

CAN BRTS-JANMARG BE A LIFELINE OF AHMEDABAD?

BRTS-JANMARG, an ambitious project worth Rs. 981 crore is hitting the road now. 41 buses providing faster mobility like Mumbai's local train and the project has four national & international awards in its account. How the JANMARG is all about? Let's have a journey.....

By Ketan Trivedi (Ahmedabad)

Hardik Shah, an executive working in private firm in Ahmedabad, owns car but he prefers to go by JANMARG bus when he has to go Kankaria Lake for outing with family on Sunday.

Why?

Hardik says, 'very simple. No need to worry about parking. JANMARG bus will take you faster than car in heavy traffic. In fact we enjoy traveling through JANMARG bus. You will feel like traveling in Delhi Metro or Mumbai's local train!' Not only Hardik's family, there are many more families in Ahmedabad who are taking JANMARG buses to avoid heavy traffic. Here you can board in the bus with ticket in your hands only. No other vehicles on your road ahead. The bus will reach to your destination much faster as like as Mumbai's local train!

Yes, it is called BRTS better known as Ahmedabad JANMARG, an ambitious project worth Rs. 981.45 crore undertaken by Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation under central government's Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission scheme.

R. R. Varsani, director of JNNURM, says to Chitralkha, 'When we started operation in October last year from first route from Chandranagar we had a 17 buses with around 17000 passengers per day. Today we have 41 buses which carry around 65000 passengers everyday from RTO circle to Maninagar and Jashodanagar. The buses cover 43 bus stops.'

If you stand at any bus stop in 30 km long BRTS exclusive corridor, you will get bus within three minutes in pick hours and within eight minutes in off pick hours. In a very short time, the BRTS has become an integral part of Ahmedabad's public transport system. That's why it has won 'Best Mass Transit system' award from Government of India in the year 2008-09 and an international award for 'Sustainable Urban Transport' in the year 2010.

And yet to remember, this is just a beginning of the project. 88.5 km long bus corridor is yet to be completed. Experts claim that once the total corridor is completed, around 150 bus stops will be constructed on the route and total network will cover the whole city. Then there will be a make over of the city. In