



Healthy Streets Workshop 2.0 helps train city officials from 10 departments to create better and safer streets

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Nagpur: In a significant step towards making streets in Nagpur safer and more inclusive, the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC), in collaboration with ITDP India, hosted the **Nagpur Healthy Streets Workshop 2.0** on Wednesday, July 30. The day-long training brought together over 60 officials from 10 departments including NMC, Public Works Department (PWD), Traffic Police, Nagpur Improvement Trust (NIT), Nagpur Smart and Sustainable City Development Corporation Ltd. (NSSCDCL), Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), Nagpur Metro Region Development Authority (NMRDA), Maha Metro, etc. and other stakeholder agencies and contractors.

Speaking on the importance of such sessions, Dr Abhijeet Chaudhari, IAS, Municipal Commissioner of NMC said, “Nagpur is at the anvil of change, not just in healthy street infrastructure, but in the mindset of our engineers and officials. This workshop will definitely encourage all to create walking infrastructure that is not only easy and safe to use but long term with best value for money,” he said.

The Nagpur City Police Commissioner, Dr Ravinder Kumar Singhal, was also present for the workshop and highlighted how the police will support the cause of road safety. “As police force, we are always looking for ways to ensure road safety is maintained. So, we will support the city in all capacities to make it a reality for all citizens,” he said.

Adding on, Vasumna Pant, IAS, Additional Municipal Commissioner, NMC said, “Such efforts are important, as it brings together experts and city officials together to create a platform to discuss and work together. Nagpur will host more such workshops and is committed to creating people centric infra and city will prioritise safe streets for all.”

A key highlight of the session was a glimpse into the upcoming Healthy Streets Policy, which will lay the foundation of how the streets in the city will be created going forward. Siddhartha Godbole, Senior Associate, ITDP India shared how the policy is structured and showcased the various design details, plans on reforming the institutional set-up, budgeting details from the policy. He also shared what the role of all the agencies present in the workshop will be, once the policy comes into being. “The Healthy Streets Policy will tie together the role of all city departments in ensuring every Nagpurkar can walk safely. A stakeholder consultation and a survey to inform and strengthen the policy will take place soon,” said Siddhartha Godbole.



The workshop focused on three key areas crucial to urban street transformation—**quality street design, traffic management and junction design, and improvements in construction quality**. Through multiple expert-led sessions, the aim was to build capacity, foster cross-departmental collaboration, and encourage a shift in mindset toward people-first urban planning.

Pranjal Kulkarni, Programme Manager, ITDP India, introduced the concept of *Healthy Streets* and its relevance for Nagpur. He also used the recently released Nagpur Urban Street Assessment report to spotlight what design aspects worked for the city, and which didn't for the engineers.

A session was also conducted by Prasanna Desai, Senior Architect and Urban Designer from Pune, who highlighted the importance of designing connected street networks rather than doing streets work in isolation. He shared examples from his experience of working in Pune, Pimpri Chinchwad, and Baramati.

The session also delved into the intricacies of traffic planning in the city and the importance of safe junction design. Pratap Bhonsle from Global Traffic Solution, showcased different scenarios using simulation data on what kind of geometric design approach works and what doesn't.

Vikas Thakar, from Pavetech Consultants explained how better construction practices can be incorporated in the city, right from the kind of material to the best tendering practices to importance of supervision.

Post the workshop, the officials who will work on the newly announced 15km Health Street network, were taken on a site visit with experts. The officials shared their feedback on the transformations they wanted to see. It was followed by an exchange of ideas for the selected network.

It may be noted, this is the second edition of the Healthy Streets Workshop, the first having been held in January 2023, with a focus solely on street design.

Speaking on the importance of such workshops, Pranjal Kulkarni, Programme Manager, ITDP India said, "Engineers, traffic officials, PWD officials, contractors are the backbone of any urban street development, and sensitising them to have a sustainable mobility first outlook, is job half done! We are happy to see Nagpur join the league of other progressive cities in India and worldwide towards this goal".



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