

Date: 29 Oct., 2020 Page #1, Times City

427 vehicles/min, Vadaj is busiest traffic junction in W A'bad

Himanshu Kaushik
@timesgroup.com

Ahmedabad: A report on traffic movement at nine of the city's busiest junctions has revealed that every minute 142 to 420 vehicles pass by them during peak hours. These junctions include Vadaj, Pragatinagar, Sattadhar, Panjrapole and Shastrinagar in the western part of the city while four of the junctions are in the eastern parts of the city.

AMC officials claim that the Vadaj junction witnessed the maximum traffic movement during peak morning hours, close to 417 vehicles per minute, while Panjrapole was the least busy with 129 vehicles per minute.

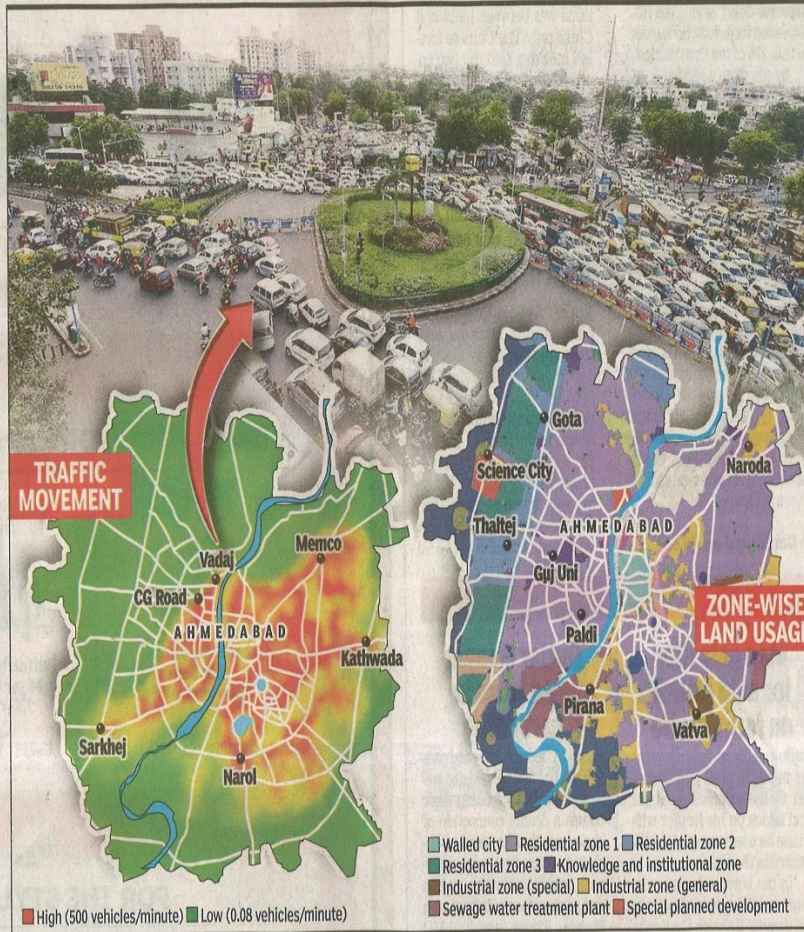
Analysis revealed that Vadaj junction saw an average rise of 50% in vehicle movement during evening hours as compared to peak morning hours. Officials claimed that the junction mainly witnessed commuters going towards Gandhinagar. Traffic rises between 6pm and 7pm and eases by 9pm. The analysis at the nine junctions was conducted for prospective flyovers or underpasses.

The study was assigned by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) to Institute of Infrastructure Technology Research and Management (IIT-RAM), Maninagar recently. Though the initial proposal in 2018 was to analyse 20 junctions, 11 junctions were kept on hold for Phase-2 study.

According to another AMC smart city study, some of the junctions in the western part of the city also witnessed the maximum

PEAK TRAFFIC

traffic violations. "Busy traffic junctions in the western Ahmedabad also witnessed maximum traffic violations. In a year, Shyamal Crossroads had 2.13 lakh traffic violations, followed by Shastrinagar with 1.6 lakh violations while Sardar Patel statue junction



recorded 1.59 lakh traffic violations," claimed a senior AMC official in the smart city department. A map prepared by the AMC on population densities and city's zone characteristics clearly shows that areas that have high mixed land and dense road networks witness the highest traffic movement between junctions in the city. This phenomenon can be seen in west, central and east zones.

Times View

Over the past three years hundreds of Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered CCTV cameras have been installed at various city junctions under the smart city management programme. The AI platform is enabled to interpret data. With these capabilities in place the city traffic police and civic authorities are yet to propose a city traffic management plan. It's high time this data mine is explored to solve emerging traffic bottlenecks.

RUSH HOUR

Crossroad	VEHICLES PER HOUR	
	10am to 11am	6pm to 7pm
Vadaj	176k	25k
Shastrinagar	14.5k	15k
Sattadhar	11.1k	11.6k
Naroda Patia	11.8k	11.4k
Naroda Galaxy	11k	10.9k
Pragatinagar	9.6k	10.2k
Nikol	7.2k	10.2k
Ghodasar	9.5k	8.7k
Panjrapole	8.6k	7.8k

'Phone use deadlier than jumping lights'

Himanshu Kaushik
& Parth Shastri | TNN

Ahmedabad: The use of mobile phones while driving has resulted in more fatalities than the jumping of red lights. In 2019, the state reported 122 accidents caused by use of mobile phones, while only eight were reported due to jumping of red lights.

According to data released by the ministry of road transport and highways for 2019, in the 122 accidents caused by use of mobiles, 40 people lost their lives and 118 were injured. This means that one out of every three mobile phone related accidents involved a fatality.

Meanwhile, only eight accidents took place due to jumping red lights in which four people died and four people were injured.

A senior officer in the transport department said that accidents involving mobile phones in 2019 were less than those recorded in 2018 where the state had reported 467 accidents due to mobile use in which 187 people lost their



lives has resulted in a reduction in jumping of red lights. I have observed that even at night, drivers stop at red lights which is a sign of positive enforcement. Use of phones while driving is banned but the government should ensure drivers do not use Bluetooth to talk on phone which is a distraction. If the use of Bluetooth devices is banned, fatalities due to mobile use will fall drastically."

Dr Praveen Kanabar, member of the Ahmedabad Traffic Consultation Committee,

TRAFFIC MANNERS

The Morth report stated that Gujarat ranked 11th in the country in accidents due to mobile phone use in 2019, down five positions compared to sixth position in 2018. Studies have shown that drivers switch lanes more often and drive unpredictably when distracted by their phones.

Amit Khatri, a road safety expert, said, "Effective surveillance with use of CCTV and issuing of e-chal-

said the number of accidents recorded are underreported. "Most accidents triggered by mobile phones are not registered as such because a compromise is struck. Being an orthopaedic surgeon I know that not many people report minor accidents to the police. The government has also accepted that the police is not investigating cases properly," said Dr Kanabar.