**RELEASE: UP cities to start pilot street design projects in various cities**

**Lucknow, 17 December 2017:**On the second day of the street design workshop organized in Lucknow on Sunday, officials from various departments decided to initiate pilot projects along some streets of the major cities in Uttar Pradesh.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh, in collaboration with the World Resources Institute (WRI) India, initiated a two-day workshop in Lucknow on Saturday, aimed at sharing expertise on public transport and better street design.

Speaking at the conference, Mr. Keshav Varma, Advisor, Government of UP said “The two main aims of this workshop were – bringing WRI’s expertise to UP on mobility and street design and getting all departments on a single platform and encourage coordination between them”.

The recommendations made at the workshop will be compiled and sent to the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh, by WRI team. The departments will also be sending observations within a week, along with actions that will be taken.  Relevant departments from Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Allahabad and other major UP cities participated in the discussions around global best practices on transformational street design.

The sessions discussed successful case studies from various cities such as Mumbai, Gurgaon, Bhopal and others where small, inexpensive interventions in existing road design has led to improved road safety, manage congestion and helped better the quality of streets. The relevance of streets as a public space and driver of economic activities was also discussed.

“Designing streets for all road users not only helps advancing the usage of walking, cycling and public transport but also helps create a more equal city”, said Amit Bhatt, Director- Integrated Transport, WRI India.

“Streets link citizens to their jobs and destinations and are the main arteries of economic development. Better designed streets ensure wellbeing of people living in the city”, said **Mr. Manoj Kumar,** Principal Secretary, Urban Development, Government of UP.

The WRI India conducted a site visit for participants in the second half of the day to help reimagine streets in UP in a manner that improves road safety, reduces pollution, promotes health and wellness, as well as inclusive development. The street from the workshop venue, Hotel Hyatt Regency to High Court Circle (about 300 metres) was chosen for the site visit.

Officials from various departments were divided into groups and asked to observe the flaws in street design and map improvements on a worksheet. All recommendations and observations were discussed and the group was later shown simulations of how the existing streets could look like (see images attached.)

The ‘Streets for All’ initiative is a sustained movement towards creating streets for people rather than vehicles. The overall vision is to create safe infrastructure for all categories of road users and to bring about a paradigm change – from motor vehicle-oriented street designs to a people-oriented approach.

Speaking about improving street infrastructure in the state, **Mr.** **Raj Shekhar**, Secretary, PWD, Government of UP said, “Inter-departmental coordination can improve our efficiency in planning and developing safe, walkable world-class streets. We will work on these design principals suggested by WRI India”

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Based on longstanding global and local experience in urban planning and mobility, WRI Sustainable Cities uses proven solutions and action-oriented tools to increase building and energy efficiency, manage water risk, encourage effective governance and make the fast-growing urban environment more resilient to new challenges.