

BRT can't be successful in city: Expert

By PREETI KARMYOGI

New Delhi, May 15: It's not just the average Delhiite, even those involved in the project are slowly getting disillusioned by the bus rapid transit (BRT) system and are worried about its success rate. For officials who are in the transport department, the prospect of other project like tramways is also bleak.

"The BRT is a complete failure. The BRT does not contribute to capacity building at all rather it adds to the mess thereby slowing traffic. It should not have been brought to existence at all. The concept should have been studied in detail before its implementation. But the project was started due to vested interests," a senior Delhi Metro engineer said.

"We have been asked to sell a half-baked product prepared by somebody else. We ourselves are also not satisfied by this project. But we are helpless. We have to do what we have

been asked to do," a senior Delhi Integrated Multi-Modal Transport System official said.

There are a few officials who doubt the concept of tramways.

"Recently, the transport minister announced that tramways will be run in Delhi, but where is the space? Had there been some, the BRT would have been successful. Only Metros, elevated LRTs and monorails can solve the purpose of Delhi as it adds to the capacity," another DMRC official said.

Meanwhile, Institute of Transport Development and Policy (ITDP), an NGO, held a workshop on the BRT in the city pinpointing the limitations of the BRT. Expert Walter Hook criticised the Delhi BRT and said that given the nature of the city roads, it could have been a failure only. ITDP programme director Nalin Sinha said that the BRT can never be successful even after the second pilot project.