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BRIDGING URBAN MOBILITY: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS IN SOUTH KOREA AND MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

Urban planning and development in many countries now place a strong emphasis on urban mobility. This comparative study aims to analyse the approaches to urban mobility in cities in Malaysia and South Korea, focusing on key strategies, challenges, and outcomes of selected projects. The study involved a comprehensive review of the literature and a qualitative analysis of case studies from both locations. By comparing the experiences of Malaysia and South Korea, the study seeks to identify similarities and differences in urban transportation methods. The findings of this paper are beneficial for policymakers, urban planners, and other stakeholders involved in urban development initiatives, aiming to create more sustainable, inclusive, and livable cities in South Korea, Malaysia, and similar contexts worldwide.

Keywords: Urban mobility, transportation system, South Korea, Malaysia.

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INTRODUCTION

As cities grow to accommodate increasing populations, efficient urban mobility, the ability for people and goods to move freely, becomes essential (Debra Lam & Peterhead, 2012). This study compares urban mobility in Seoul, South Korea, known for its extensive public transportation network including subways and BRT, and Malaysia's transportation system. Seoul's emphasis on pedestrian and cycling infrastructure has reduced reliance on cars (Yoonjong Choi, 2014), while Malaysia, despite investments in LRT and commuter rail, still struggles with private vehicle usage. By examining the strengths and weaknesses of both systems, this study aims to identify factors contributing to successful urban mobility, analyse the impact of infrastructure, public transport options, and car dependency, and explore potential knowledge transfer between the two countries. This comparative analysis offers valuable insights for policymakers and urban planners, enabling them to develop effective strategies to enhance urban mobility and create more livable, sustainable cities.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this study are:

- 1) To identify key factors that contribute to successful urban mobility in South Korea and Malaysia towards creating efficient movement of transportation system;
- 2) To analyse the impacts on the infrastructure development, public transportation options, and car dependency on urban mobility outcomes in South Korea and Malaysia; and
- 3) To explore the potential for knowledge transfer and best practice sharing between South Korea's advanced public transport system and Malaysia's developing network.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Developed nations place a high priority on efficient urban mobility systems as a cornerstone of a thriving society. Public transportation is key, offering benefits such as reduced traffic congestion (Rivera, Amorim, Reis, 2021; Litman, 2003) and cleaner air (Zhang, et al., 2024, Gössling et al., 2019) compared to car-centric approaches, while also emphasising the social advantages of ensuring universal access to opportunities through affordable and accessible public transport. Various options like subways and buses create a user-friendly network, further improved by seamless integration between them. Additionally, micromobility options like bicycles and e-scooters are becoming popular for short trips, promoting a multimodal system. Technological advancements such as Intelligent Transportation Systems and vehicles (Zhang, et al., 2024; Schwanen et al., 2018) and others can offer promise for the future of transportation. However, challenges persist, such as the need for continual investment in aging infrastructure and the ongoing quest for equitable access for all citizens. By prioritising public transportation, micromobility, and embracing technological progress, developed nations can continue to cultivate sustainable, fair, and efficient urban mobility systems for their residents.

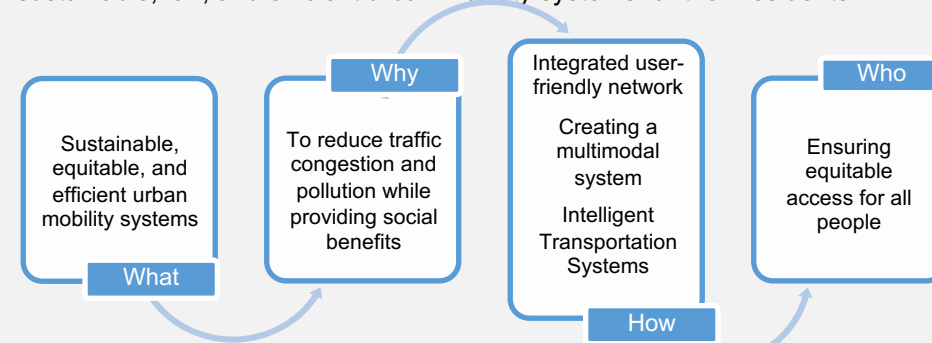


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework of Urban Mobility

ELEMENTS OF URBAN MOBILITY

Urban mobility encompasses the ability of people and goods to move freely within a city. Several key elements contribute to its success.

Firstly, **infrastructure** including a well-developed public transportation network like Seoul's extensive subways and BRT corridors, alongside dedicated lanes for pedestrians and micromobility options like bicycles increasingly seen in Malaysia

Secondly, the transportation modes themselves are important, with a focus on public transport, **micromobility**, and even private vehicle use needing to be considered within a cohesive strategy such as electric vehicles, non-motorists transport, and cycling

Thirdly, **accessibility and integration** in which, ensuring infrastructure is usable by everyone, regardless of ability, and offering affordable and well-integrated options.

Fourthly, **technology** through Intelligent Transportation Systems and the potential of autonomous vehicles offering a glimpse into the future that considering smart transportation facilities such as navigator, information board, and ticketing system.

Fifthly, effective **policy and planning** that promoting mixed-use development and prioritization of public transport, micromobility, and walking/cycling over car dependence.

