

Podway Project in Pokhara Metropolitan City



Pokhara Metropolitan City Office



Background

Pokhara is the tourist capital City of Nepal. Pokhara want to adopt a revolutionary transportation system known as Podway, a suspended monorail system using small, driverless pods. This system, conceived by Belarusian scientist Anatoly Unitsky, is powered by string-based technology, and has the potential to alleviate Pokhara's traffic and environmental issues. Podway's self-automated operation ensures efficient passenger flow, and its lower construction and operational costs make it a cost-effective solution for Nepal. It runs on electricity, aligning with the Government of Nepal (GoN)'s commitment to environmental preservation and use of domestically produced electricity. Podway can adapt to diverse terrains and urban environments, making it suitable for Nepal's varied geographical conditions.

This Project envisions to join the lakeside to the Pokhara International Airport and then PIA to Begnas lake and explores the potential transport system for tourist and as usual mode of transport. It is expected that the newly established transport system through podway, Pokhara and lekhnath will drive tourism and contribute to the people and government at local level. For that, this project has been envisioned to make Pokhara as a national and international attraction that will provide safe and fast as well as competitive modern sustainable transportation system.



Sector
Transportation

Project Rationale:

- Provides fast and safe transportation for passengers
- Operates on a dedicated track structure located on a second level
- Utilizes an automatic control system to reduce the risk of traffic jams and delays caused by human or weather factors
- Ensures passenger comfort even at high speeds with smooth and quiet ride

Project Components

- Cable Technology with tower support
- Pod Technology
- Pod way Track
- The Guidance System
- The Control System

Project Outcomes

- **Tourism Hub** attracting internal as well as foreigner
- **Increased local employment** contributing to the economic development
- **Promotion of sustainable transport** and local business
- **Community involvement**
- **Infrastructure development** and improvement
- **Tax Revenue** for the government

Financial Indicators

Estimated Project Cost

NPR 630 Crores



Project IRR
17 %



Economic IRR
30 %



NPV
NPR 441 Crores



Benefit Cost Ratio
1.2



Discounted Pay-
back period
8 years



Loan Interest
Rate
10%



Debt to Equity
Ratio
60:40



Debt Service
Coverage Ratio
1

Project Implementation Modality



**Public Private Partnership
(PPP)**

**Build Own Operate Transfer
(BOOT)**

Project Implementation Timeline



Project
Ideation
2024



Desk
Study
2024



Pre-Feasibility
Study/DPR



Feasibility
Study



Solicitation



Relevant Agencies

- Ministry of Physical Infrastructure Development, Gandaki Province
- Pokhara Metropolitan City Office
- Investment Board Nepal

About the Agency

Pokhara Metropolitan City

Pokhara Metropolitan City (PMC) is Nepal's second most populous city with around 513,504 residents in area of 464.24 km². Situated in the picturesque Pokhara Valley, it shares borders with the Annapurna range and is renowned for its stunning natural beauty and vibrant culture. Once a small municipality, Pokhara expanded into a Sub-Metropolitan City in 2016 A.D. and later merged with surrounding areas to form Pokhara Lekhnath Metropolitan City in 2072 BS. Today, Pokhara Metropolitan City is a hub of tourism, known as the "City of Lakes" and a gateway to the Himalayas, attracting visitors with its scenic landscapes, adventure sports, and rich cultural heritage.

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