bus system (HCBS), which were approved for implementation before this venture.

He has written: "Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg is part of the first bus rapid transport/high capacity bus corridor. Detailed designs have already been prepared. Constructing a flyover on this route will disrupt the system designs already prepared. It is surprising that this proposal has been floated after public works department (PWD) officially cleared this

corridor for the bus system."

The flyover on Delhi's Fleet Street has been cleared by PWD. It will begin right after Tilak Bridge and end near Shahidi Park on BSZ Marg. This Rs 25-crore project will mean more parking for the space-crunched area. However, Mohan has pointed out that even implementation would mean problems for the high capacity bus corridor. "It is essential that the flyover proposal be reviewed in light of requirements of the bus rapid transport project," Mohan has suggested.

The transport department was not involved in the decision-making process. According to sources, the chief minister has taken note of the suggestions and has asked transport minister Haroon Yusuf for an opinion.

Mohan has also written that "we would like to suggest general instructions should be circulated to all the departments concerned, stating that all proposals for building flyovers or other significant facilities on arterial roads of Delhi be cleared by the transport department as well. This would ensure that conflicts between bus transport facilities and other plans are avoided."