

UNCERTAIN FUTURE

RWAs around corridor cheer report

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New Delhi: People living around the BRT corridor have finally something to cheer about. Happy with the findings of the final report submitted by CRRRI to the Delhi high court, these residents of south Delhi are hoping that the rest of the city does not have to suffer the same problems that they had faced in the past four years.

"We don't want all of Delhi to suffer like we have. BRT appears to be serving a contractor's lobby rather than the public. Life has become hell for residents ever since the BRT was constructed," said Ish Bhargav, secretary for the Siri Fort residents welfare association.

"While there are not even enough buses and other intermediary transport like autos that were promised long ago, the government is trying to push BRT without dependable and safe public transport. How can they even expect people to shift from private to public vehicles when they don't have enough public vehicles? It appears like a money-making enterprise," he said.

Residents of Masjid Moth are one of the worst affected by the corridor, with their colony right at the corner of BRT. It has become difficult for residents to enter and exit the area. Heavy vehicles keep blocking the way for light vehicles turning towards the colony, thanks to the two different traffic lights, complained residents.

"We have written to traffic police, DIMTS, and even Ajay Maken when he was the urban development minister to address the issue. It takes us 20 minutes just to get out of the colony. Recently, a woman died because the ambulance took too long to reach the hospital because it had to go via BRT. It is a curse on us," said L N Meena, general secretary of the Masjid Moth RWA.

Welcoming the report, residents of GK say they are hoping for a double benefit if BRT is scrapped. "Residents were travelling via Nehru Place to go to places like Gulmohar Park, instead of taking the more direct and short route through BRT as the corridor is always jammed. Now we can reclaim the route, which used to be such a beautiful tree-lined stretch," said GK-I RWA member Rajiv Kakria.

"A second and big relief will be that the internal GK roads that had become free for all thoroughfare will be normalized. BRT should now never happen in the future as well. Ego has no role to play in city planning. The resistance to correct the grief caused by BRT forces us to believe that there are other ulterior motives to protect private parties," he said.

Several of these RWAs have formed a joint action committee to oppose BRT and have extended their support to the Nyayabhoomi, an NGO and the petitioner in the case. "All RWAs that are affected by BRT have extended their full support to jointly oppose against this BRT system in the city. We have to take long U-turns to reach our destination, school buses can't enter the colonies so children are at risk. We hope that the high court shall give the judgment in favour of affected residents," said Praveen Kumar, general secretary of the Madangiri village RWA.



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