

BUS LANE
AS A MEASURE TO IMPROVE
PUBLIC PASSENGER TRANSPORT SERVICES
IN KUALA LUMPUR

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ABSTRACT

This paper explains the fundamental importance of bus lanes as a measure to improve the public passenger transport services (bus services) in the city of Kuala Lumpur.

In line with this, a few characteristics of a bus lane is emphasised in Chapter 2 so as to give the readers a basic idea of what a bus lane really is. It also includes some criteria which are necessary to be taken into consideration for any installation of a bus lane.

As for Chapters 3 and 4, further information gathered from personal survey, observation and interviews is discussed and interpreted, in order to provide better picture of the existing transport and bus users characteristics as well as opinions and views from various parties involved in the operation of the bus services.

The application of the proposed bus lane is later produced in Chapter 5 based on the analysis in the previous chapters. The hypotheses derived from this research study are also tested in a section of this chapter. Chapter 6 is only concentrated on the concluding remarks tailored to suit the purpose of this research study.

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1.1. BUS LANE IN GENERAL

The widespread reliance on bus transport underlies current efforts to improve bus service, to establish bus priorities on city streets, and to achieve efficient use of highways. This effect reflect the worldwide search for mobility options which minimize new road construction in high-density urban environments. (1)

Experience has shown that the expansion of the road infrastructure in urban areas in addition to requiring even increasing investment and often being undesirable to the defenders of the historic/ artistic character of cities, is not in itself a durable solution, as it encourages people to use private vehicle (2), rather than the public transport services.

Basically, the bus priorities mentioned above can be broken up into three main categories that are special bus lanes, bus-only streets and the tactical use of traffic management measures and bus priorities at signals. However, this research will only concentrate on the bus lane as it is the fundamental part of any policy designed to give priority to surface public transport. Furthermore, bus lane is the most economical measure in giving priority to buses over the private cars compared to other bus priorities categories.

(1) Herbert S. Levinson & Wilburn Smith and associates:
Bus Priorities and Traffic Management, Pg. 63

(2) ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, ROAD RESEARCH: Bus Lanes and Busway System (Paris, 1977) Pg 9