

Metro Mass Transit system:

Introduction:

Road transport is the principal mode of transport in Ghana (passengers and freight). Mass transport by rail and water is in the developing stages. It is estimated that 15 percent of road users own their own cars and 85 percent make use of public transport or travel by foot. There are four main ways of public transportation in Ghana, namely, the taxis, tro-tro (coin to coin), Commuter buses, and railway transport.



Ghana

Ghana is located in West Africa and is made up of ten regions. The population of Ghana is 18,412,247 (source population census.). The capital of Ghana is Accra.

Dangerous Transportation:

Tro-tro is any vehicle in Ghana that is bigger than a taxi and is used to transport people commercially. Tro-tro was the main form of transport that majority of population used. It is very cheap, and affordable. However maintenance is not a primary concern for its operations. There are no regulations or safety standards in place to ensure that the vehicle is safe to carry passengers. For Example,

- Exhaust pipes are often exposed to the inside cabs of the vehicles causing burns to daily riders.
- Exhaust systems are not adequate and allow fumes to come directly into the passenger compartment of the vehicles. Brakes are rarely checked and the stopping powers of the vehicles are dismal.
- Seat belts are not available and the presence of working doors is a luxury.

Aside from these poor conditions of the tro-tro, the condition of the driver also plays a role in the safety of the passengers. With no regulation on drinking and driving, it is common to see a tro-tro driver drinking alcohol before take off. Most of these drivers do not pay attention to the speed limits or other traffic laws. Tro-tro accidents were responsible for over 9000 casualties in the city of Accra between 1994 and 1995. (Pattern of road traffic injuries in Ghana: Implications for control.).

The Metro Mass Transit system was conceived as an idea by the current president of Ghana during his inauguration speech in January 2001

Metro Mass Transit was established in October 2003, with the Government of Ghana having 45% shares and the remaining 55percent shares held by private investors. By law Metro Mass Transit is private company but in practice it aims to meet the public interest and it can be labeled as a private-public initiative that aims to operate an effective and affordable transport system in an economical sustainable way. Its

mission is to provide an efficient urban mass transportation system in Ghana through the use of buses. Its vision is to build a dominant, reliable, efficient, safe and affordable yet economically sustainable mass transit public bus company in Ghana.

The Rapid bus system.

The congestion in the streets of Accra and Kumasi causes a lot of problems: workers and school children are always late to work and school. The congestion in Accra causes

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commuters to be late for over 2 hours during hours waiting for a taxi, or tro-tro

However the design of the Rapid Transit System solves these problems on these congested roads in Accra and Kumasi. At the moment the system provides a fast connection between most congested points central hub every 15 minutes. Separate bus if added to existing infrastructure will reduce time to 5 minutes on this network of bus going through various residential and economic centers. All commuters can cross 30 minutes the cities of Accra and Kumasi to

reach home, work, school or market.

Minimal waiting times and cheap fares make day of all commuters pleasant.

The Urban Service

The urban service connects central bus terminals with city outskirts and medium distance transportation to villages in the surrounding regional capitals. The urban



service is characterized by commuters and market women that move between their homes and the various business centers. Most transport providers in Ghana wait at various terminals till the seats are filled. With the Metro mass transport system the wait is approximately 5 minutes at every terminal. This increases the frequency of all urban and rural services in order to optimize customer satisfaction.

School Children

Metro Mass Transit provides free rides to school children. Primary and junior school children are allowed to board the buses for free only on school days. Special services (pick and drop) from and to school in certain neighborhoods are in place. However this service is not free.