Finally, a focus on **sustainability and equity** in reducing reliance on cars, minimises emissions, while ensuring everyone has access to affordable and efficient transportation options fosters social inclusion.

By considering these elements as suggested by many scholars like Miskolczi et al. (2021), cities like Seoul and Malaysia can continue to develop efficient and livable urban mobility systems with smooth movement of people and goods without damaging environmental aspects.

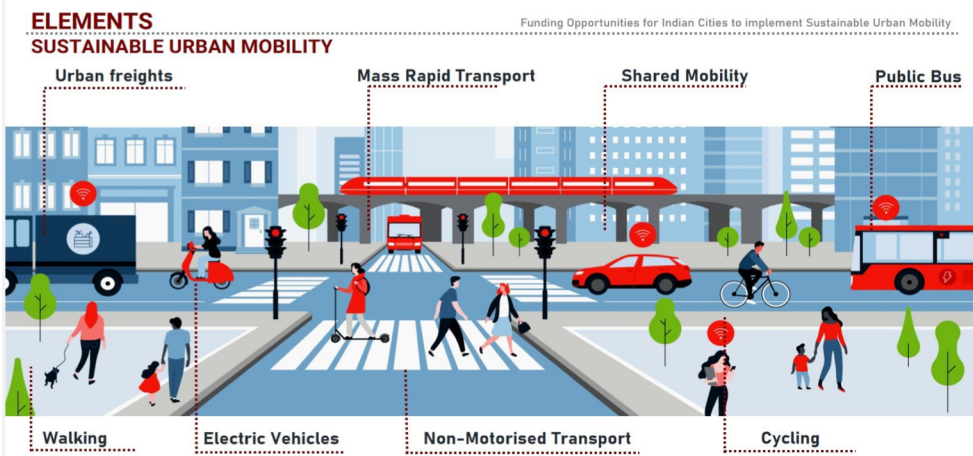


Figure 2: Elements Sustainable Urban Mobility (Rohith T, 2022.)

Examining urban mobility elements in Malaysia and South Korea highlights the diverse approaches Asian nations are taking to address this growing challenge. While Malaysia faces congestion due to car dependence and limited public transport options, the government's focus on improving infrastructure and promoting ride-sharing offers offering ways for a more balanced system.

Conversely, South Korea exemplifies a more established model, with extensive public transport networks in major cities. However, their focus on integrating technology and micromobility infrastructure demonstrates a proactive approach to tackle remaining issues like rush-hour congestion and air quality. Overall, these contrasting urban mobility elements illuminate the ongoing efforts towards sustainable and efficient urban mobility solutions in both countries for future advancements.

CHARACTERISTICS OF URBAN MOBILITY

The characteristics of urban mobility may vary based on the specific destination and base approach.



Figure 3: Characteristics of Urban Mobility (Gao, Y., & Zhu, J, 2022.)

THE IMPORTANCE OF AUTHENTIC TRAVEL EXPERIENCE IN URBAN MOBILITY

Urban mobility is not just about getting from one location to another. It is about immersing people in the local rhythm of a city. Below are the reasons authentic travel experiences are intertwined with a city's mobility.

Understanding the Local Pace

- Using the same modes of transport as locals allows to experience the city's true rhythm. Whether it's the fast-paced efficiency of a subway system or the leisurely pace of a bicycle commute in order to connect with the city's flow.

Connecting with the Culture

- Local transportation systems are often representing a city's culture. Public markets might be bustling hubs within subway stations, or street vendors might line cycling paths. These encounters offer a richer cultural immersion than self-tourist transportation options.

Discovering Hidden Gems

- Navigating a city on foot or by bike allows people to explore narrow alleys and hidden squares that people would not find on a map. This encourages spontaneity and lets people stumble upon unique areas as cars often restrict people to main roads, missing the city's hidden charm.

Meaningful Connection

- Authentic travel experiences enable visitors to form meaningful bonds with local communities. Interacting with locals in the bus, taking part in waiting activities, and participating in community-based mobility initiatives foster genuine connections.

Boosting Independence

- Exploring a city using local transportation fosters a sense of self-reliance when people learn to navigate unfamiliar environments, communicate with locals, and make decisions independently, all of which contribute to overall sense of self-sufficiency.

Sharpening Adaptability

- Delays, changes in plans, or unexpected detours are common when relying on public transport. Learning to adapt to these situations on the fly improves people flexibility and resilience, valuable skills that translate into all aspects of life.

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

Urban mobility and transportation systems are essential components of modern cities, playing a critical role in facilitating the movement of people and goods. Their existence and development are shaped by a complex interplay of economic, social, and environmental factors. Economic factors ensure the financial viability and affordability of transportation systems, while social factors emphasize community engagement, inclusivity, and quality of life. Environmental considerations focus on sustainability and resilience in the face of climate change. Understanding these factors is crucial for developing effective and authentic transportation solutions that meet the diverse needs of urban populations and promote sustainable urban growth.



Economic Aspect

1. Economic Growth and Development

Urban mobility and transportation systems are essential for supporting economic growth and development. Efficient transportation infrastructure facilitates the movement of goods and people, enabling businesses to operate smoothly and connect with markets. It enhances access to employment, education, and services, which are critical for economic productivity. Well-developed transportation networks can attract investments, boost property values, and stimulate local economies, thereby fostering overall economic development (Rodrigue et al., 2016).

