

# Lahore Development Scenario, Roads & Flyover- Citizen Perspective

PURC conducted a forum on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014 on the issue of “Lahore Development Scenerio, Roads & Flyovers-Citizen Perspective” at PURC office. The guest speaker was Amir Butt, Coordinator of PURC who has a critical and deep understanding with huge temporal knowledge on urban issues of Lahore. The audience was comprised of multi-disciplinary students, development professionals and researchers.

Amir Butt told that Punjab Government’s inclination is towards the construction of roads and flyovers in the last fifteen years. He started his discussion by focusing on Lahore and gave a figure of approximately 6.3 million spent on road infrastructure along the Canal Road in Lahore alone from 1993 to 2010 excluding billions spent on the Mughalpura underpass and Thokar Niaz Beg flyover whereas; 2256 million has spent on the construction of Ferozpur roads underpass. Discussing about the upcoming flyover projects, he highlighted an amount of Rs 10.35 billion on the construction of Chungi Amar Sidhu, Ghazi Chowk and Qainchi Chowk, Azadi Chowk Interchange and New Circular Road project.

He said that 78% urban population of Lahore lives in 7 km radius of inner core of main city and 50% trips generated on foot in Lahore. He shared the arguments on signal free corridor concept with evidences that signal free corridor will increase the fuel consumption rather that decreasing because of high speed of vehicle and there are more changes of accidents too. Amir Butt made comparison with other basic services, e.g. water supply, solid waste, public transport, housing available in the city with development of roads and flyover’s concept to realize the importance and need of spending budget on basic facilities which are right of every citizen rather than focusing on construction of roads, bridges and flyovers on the name of citizen without need assessment.