

**PLANNING
SUSTAINABLE CITIES
IN MALAYSIA**

Issues and Challenges



MARIANA MOHAMED OSMAN
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CHAPTER 5

ASSESSING TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES IN THE CITY ROADS OF KUALA LUMPUR

Abdul Azeez Kadar Hamsa

ABSTRACT

Traffic congestion is a normal phenomenon in many cities of the world. Nevertheless, the degree of traffic congestion differs between cities mainly due to travel demand, supply of road infrastructure, public transport facilities, parking availability etc. The city roads of Kuala Lumpur are also subjected to traffic congestion during different times of the day especially in the morning and evening hours. This is being associated mainly with work trips. High car ownership level, one of the highest in Asian cities, among others is one of the principal reasons for increasing traffic congestion in KL city roads. The local authority had introduced a few traffic management measures such as one-way street system, exclusive/priority bus lanes, tidal flow operation system and prohibited right-turn at selected intersections to help alleviate traffic congestion within core urban areas especially during peak hours. An observational approach was employed to study the operational conditions of exclusive bus lanes in KL city roads. This chapter highlights the significance and literature related to exclusive bus lanes, its operational attributes, and the extent to which it would help alleviate traffic congestion in the city roads of Kuala Lumpur.

Key words: Traffic management, one-way street, tidal flow operation, exclusive bus lane, right-turn movement

INTRODUCTION

Traffic congestion is a common occurrence in many major cities in the world. Kuala Lumpur also joins the list of traffic-congested cities in the world. The level of traffic congestion in Kuala Lumpur has been reaching an alarming stage. It has become more prominent especially within city boundaries during morning and evening peak hours. As a result of traffic congestion, speed decreases, delay time increases, more frequent stoppages of vehicles and more discomfort and inconveniences to the drivers. Increasing private car ownership level, wide disparity between public and private mode share are among the principal reasons for this trend. To help alleviate traffic congestion, the local authority had introduced few traffic management measures in Kuala Lumpur city roads. Bus exclusive/priority lane, one-way movement, restricted right-turning movement, tidal flow operations are few among them. This chapter provides some insight on the operational aspects of exclusive bus lanes in the city roads of Kuala Lumpur.