2. Cost-Benefits Considerations

The development of urban transportation systems often hinges on detailed cost-benefit analyses. Planners and policymakers evaluate the potential economic benefits, such as reduced travel times, lower vehicle operating costs, and increased productivity, against the costs of construction, maintenance, and operation. Projects that demonstrate significant economic benefits relative to their costs are more likely to be pursued. This economic rationale ensures that transportation investments contribute positively to the urban economy and provide value for money (Litman, 2021).

3. Funding and Financing

Securing adequate funding and financing is a fundamental factor for the existence and expansion of urban transportation systems. Various sources of funding, including government budgets, public-private partnerships, and international financial institutions, are often utilised. Innovative financing mechanisms, such as land value capture and congestion pricing, can also play a crucial role in generating the necessary resources. Effective financial planning and management ensure the sustainability and scalability of transportation projects (Suzuki et al., 2015).



Social Aspect

1. Population Growth and Urbanisation

Community engagement plays a pivotal role in ensuring that urban mobility projects are authentic and meet the true needs of the residents. It ensures that the development is aligned with the needs, preferences, and aspirations of the local population. Community engagement also helps to identify unique local needs and preferences, making the transportation solutions more relevant and effective (Arnstein, 1969).

2. Quality of Life

The existence of robust urban mobility systems significantly enhances the quality of life for city dwellers. Efficient transportation reduces commute times, decreases traffic congestion, and improves air quality, contributing to a healthier and more livable urban environment. Access to diverse transportation options, such as public transit, biking, and walking, promotes social equity by ensuring that all residents, regardless of income, have mobility choices. Enhancing the quality of life through better transportation is a major driver for the development of these systems (Banister, 2008).

3. Social Inclusion and Equity

Transportation systems play a vital role in promoting social inclusion and equity. By providing affordable and accessible mobility options, urban transportation can bridge social divides and ensure that all segments of the population can participate fully in economic and social activities. Inclusive transportation planning addresses the needs of vulnerable groups, including the elderly, disabled, and low-income residents, ensuring that no one is left behind. This focus on social equity is a key factor in the development of urban mobility systems (Lucas, 2012).



Environmental Aspect

1. Sustainability Goals

The push for sustainable urban development is a significant factor driving the existence and evolution of urban transportation systems. Cities aim to reduce their carbon footprint and mitigate climate change impacts through sustainable transportation initiatives. This includes promoting public transit, cycling, walking, and the adoption of electric and low-emission vehicles. Sustainable transportation reduces greenhouse gas emissions, lowers energy consumption, and minimises environmental degradation, aligning with broader environmental goals (Banister, 2008).

2. Enhancing Accessibility and Connectivity

Efficient transportation networks, including buses, trams, subways, and bike-sharing systems, facilitate seamless movement across different urban areas, making it easier for people to reach their destinations. This connectivity reduces travel times and increases the accessibility of various city parts, from residential neighbourhoods to commercial and cultural districts. Gehl (2011) stated that high connectivity enables more spontaneous and flexible travel, allowing people to explore more of the city and access a wider range of services and amenities.

3. Improving Comfort and Convenience

Comfort and convenience are critical components of positive travel experiences. Modern urban mobility systems are designed to provide comfortable, safe, and convenient travel options. Features such as air-conditioned vehicles, real-time information systems, well-maintained infrastructure, and user-friendly ticketing systems contribute to a pleasant travel experience. Additionally, the integration of different modes of transport, such as park-and-ride facilities and multi-modal transit hubs, enhances convenience by making it easier to switch between transportation modes (Banister, 2008). This convenience encourages more people to use public transportation, reducing the reliance on private cars and contributing to a more sustainable urban environment.



4. Promoting Sustainability and Environmental Stewardship

Urban mobility systems that prioritise sustainability can significantly enhance travel experiences by contributing to cleaner, healthier urban environments. The promotion of public transportation, cycling, and walking over private car use reduces traffic congestion, lowers pollution levels, and decreases greenhouse gas emissions. Green transportation initiatives, such as electric buses and bike-sharing programmes, further support environmental sustainability. Travelers benefit from improved air quality and less noise pollution, which enhances the overall experience of moving through the city (Banister, 2008). Additionally, sustainable urban mobility initiatives reflect a city's commitment to environmental stewardship, which can foster a sense of pride and well-being among residents.

5. Fostering Social Interaction and Community Engagement

Public transportation systems, such as buses, trams, and subways, provide shared spaces where people from diverse backgrounds can interact. This daily interaction can build a sense of community and social cohesion, as people share common experiences and spaces. Moreover, well-designed public spaces around transit hubs and pedestrian-friendly streetscapes encourage people to spend time outdoors, engaging with their surroundings and with each other. This social aspect of urban mobility contributes to a richer, more vibrant urban life (Gehl, 2011).

6. Supporting Economic Activities

Efficient urban mobility systems are vital for supporting economic activities by ensuring that businesses, workers, and consumers can easily access different parts of the city. Reliable transportation enables businesses to attract a broader customer base and access a larger pool of employees. It also allows workers to commute efficiently, reducing time lost in traffic and increasing productivity. For consumers, easy access to commercial areas enhances their shopping and leisure experiences. The economic vitality supported by efficient urban mobility creates a dynamic, thriving urban environment that attracts both residents and visitors (Rodrigue et al., 2016).

