



This report draws from the City-Level Capacity Building Workshop on Net-Zero Cities and Urban Climate Actions, held under the *Inclusive Net Zero Transport in Cities of Gujarat* project, jointly organized by UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre, Ahmedabad University, IIT Delhi, and GUDM – Government of Gujarat. The workshop brought together government officers from Rajkot, along with sector experts and community representatives, to strengthen municipal capacity for climate governance. It introduced the project's comprehensive approach, including the ERASIE (Enhance–Retain–Avoid–Shift–Improve–Eliminate) framework, GHG inventory tools, and strategies for land-use and transport emissions mitigation. Participants engaged in reviewing preliminary findings from primary and secondary data collection, providing valuable feedback to refine the project's strategy and advance inclusive, low-carbon mobility pathways aligned with the Viksit Gujarat 2047 vision and India's 2070 Net-Zero target.



Capacity Building Workshop on Net Zero Cities and Urban climate action

Report 2025

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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We also express our heartfelt gratitude to Ahmedabad University and its facilities: Events & Conference team, Travel Desk team, Reprographics team, Procurement team, Finance team, Communications team, and Admin team of School of Arts & Sciences, for enabling the workshop.

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Climate Action and Net-Zero in Cities
Draft Agenda for Workshop – August 7th, 2025
Venue: Marasa Sarovar Portico, Rajkot

Speaker	Presentation	Time
Registration and Tea: 9:30 - 10:00		
Inaugural Session: 10:00 – 11:45 <i>Session Moderator: Dr. Deepty Jain</i>		
Welcome Speech	Prof. Darshini Mahadevia (Project Lead Net Zero Transport)	10:00-10:05
Inaugural Address	Shri Tushar D. Summera (IAS) <i>Municipal Commissioner, Rajkot Municipal Corporation</i>	10:05-10:10
Learnings from Rajkot- Challenges & Potential for Net-Zero	Dr. Deepty Jain, TRIPP Center, IIT Delhi	10:10 – 10:30
Presentation: Potential Net-Zero Strategies from Case study of Rajkot Hands-On Exercise: Exploring Scenarios and its Effectiveness for Net-Zero Transport for Four Cities of Gujarat – Understanding travel data to assess effectiveness of alternate scenarios. – Defining strategies for achieving best-fit scenario. – Acceptability of alternate strategies and scenarios for NetZero transport – Scenario-based assessment using worksheet	IIT Delhi Team	10:30 – 11:15
Open Discussion		11:15 – 11:45
Tea Break: 11:45 – 12:00		
Hands-On Session: Land-use & Transport Emission Model – Excel Based Model	Net-Zero Transport Conceptualization (Need & Approach) Dr. Munshi and Dr. Jain	12:00 – 13:00
Group Presentations	Net-Zero Policies & Programs – National, State & City-level Insights	13:00 - 14:00
Lunch Break: 14:00 - 14:45		
Closing Ceremony & Certificate Distribution	Project Team, GUDI Team & Dignitaries	14:45 – 15:30



Capacity Building Workshop
Net Zero Cities and Urban Climate Action 7th August 2024
A collaborative effort focusing on an inclusive approach for achieving Net-Zero emissions in the transport sector.
VENUE: MAHALA SARDAR PORTRAIT, RAJKOT

Capacity Building Workshop
Net Zero Cities and Urban Climate Action
A collaborative effort focusing on an inclusive approach for achieving Net-Zero emissions in the transport sector.
• Building foundational understanding of climate change
• Prioritizing action for sustainable urban transport systems
• City specific strategies for achieving Net-Zero emissions in the transport sector
• Enhancing the role of women in the transport sector
• Sustainable urban transport systems
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Net Zero Cities and Urban Climate Action

The project ‘Inclusive Net-Zero Transport in Cities of Gujarat’ emphasizes an inclusive approach for achieving net zero emissions within the transport sector. The project is a collaborative effort between Ahmedabad University, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, and UNEP Climate Centre Copenhagen (UNEP CCC). The project is funded and supported by UNEP CCC. The project objectives include developing a detailed approach and methodology, studying the existing transport scenario, and proposing a scenario-based net zero plan for the case city of Rajkot.

The transport sector is a major contributor (10%) of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, with road transport alone accounting for 70% of total urban transport emissions. A sustainable and net-zero transport scenario in Indian cities requires a paradigm of **enhance-retain-avoid-shift-improve-eliminate framework**; that is, **enhance** mobility of those not experiencing one now, **retain** current low trip lengths, **avoid** motorized trips for all, **shift** to public transport and non-motorized transport, and **improve** technology of motorized vehicles. Additionally, net-zero transport needs to interface with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as highlighted in various Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports. The 1.5°C Report and Assessment Report Six of the Working Group III indicates that climate change mitigation efforts must aim to achieve the SDGs. Hence, the former must be assessed for their synergies and conflicts with the latter.

