

*The following essay was originally written by Annapurna Sinharay for QRIUS.com on March 3, 2018, for the Country of India Transportation Minister. Terry Brown has edited this document to reflect travel in the United States and American tendencies.*

Intermodal Stations is a commonly used term for terminal infrastructure that is built with the purpose of integrating different transport options, such as rail, road, mass transit, bus, and taxis. The idea is to make it possible for people to move from one mode of transportation to another seamlessly, and with the minimum use of private vehicles.

## **The concept of integrated transport**

There was a time when different transportation modes existed entirely independently. They were disparate and hence unconnected. However, with the passage of time and the emergence of Urban Studies as a discipline, the need to integrate these transportation networks is better understood now.

The intermodal concept of transport supports the integration of related transportation modes. It is a movement that aims to effectively connect railways with other transportation modes with rail stations functioning as transport interchanges.

Intermodal Stations are being planned around the development of the road network. Such planned development makes transport linkages appear more attractive for commuters and intercity travelers in comparison with other private transportation options, thus expanding the reach of public transport.

## **Intermodal Stations in practice**

These stations are designed to fulfil the needs of commuters for the next few decades. Depending on the needs of the individual station, the design of these spaces may also include add-on functions such as convenience stores, restaurants, other general retail, and commercial establishments. Modern real estate investors have also contributed with housing, both rentals and tenant owned condominiums. New developments should also make provisions for disabled passengers.

## **Why are such projects important?**

Intermodal Stations are more useful for further development than standalone terminals. The amenities are better operated due to the group effort of several bodies. Fully developed Intermodal Stations have the potential to offer additional value to passengers regardless of the mode used, saving time and money spent by passengers either going from terminal to terminal, or terminal to external shopping environments. Commercial developments also receive a boost from the consolidated higher passenger traffic, which in turn boosts economic activity in cities. A well developed, diversified Intermodal Station can significantly alter the socio-economic landscape of a community.

In many cities today, transport hubs like bus terminals, railway stations, airports and others are located far from each other. Inter-modal transfers add pressure on the already congested roads. By bringing the different transport modes at one-point, Intermodal Stations will reduce congestion on roads and also vehicular pollution.”