7. Enhancing Cultural and Recreational Experiences

Urban mobility systems significantly enhance cultural and recreational experiences by providing easy access to cultural institutions, parks, entertainment venues, and tourist attractions. Efficient transportation networks allow residents and visitors to explore the cultural richness of a city without the stress of navigating traffic or finding parking. This accessibility makes it easier to attend cultural events, visit museums, enjoy urban parks, and participate in recreational activities. By facilitating these experiences, urban mobility systems contribute to the cultural vibrancy and attractiveness of the city (Florida, 2014).



METHODOLOGY

This study utilised a qualitative research approach in the metropolitan cities of Seoul, South Korea, and Kuala Lumpur. The analysis and findings were based on case studies, preliminary studies, observations, and site context studies. Ground-truthing was conducted to gain a deeper understanding of the actual implementation of urban mobility development in both countries. Analysis and synthesis were employed in the design process to create suitable solutions aligned with the study's objectives.

The case studies chosen for analysis included major transportation developments like Seoul's public bus transportation and subway system due to their suitability. Observations were conducted in these areas to document the key features that have effectively influenced urban mobility in Seoul. Meanwhile, the same transportation modes, public bus transportation, and subway system in Kuala Lumpur were studied on the ground and also based on secondary data.

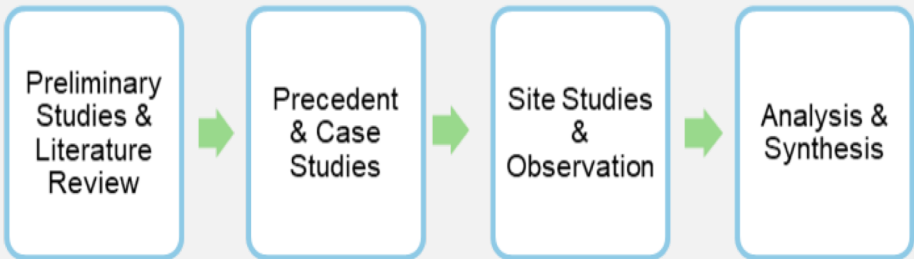


Figure 4: Data Collection Methodology

RESEARCH FINDINGS

Seoul, the capital city of South Korea, boasts one of the world's most advanced and efficient urban mobility and transportation systems. This system is characterised by its comprehensive coverage, integration of various modes of transport, advanced technology use, and strong emphasis on sustainability. Here, the paper delves into the various aspects and types of transportation that make up Seoul's urban mobility framework, exploring the factors contributing to its success.

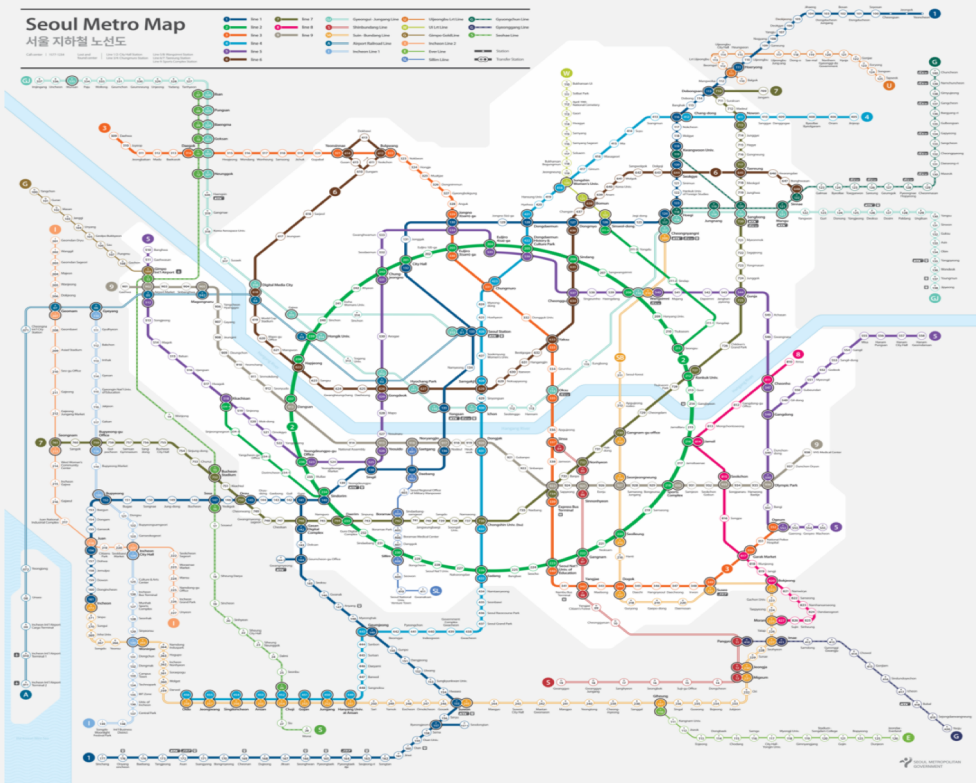


Figure 5: Seoul Metro Map (Seoul Metro, 2023).