The project approach and methodology aim to achieve net-zero urban transport in Indian cities, in the context of mobility-poverty, through a low-carbon transportation system that improves access for underserved populations. The project outlines three scenarios for 2030, 2040, and 2050: Business as Usual (BAU), a Technology Scenario for Net-Zero Emissions, and an Inclusive Net-Zero Emissions Scenario. The 2050 scenario is expected to link with the ‘Viksit Gujarat 20457’ vision, whereas India’s commitment is to achieve net-zero by 2070. Effective implementation of this plan, require definition of net-zero and net-zero transport within the Indian context, developing pathways for inclusive transport solutions, and creating indicators to track progress.

Project Partners:

- School of Arts and Sciences, Ahmedabad University
- Transportation Research and Injury Prevention (TRIP) Centre, IIT Delhi
- UNEP Climate Centre Copenhagen

Dr. Darshini Mahadevia (Project Lead), Prof. Geetam Tiwari (IIT Delhi), Prof. Deepty Jain (Project Coordinator, IIT Delhi) and Ms. Saumya Lathia¹ form the core project team placed at

¹ Ms. Saumya Lathia is currently employed as a Chief Minister’s Fellow with the Urban Development Department, Government of Gujarat. She continues to engage with the project in an Honorary capacity.

Ahmedabad University and IIT Delhi, India. UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre supports and funds the project. The project is grounded in the city of Rajkot in Gujarat, and is conducted in coordination with Rajkot Municipal Corporation officials.



Introduction to the Workshop

This workshop, held on August 7, 2025, was to share the results of the Rajkot Net-Zero Transport project with the city government officials. This workshop was jointly held by Gujarat Urban Development Institute (GUDI), Rajkot Municipal Corporation (RMC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Copenhagen Climate Centre, Ahmedabad University, and Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IITD).

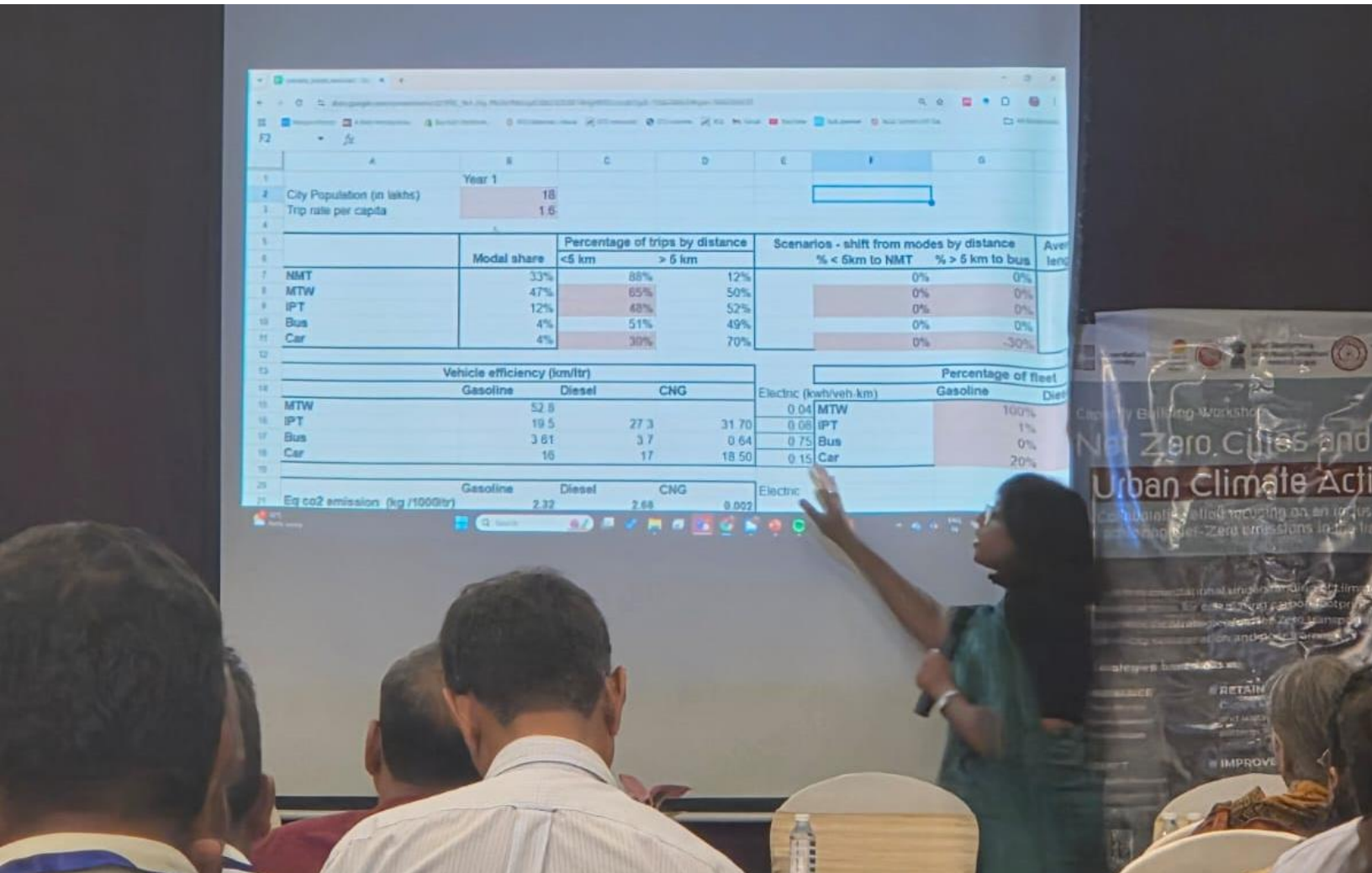
In the inaugural introduction part, Prof. Darshini Mahadevia of Ahmedabad University stated that besides sharing the outputs of our transport modeling, in this workshop we also endeavour to present to the city the City Transparency Tool (CTT), which the city officials themselves can use, feed data, and generate scenario. Prof. Mahadevia also stated that the project team will share the city level data, the primary survey, and then the data related to the scenarios with the RMC.

