

CHRISTINE I. WALLICH
Country Director

November 23, 2005

Mr. Mahabubul Bari
130 Davidson Road
Croydon, Surrey CR0 6DE
U.K.

Dear Mr. Bari:

Subject: Further Rickshaw Bans in Dhaka City

Thank you for your email dated November 18, 2005 regarding the recent rickshaw ban issue in Dhaka. Our transport dialog with the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) in the past, particularly with regard to the Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP), emphasized the importance of assessing benefits and costs to motorized traffic, transport users and rickshaw pullers, in determining policies on rickshaw-plyable roads. The World Bank's stance on DUTP and past support testifies the Bank's good faith actions to enhance the ability of the poor to earn a living, and the rights of women and other vulnerable groups, and Bank's financial support that has been allocated to this is further testimony.

It is true that even though we are not currently engaged in a lending relationship with GOB agencies, the Bank does have an ongoing policy dialogue with the authorities that spans many diversified issues. This dialogue, however, is based on partnership and trust, and as such, is not always carried out in the public eye or through the media.

The Bank's policy with regard to future support for urban transport in Dhaka is unchanged: *Any future support from the World Bank would be possible only if it can be demonstrated that aggregate positive impacts of NMT-free conversion on transport users and transport providers outweigh the aggregate negative impacts, and Bank safeguard policies are fully complied with.* Please be assured that we share your concerns.

We will continue to take opportunities to remind the relevant government authorities of the need to appropriately balance benefits and costs in the future development of their traffic management policies. However, we are not in a position to issue any public letter or media statement on this topic. Further, given that the Bank has no contractual relationship with Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and other relevant authorities in Dhaka at this time, there is no basis for issuing such a letter or statement.

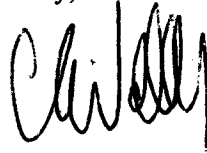
The possibility of any future project touching on this sub-sector is undecided; it would at the earliest take shape only in several years from now, in the later years of our

November 23, 2005

country assistance strategy (2009). We would be sure to engage with civil society, including with yourself and your NGO, at that time, if indeed a project were to be formulated in this area. Until then, in the interim, we hope you will understand that further exchanges on this topic will be fruitful for you only at that future time, and we look forward to revisiting these issues with you in the event a project is agreed with GOB in future.

With Best Regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christine Wallich', written in a cursive style.

Christine I. Wallich
Country Director