Subway System

Seoul's subway system is the backbone of its urban transportation, renowned for its efficiency, cleanliness, and extensive reach. The Seoul Metropolitan Subway comprises 23 lines, covering a total length of approximately 940 kilometers, and serving over 300 stations. This extensive network connects virtually every part of the city and its suburbs, making it the preferred mode of travel for millions of commuters daily. The subway system is also known for its punctuality and frequent service, with trains arriving every few minutes during peak hours (Seoul Metro, 2023).

The subway stations are equipped with modern amenities such as Wi-Fi, air conditioning, and multilingual signage, catering to both local commuters and international visitors. The system also prioritises accessibility, with elevators, escalators, and tactile paving for the visually impaired present at most stations.



Figure 6: Subway station



Figure 7: Seoul Bus Types (Seoul Metropolitan Government, 2023).

Bus System

Complementing the subway is Seoul's extensive bus network, which includes four types of buses: blue (trunk), green (branch), yellow (circular), and red (express). The bus system is designed to ensure that areas not directly served by the subway are still well-connected. The blue buses operate on major arterial roads, linking different districts, while green buses provide feeder services to subway stations. Yellow buses circulate within specific districts, and red buses offer rapid transit between Seoul and its surrounding areas (Seoul Metropolitan Government, 2023).

Table 1: Seoul Bus Types (Seoul Metropolitan Government, 2023).

Bus Colour	Description
Blue	Operated partly by private bus companies and partly by the city government. It runs for longer distance and has access to median bus lanes connecting suburban areas to downtown Seoul.
Green	Operated by private bus companies. It runs for shorter distance connecting major subway stations or bus terminals outside downtown Seoul.
Yellow	Circle parts of Seoul and stop at stations near business areas, tourist areas, and shopping areas, as well as providing connections to trunk/branch buses, subway stations, and major railway stations.
Red	Designed especially for passengers commuting between downtown Seoul and the metropolitan area.

Many bus stops in Seoul are equipped with digital displays providing real-time bus arrival information. These displays also show the bus routes and estimated travel times. The real-time information displays improve the efficiency of the bus network by reducing wait times and uncertainty for passengers. Some bus stops in Seoul feature interactive art installations. For example, the bus stop near the Ewha Womans University includes a wall of "wish locks" where students and visitors can hang padlocks with their wishes or messages. This not only beautifies the bus stop but also creates a unique and engaging experience for those waiting for their bus.

Integrated Fare System

Seoul's transportation system benefits significantly from its integrated fare system, which allows seamless transfers between subways, buses, and other modes of transport. The T-money card, a rechargeable smart card, can be used to pay for rides across all public transportation modes, including taxis. This integration simplifies the commuting process and encourages the use of multiple transportation types for a single journey, thus enhancing overall mobility efficiency (Seoul Metropolitan Government, 2023).



Figure 8: T-money

Seoul thrives on T-money, a rechargeable card that unlocks cashless travel. Tap users T-money card on buses, subways, and even taxis for effortless payments. Beyond transport, T-money is accepted at many convenience stores, vending machines, and even some cafes and restaurants, making it a versatile spending tool. Top-up stations are plentiful, and transfer discounts between buses and subways add to the savings.



Figure 9: Real-time bus arrival and departure information system

Real-Time Information Systems

Seoul has leveraged technology to provide real-time information to commuters, enhancing the convenience and reliability of its transportation network. Digital displays at bus stops and subway stations show real-time arrival and departure information, while mobile apps offer route planning, real-time tracking, and service updates. These technological innovations help commuters make informed decisions and reduce waiting times, improving the overall travel experience (Kang, 2019).

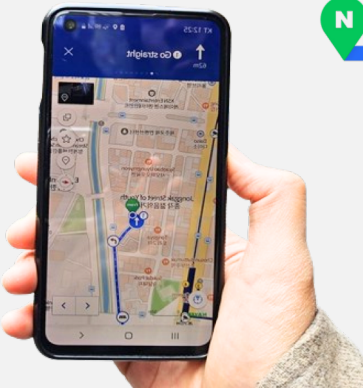


Figure 10: Naver map (Seoul Metropolitan Government, 2023)



Naver Map

Naver Map is a popular Korean app, lets people explore Seoul with ease. Search locations, buses, or subways, and get real-time navigation for driving, walking, cycling, and even public transport (including arrival times). Plan trips with buses, subways, and taxis. English language support is available. Naver Map features and real-time navigation make it a must-have for navigating Seoul.



Figure 11: Seoul EV Charging Stations

Electric and Green Vehicles

Seoul is also at the forefront of adopting electric and green vehicles to reduce its carbon footprint. The city has introduced electric buses and taxis, supported by an extensive network of charging stations. Incentives and subsidies are provided to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) among residents and businesses. These initiatives align with Seoul's commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable urban development (Kang, 2019).

Micro Mobility Transportation (E-Bike and E-Scooter)

Seoul, known for its advanced and integrated transportation system, has embraced micro-mobility solutions, particularly e-bikes and e-scooters, as part of its strategy to enhance urban mobility. These micro-mobility options provide flexible, efficient, and eco-friendly transportation alternatives that complement the city's extensive public transportation network.

Seoul's government has actively promoted the use of e-bikes as a sustainable transportation mode to reduce traffic congestion and pollution. The Seoul Bike (Ddareungi) programme, launched in 2015, includes a fleet of e-bikes, making them accessible to residents and visitors alike. These bikes can be rented from docking stations located throughout the city, providing a convenient last-mile solution and encouraging more people to use bicycles for short trips (Seoul Metropolitan Government, 2023).



