SCOPE OF WORK

Spatial Infrastructure Planning for Gandhi Bazaar Street Market fnd Gandhi Bazaar Main Road Bengaluru, Karnataka

Introduction

Gandhi Bazaar area, located in Basavanagudi, Bengaluru, is one of the city's oldest planned market streets, renowned for its historic and cultural vibrancy. The 730m stretch, extending another 520m into Tagore Park and Ramakrishna Ashram Circle, is a bustling hub of flower, vegetable, fruit, and cultural commerce. Recognized for its heritage value and social significance, the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) envisioned a comprehensive spatial infrastructure redesign to strengthen its identity as an inclusive, safe, and sustainable urban commons.

The project emerged from a participatory planning process initiated by DULT which also integrates stakeholder consultations with BBMP, BESCOM, BWSSB, BSNL, Bengaluru Traffic Police, and elected representatives. BBMP is the implementing agency under its White Topping Scheme.

Vision and Objectives

The vision is to transform Gandhi Bazaar into a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable socio-cultural space that enhances accessibility, safety, and economic vitality while retaining its heritage value.

Objectives:

- Promote a pedestrian-first environment.
- Enhance public and social spaces for cultural activities.
- Provide safe, gender-sensitive, and inclusive mobility options.
- Improve infrastructure for vending, waste management, and logistics.
- Integrate public transport connectivity with bus and metro nodes.
- Conserve green cover and ecological features.

Design imperatives emphasize safety, hygiene, inclusiveness, cultural sensitivity, ecological consciousness, legibility, and economic viability.

Urban Design & Mobility Plan

The spatial plan organizes Gandhi Bazaar into three sections – Ramakrishna Ashram Circle to Vysaraja Mutt Junction, Vysaraja Mutt Junction to Gandhi Bazaar Circle, and Gandhi Bazaar Circle to Tagore Park.

Key Strategies:

- Pedestrianization: Between Tagore Park and Vysaraja Mutt Junction, with emergency access maintained.
- Traffic Management: Rerouting buses via KR Road, Vani Vilas Road, and Bull Temple Road; restricting goods delivery to off-hours (9 pm–7 am).
- Sustainable Mobility: Electric shuttle services to Lalbagh and National College Metro Stations, bicycle tracks, auto stands, and EV parking.
- Public Transport Integration: Bus stops at Ramakrishna Ashram and Tagore Circle.
- Traffic Calming: Table-top intersections at key junctions for pedestrian safety.

Key Features of the Plan

Street Activities

- Retention of long-term vending zones, organized back-to-back with pedestrian walkways.
- Provision for temporary and festival-time vending, with designated zones to minimize conflicts.
- Cultural and social gathering spaces near heritage spots, trees, and parks.
- Recreational activity supported by enhanced greenery and seating.
- Managed outdoor display zones for shops to ensure visibility and vibrancy without obstructing pedestrians.

Public Facilities

- Amenities: Toilets, day-care, library/community hall, and healthcare facilities.
- Street Furniture & Lighting: Human-scale lighting in pedestrian areas and taller lights in parking zones.

Access & Transport

- Pick-up/drop-off points every 150m, serviced by electric vehicles.
- Structured parking zones for two-wheelers, four-wheelers, EVs, and bicycles near intersections.
- Loading/unloading facilities with ramped access for goods vehicles during off-hours.

Waste Management

- Segregated collection of dry and organic waste.
- Designated waste pick-up points with provisions for feeding cattle with floral/organic waste.

- Restrictions on large waste collection trucks entering pedestrianized zones.

Street & Junction Design

The DPR provides detailed designs for street cross-sections and major junctions, including:

- Tagore Park Circle – social space, auto stand, food trucks, and metered parking.
- Gandhi Bazaar Circle – pedestrian-friendly redesign with restricted vehicle access.
- Vysaraja Mutt Junction – table-top intersection, social space, and auto stand.
- Ramakrishna Ashram Circle – enhanced public spaces, bus stops, and two-wheeler parking.

All sections integrate landscaping, pedestrian pathways, vending platforms, social spaces, and mobility infrastructure, ensuring smooth coexistence of commerce, culture, and mobility.

Implementation & Management

The project emphasizes flexibility and adaptability in design to accommodate festivals, high footfall, and changing urban needs. Management strategies include:

- Vendor regulation through the Town Vending Committee.
- Parking fee systems to regulate vehicular access.
- Scheduled logistics and waste collection operations.
- Heritage-sensitive design guidelines to protect trees and historic features.

Conclusion

The Gandhi Bazaar Spatial Infrastructure Plan reimagines a heritage-rich market street as a model for sustainable, people-centric urban development. By balancing heritage conservation, economic activities, mobility, and ecological features, the project provides a replicable framework for other traditional markets in Bengaluru and across India.