

Evaluating the Pedestrian Behaviour at Uncontrolled Mid-block Pedestrian Crossings

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In Sri Lanka, it seems that highway designers pay more attention towards motorized transportations while less priority is given for non-motorized users such as pedestrians and bicyclists. The aim of this study was to evaluate crossing facilities for pedestrians of selected uncontrolled mid-block crosswalks around Colombo Fort. Eight midblock crosswalks were selected and their behaviour was compared with the Highway Capacity Manual-2010. The area within and surrounding Colombo Fort is occupied by a large number of pedestrians because of the main passenger terminals which are located in this region. E.g. Fort railway station, Bastian Mawatha bus terminal and Colombo Central bus terminal. Field surveys were conducted to examine geometric data as well. Operational data were collected from video recordings and pedestrian/vehicular surveys. The study revealed that the average walking speed of pedestrians at the mid-block crosswalks are higher than in other pedestrian facilities. Five out of eight selected crosswalks are operating in high delays for pedestrians at crosswalks. The results suggest that more substantial engineering improvements should be considered, and new legislations should be implemented to provide safer and convenience mid-block crossings for pedestrians at particular locations to create a pedestrian friendly urban environment.

Keywords: Pedestrians, walking speed, mid-block crossings, uncontrolled pedestrian crossings