Figure 12: E-Bike



Figure 13: E-Scooter

E-scooters have quickly gained popularity in Seoul as a convenient and flexible mode of transportation. They are particularly favored for short trips and are seen as a viable solution for bridging the gap between public transportation stops and final destinations. Several private companies operate e-scooter sharing services in Seoul, offering a large fleet of scooters that can be rented via mobile apps (Seoul Metropolitan Government, 2023).

URBAN MOBILITY IN MALAYSIA AND KOREA

This section shows examples of urban mobility in Malaysia and South Korea based on several key elements.

MALAYSIA’S URBAN MOBILITY

Getting around Malaysian cities can be a challenge. Traffic congestion is common due to a high number of cars and limited public transport options. While buses exist, they often struggle with efficiency. The rapid growth of cities further strains the system. The government is looking to improve public transport and encourage ride-sharing, but for now, many Malaysians spend a lot of time stuck in traffic.

SOUTH KOREA’S URBAN MOBILITY

South Korea demonstrates balanced urban mobility with strong public transport in major cities reducing traffic congestion. However, high car use in suburbs leads to rush hour jams and air quality issues. Korean cities are addressing this with smart traffic management and promoting cycling infrastructure for a more sustainable future.

Table 2: Comparison of Element of Urban Mobility in Malaysia and South Korea.

MALAYSIA	SOUTH KOREA
1. Infrastructure	
While car-centric, Malaysia's existing road network offers a base for improvement. In Kuala Lumpur, for instance, expanding the LRT system and adding dedicated lanes to this network could significantly boost public transport efficiency. Micromobility initiatives like bike-sharing programmes in specific areas show promise for a more sustainable future.	South Korean cities shine in public transport infrastructure. Take Seoul, for example. Its subway network is vast, with frequent trains and easy transfers to buses. Stations are modern and user-friendly, with digital displays guiding passengers. Moreover, Seoul embraces technology with AI traffic management and bike lane investments, making getting around efficient and sustainable.



Figure 14: RapidKL and BRT in Kuala Lumpur



Figure 15: RapidKL and BRT in Kuala Lumpur


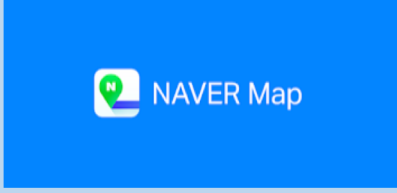




Figure 16: Subway and bus service system in Seoul



Figure 17: Subway and bus service system in Seoul

MALAYSIA	SOUTH KOREA
2. Micromobility	
Malaysia's micromobility is taking a step through planning base. Pilot programmes such as bike-sharing in Kuala Lumpur let residents experience cycling for short trips. A growing number of cycling enthusiasts and some dedicated bike lanes in places like Petaling Jaya show an increased interest. E-scooters might join the mix in the future. With more development and clear rules, micromobility could become a bigger part of getting around Malaysian cities.	South Korea is moving forwards in micromobility. Seoul, for instance, boasts a vast bike-sharing programme with convenient pick-up and drop-off points. Dedicated bike lanes separated from traffic make cycling safer and more attractive. E-scooters are also a popular option, with designated areas for riding. These micromobility options integrate seamlessly with public transport, allowing for easy connections between subways, buses, bikes, and e-scooters.
	
Figure 18: Petaling Jaya bicycle lane	Figure 19: Seoul bicycle lane
3. Accessibility and Integration	
Kuala Lumpur's newer buses offer features like wheelchair areas and audio announcements, improving accessibility. KL Sentral's integrated rail transportation center, offering global connectivity and seamlessly linking all urban and suburban areas. Trials of combined ticketing systems are underway, and some areas see improved sidewalks for safer walking. These steps, though limited, show a positive move towards a more user-friendly and integrated network.	All stations in Seoul, for example, boast features like elevators and ramps, making them easy to navigate for everyone. Seoul central station is the starting point of all railway routes in South Korea, featuring the line that connecting Seoul with other main hubs like Busan. It also features lines of the subway and connects to the Incheon airport. Plus, Seoul integrates public transport with pedestrian walkways and cycling lanes, creating a user-friendly and accessible network for all.
	
Figure 20: KL Sentral	Figure 21: Seoul Station

MALAYSIA	SOUTH KOREA
4. Technology	
Malaysia is dipping into using technology for better urban mobility. For instance, Kuala Lumpur is developing mobile apps, namely Moovit with real-time information on bus schedules, delays, and connections to other public transport options. Trials of integrated ticketing systems with mobile payment options are also underway. Data analysis on traffic flow is another positive step. Ride-hailing apps like Grab are prevalent in Malaysia and offer an alternative to car ownership.	South Korea leverages technology for a smarter urban mobility system. Take Busan city, for example. It uses AI to analyse traffic flow in real-time, optimising traffic lights and reducing congestion. Extensive digital displays and mobile apps keep passengers informed about schedules and delays. Plus, the T-money card with contactless fare payment allows for faster boarding and a smoother journey.
	
