

TRANSPORT SUSTAINABILITY STUDY

MASHHAD, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

NOVEMBER 2021

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA
AND THE PACIFIC

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Executive Summary

Mashhad, with a population of 3.1 million people, is the second-most populous city in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The city density is 9,000 per km² and it benefits from public transportation systems including light rail train, bus, and taxi. Development of transportation infrastructures and continuous efforts for their improvement are major goals of city governors. In this regard, policymakers are trying to understand the current situation of cities and the challenges they face to provide appropriate solutions, manage the status quo, and achieve the desired condition.

This research is divided into two main parts. The first part is related to the study of the transportation systems and traffic in the city of Mashhad. In this section, first, the characteristics of the city and its managing institutions, the municipality, are introduced. Then, the infrastructures of intra-city transportation networks and their connection to suburban transportation are mentioned. In the following, the statistics of the city's transportation fleet and the specifications of the trips are mentioned. Finally, information on the economic and environmental dimensions of the city's transportation as well as the specific solutions used to manage traffic demand are presented.

The second part is dedicated to estimating the ten indicators of SUTI. Sustainable Urban Transportation Index (SUTI) is developed by UNESCAP to evaluate existing transportation status. Using the data collected in the first part, expert judgment, and engineering analysis, the method of achieving the desired values in various indicators is described. Given the widespread COVID-19 at the beginning of 2020 and the disruption of normal travel conditions, as well as statistics availability, 2019 data has been used as a basis. SUTI consist of 10 indicators in a 1-100 scale. Geometric mean of values is 49.43. Assessment shows that Mashhad citizens benefit from a cheap and highly accessible public transportation. Furthermore, fuel consumption and traffic fatalities are high. Although allocated budget for public transportation seems acceptable, it not recovered by users' payment.

In addition to the above sections, given that the report was prepared at the time of the COVID-19 outbreak, an attempt has been made to point out the effects of this pandemic on transportation.

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