

Proposal for a Bus Transport System inside the Campus

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Outline:

The proposal is to start a bus service meant for all campus residents/visitors to the campus for easier transportation inside the campus. This bus service would initially be started from hostels to academic area, main gate, shopping center and the health center which would later be expanded to cover even the faculty and staff housing. A similar system already exists at IIT Bombay. The service would be free for all students, staff and faculty members. It could be made free for others also or a ticket of nominal price (Rs. 3 or Rs. 5) could be made available.

Need:

Currently there is already a bus service in place by the institute but that is meant to cater to the outside needs of the people. With all the new hostels being built at the far end of the campus near the swimming pool, with most of the sport activities and student activities also shifting that side, it becomes almost necessary for most students to go to that end a number of times. From that end to the academic area takes at least 20 min walking. People in fact miss classes just because their cycle is out of order and they are too lazy to walk! With Hostels 7, 8, 9, 10 being so far away and around half the student population living on that side, this service be started as soon as possible.

Working:

I suggest that there be an independent body be formed which shall look into the working of the BTS. In the initial phase that I have chalked out, we would require at least 4 buses running on two routes. Each bus would have at least two drivers working in two shifts. The suggested timings are from 7:45 in the morning to about 9:00 PM in the evening. The buses should have a frequency of about 1 every 30 minutes and and more during peak hours (during classes).

The two routes which I suggest should be started with are:

1. HC-H8-H10-H9-H7-H4-H3-H5-H2-LHC Gate-SAC Crossing-ShopC-Park 67-Main Gate-Park 67-ShopC-...
2. SBRA-GH2-RA Hostels-HC-GH1-H1-LHC Gate-SAC Crossing-ShopC-Park 67-Main Gate-Park 67-ShopC-...

If the above two routes are successful then we could extend the bus service to cater to MT, New Core Labs, Academic Area Gate 1 and perhaps even to the Library. Later this service should be expanded to the staff and faculty housing too. Also, the first route should be broken into two later.

A committee should be formed in the Students' Senate which would formalize the proposal with some facts and figures and approach the concerned authorities.

Requirements:

The initial requirements would be quite a bit,

1. Acquiring buses around 4 in number (initially they should be taken on rent which could then be bought later)
2. Hiring drivers
3. Putting up stop signs
4. Mechanics for maintenance
5. Fuel requirements

Future Possibilities:

The future of this service seems very bright in my opinion. Some of the uses which one might not think of directly are:

1. Possibility of school children (specifically children coming to Campus School) using it
2. Staff, project members who travel every day from outside into the campus could now easily commute inside the campus
3. Number of Autos/Tempos will decrease. These cause a lot of pollution
4. Could be used during festivals for transportation of teams from one corner to the other
5. Useful in transporting crowds during festivals