Figure 22: Moovit Apps (Seoul Metro, 2023).	Figure 23: Naver Map Apps (Seoul Metro, 2023).
5. Policy and Planning	
The government recognises the need for change and is investing in public transport expansion, like the LRT system in Kuala Lumpur. Pilot programmes for bike-sharing and designated bike lanes show a policy shift towards micromobility. Some areas are even incorporating wider sidewalks for pedestrians. National Transport Policy (2019-2030) outline strategies for a more sustainable system, including improved public transport and non-motorised options.	In Seoul, Seoul Transport Vision 2030 was developed to cater primarily to the growing car population. New developments are built near subway stations, allowing residents easy access to daily needs without a car. Government investment expands the subway network, making public transport the faster and more attractive option. Additionally, the city promotes cycling with dedicated lanes and prioritises pedestrian infrastructure like wider sidewalks, making walking safer.
	
Figure 24: National Transport Policy	Figure 25: Seoul Transport Vision

URBAN MOBILITY PROJECT

In order to produce effective and sustainable urban settings, urban mobility initiatives in Malaysia and Korea have concentrated on expanding public transport systems, lowering traffic congestion, and integrating smart technology. The following section will give examples of urban mobility initiatives in Malaysia and South Korea.

URBAN MOBILITY CASE STUDY IN MALAYSIA

An extensive case study on Malaysian urban mobility can draw attention to particular programmes and projects that have been put in place to solve transport issues, enhance public transit, and encourage sustainable urban growth. Table 3 depicts some example of urban mobility projects in Malaysia.

Table 3: List of Urban Mobility projects in Malaysia.

URBAN MOBILITY PROJECT	PROJECT OVERVIEW	KEY FEATURES	IMPACT
Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) System	MRT Kajang Line: Operational since 2017, the SBK line spans 51 kilometres with 31 stations, connecting Sungai Buloh in the northwest to Kajang in the southeast of Kuala Lumpur. MRT Putrajaya Line: Currently completed, this line will further expand the MRT network, enhancing connectivity across the city and easing traffic congestion.	Seamless Integration: The MRT lines are integrated with other public transport systems, including the Light Rail Transit (LRT), monorail, and bus services, facilitating easy transfers and reducing travel times. Modern Infrastructure: Stations are equipped with modern amenities, including air-conditioned waiting areas, digital information displays, and facilities for the disabled.	Increased Ridership: The MRT system has significantly increased public transport usage, reducing the number of private vehicles on the roads. Economic Development: Improved connectivity has spurred economic activities along the MRT corridors, boosting property values and commercial development.
Light Rail Transit (LRT) Expansion	LRT Kelana Jaya Line Extension: Extended to Putra Heights, the Kelana Jaya Line now spans 46.4 kilometers with 37 stations. LRT Ampang and Sri Petaling Lines Extension: These lines have been extended to provide better coverage and connectivity in the Klang Valley.	Interconnectivity: LRT lines are integrated with MRT, monorail, and bus systems, offering a comprehensive public transport network. Convenience: Stations are equipped with park-and-ride facilities, enabling commuters to conveniently switch from private vehicles to public transport.	Reduced Traffic Congestion: The LRT extensions have alleviated traffic congestion in densely populated areas by providing efficient and reliable public transport options. Enhanced Accessibility: Improved access to public transport has benefited residents, especially those in suburban areas, by reducing travel times and increasing mobility options.
RapidKL Bus System	Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Sunway Line: A dedicated elevated bus line serving the Sunway area, providing a reliable and efficient public transport option for commuters. RapidKL Bus Network: An extensive bus network covering Kuala Lumpur and the surrounding Klang Valley, connecting various residential, commercial, and industrial areas.	Dedicated Lanes: The BRT Sunway Line operates on dedicated lanes, ensuring timely and efficient service free from regular traffic congestion. Service Integration: Buses are integrated with other RapidKL services, including MRT, LRT, and monorail, allowing seamless transfers.	Improved Public Transport Access: The RapidKL bus network has improved access to public transport, especially in areas not served by rail systems. Reduced Travel Times: Dedicated BRT lanes and improved bus services have reduced travel times for commuters, enhancing the overall efficiency of the public transport system.
Green Mobility Initiatives	Electric Vehicle (EV) Promotion: Malaysia has introduced incentives for the adoption of electric and hybrid vehicles, including tax exemptions and subsidies. Public Bicycle-Sharing Programmes: Initiatives like the Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) bicycle-sharing programme provide eco-friendly transport options for short-distance travel within the city.	Charging Infrastructure: Expansion of EV charging stations across major urban areas to support the growing number of electric vehicles. Bicycle-Friendly Infrastructure: Development of dedicated bicycle lanes and parking facilities to encourage cycling as a sustainable mode of transport.	Reduced Carbon Footprint: Increased use of electric vehicles and bicycles has contributed to reducing the carbon footprint of urban transportation. Health and Wellness: Promotion of cycling has positive health benefits for residents and contributes to a healthier urban environment.

Kuala Lumpur and other Malaysian cities are tackling the challenges of urban mobility with a multi-pronged approach. At the core of this strategy is the idea of offering a diverse range of transportation choices. This might include expanding and improving existing options like buses and trains. Additionally, infrastructure advancements could involve building dedicated bus lanes, creating safe and separated cycling paths, and improving pedestrian walkways. These improvements would make these alternative modes of transport more attractive, safer and efficient. Encouraging cycling and walking through infrastructure development and public awareness campaigns can significantly reduce reliance on cars and further contribute to a greener urban environment. By combining these elements, Malaysian cities are working towards a more efficient, user-friendly, and environmentally responsible urban mobility system.



Figure 26: MRT Putrajaya line



Figure 27: RapidKL bus

URBAN MOBILITY CASE STUDY IN SOUTH KOREA

A case study on South Korea's urban mobility may showcase the nation's cutting edge transit system, smart city programmes, and environmentally friendly mobility options. Numerous initiatives have been put in place in South Korea, especially in places like Seoul, with the goal of enhancing urban mobility, lowering traffic, and encouraging ecologically friendly transportation.

Table 4: List of Urban Mobility projects in South Korea

URBAN MOBILITY PROJECT	PROJECT OVERVIEW	KEY FEATURES	IMPACT
Smart Traffic Management System	Seoul TOPIS (Transport Operation and Information Service): A state-of-the-art traffic management system that integrates various modes of transport and provides real-time traffic information.	Real-Time Data Collection: Uses over 1,200 traffic cameras and sensors to monitor traffic flow and conditions in real-time. Integrated Control Center: Manages traffic lights, provides real-time updates to drivers, and controls public transportation systems. Public Information: Disseminates traffic information through various platforms, including mobile apps, websites, and electronic billboards.	Reduced Congestion: Improved traffic flow through adaptive traffic signal control and real-time updates. Enhanced Safety: Quick response to traffic incidents and efficient management of emergency situations.
Seoul Subway System	Seoul Metropolitan Subway: One of the most extensive and efficient subway systems globally, serving the Seoul Capital Area with over 23 lines and more than 700 kilometers of track.	High Connectivity: Links Seoul with surrounding cities and towns, integrating seamlessly with buses and other transport modes. Advanced Facilities: Equipped with amenities such as Wi-Fi, air conditioning, digital information displays, and barrier-free access for the disabled. Integrated Ticketing System: T-money card allows for easy transfer between subway, bus, and other public transport.	High Ridership: Daily ridership exceeding 7 million passengers, significantly reducing reliance on private vehicles. Economic Development: Enhanced connectivity boosts commercial activities and property values along the subway routes.
Public Bicycle-Sharing Programme	Ddareungi (Seoul Bike): A public bicycle-sharing programme launched in 2015 to promote eco-friendly and healthy transport options.	Wide Coverage: Over 2,000 stations and 20,000 bicycles available throughout Seoul. User-Friendly: Accessible through a mobile app that allows users to locate, rent, and return bicycles easily. Affordable: Low rental fees make it an economical option for short trips.	Increased Bicycle Usage: Encourages residents and tourists to use bicycles for short-distance travel, reducing traffic congestion and pollution. Health Benefits: Promotes physical activity and a healthier lifestyle among residents.
Electric Vehicle (EV) Initiatives	Promotion of EVs: Government incentives and infrastructure development to support the adoption of electric vehicles.	Subsidies and Tax Benefits: Financial incentives for purchasing EVs, including subsidies and tax reductions. Charging Infrastructure: Rapid expansion of EV charging stations across Seoul and other cities. EV Car-Sharing Programmes: Initiatives like SOCAR and Green Car offer EVs for short-term rental, promoting shared mobility solutions.	Reduced Emissions: Increased EV adoption contributes to lowering greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality. Enhanced Urban Mobility: EV car-sharing programmes provide flexible and sustainable transport options for urban residents.
Smart City Initiatives: Songdo International Business District	Songdo IBD: A purpose-built smart city near Incheon, designed to integrate cutting-edge technologies for urban living and mobility.	Ubiquitous Connectivity: Extensive use of IoT (Internet of Things) devices for seamless communication between various city services. Automated Transport Systems: Features such as autonomous electric buses and smart traffic management. Green Spaces and Walkability: Emphasis on pedestrian-friendly design with ample green spaces and bike lanes.	Model for Future Cities: Songdo serves as a prototype for future smart cities, showcasing the potential of integrated technologies in urban development. Sustainable Living: Focus on green and sustainable solutions reduces environmental impact and enhances the quality of life for residents.

CONCLUSION

South Korea is leading the charge in reimagining urban mobility. Smart traffic management with AI-powered "smart intersections" reduces congestion. Extensive and well-maintained subway networks provide support, while government investment ensures their continued growth. South Korea promotes cycling with dedicated lanes and bike-sharing programmes. Additionally, they are a major player in the EV market, with government incentives and charging stations encouraging cleaner transportation. Finally, detailed planned smart cities like Songdo (International Business District) integrate technology, sustainable options, and public transport connectivity to create livable and efficient urban environments. Through these comprehensive strategies, South Korea is setting a global example for a future where urban mobility is synonymous with efficiency, sustainability, and a high quality of life. Urban mobility initiatives in Malaysia and South Korea show notable advancements in the promotion of sustainable mobility solutions, the integration of smart technology, and the improvement of transportation infrastructure. Both nations have implemented all-encompassing strategies to tackle the problems associated with urban mobility, which have improved the quality of life for citizens, decreased traffic, and improved public transportation networks. Urban mobility difficulties may be efficiently addressed by focusing on sustainability, using technology innovation, and strategically planning, as exemplified by South Korea and Malaysia. These nations may improve their urban environments and make them more livable, efficient, and sustainable for coming generations by investing in and developing cutting-edge transportation technologies.

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