In the inaugural session, Prof. Darshini Mahadevia, the Principal Investigator (PI) of the whole project, welcomed the Rajkot Municipal Commissioner, Shri. Tushar D. Summera (IAS) and Deputy Commissioner, RMC, Shri Manish Gurnani (IAS), Deputy Municipal Commissioner Mr. Nandani, and Deputy Municipal Commissioner, Shri H. R. Patel to the workshop. Prof. Mahadevia welcomed Shri Summera with a bouquet. Prof. Mahadevia thanked GUDI and GUDI's Director General, Shri I P Gautam, GUDI's Director Dr. Rajshree Swaminathan, Government of Gujarat, Rajkot Municipal Corporation, in particular Shri Summera, and Shri Gurnani for arranging this workshop. She also mentioned that Shri Gurnani was present for two days in the Gandhinagar Workshop.

Prof. Mahadevia introduced the net zero project and stated that besides training the RMC officials for the use of City Transparency Tool (CTT), so that they can calculate the emissions from transport and monitor the progress, we will be sharing with the RMC the net-zero transport strategies and a brief policy paper. She stated that given that India has committed to Net-Zero by 2070, Gujarat has followed this call, and declared all cities as Net-Zero, this exercise for Rajkot is pioneering and very useful for the city. Other cities in Gujarat can follow Rajkot's example.

Shri Summera, gave a very inspiring slogan of setting up non-negotiable targets and action plans for the city, which would be bold enough to meet the net-zero goal for the city. He also said that if other countries can progress and deliver on net-zero transport, why can't Rajkot and other cities in Gujarat not be able to do so. He said that some of the non-negotiable actions for Rajkot city would be providing continuous cycle lanes, continuous and well useable footpaths, low-emission zones, waste picking and recycling, etc. He also said that people are not cycling in Rajkot because of lack of infrastructure. Further, he stated that the focus of Rajkot's 2025-26 budget is 'Livable Rajkot', wherein various parameters of liveability have been identified and budgetary provision made to reach the targets.

The first technical session was on the presentation of Rajkot city's transport model by Dr. Deepthy Jain. Dr. Jain showed the transport model for Rajkot and illustrated how the emissions changed with different assumptions. She carried out an exercise with the participants to put some numbers on the different assumptions of the model and assess the emission numbers that came out of the model. This was a participatory exercise, wherein the participants could immediately assess the impact of their decisions related to mode choice promoted, infrastructure provided, and regulatory measures put in place.



In the second technical Dr. Talat Munshi presented his City Transparency Tool (CTT), showed how to navigate the tool, and showed some preliminary results. He discussed with the participants the various scenarios of the model.



After lunch, Shri Gurnani joined the workshop and distributed 'Certificate of Participation' to the workshop participants. The list of workshop participants in Annexure A.



Annexure A

List of Participants

Capacity Building Workshop on "Climate Action & Net Zero Cities" on 7th August 2025 at the Marasa Sarovar Portico, Rajkot			
Sr No.	Name of Corporation	Name of Participants	Designation
1	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	Guravani Manish, IAS	Deputy Municipal Commissioner
2	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	Jayesh Parmar	Deputy Executive Engineer
3	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	V.P. Patel	Deputy Executive Engineer
4	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	C.A. Rawal	Additional City Engineer
5	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	S.B. Chhaiya	Deputy Executive Engineer
6	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	A.K. Sisodiya	Deputy Executive Engineer
7	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	I.B. Bharai	Deputy Executive Engineer
8	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	Hetal Sorathiya	Town Planner
9	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	Bhargav Bhanvadia	Town Planner
10	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	Rohit	Deputy Executive Engineer
11	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	M.V. Ganmit	Deputy Executive Engineer
12	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	Ajay Vegad	Deputy Executive Engineer
13	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	Parmar P.S.	Deputy Executive Engineer
14	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	Kiran R. Somra	Town Planning Officer
15	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	P.D. Acharya	City Engineer
16	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	B.D. Jivaniya	Additional City Engineer
17	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	M.C. Joshi	Deputy Executive Engineer
18	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	D.N. Kapadiya	Deputy Executive Engineer
19	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	N.A. Makwana	Deputy Executive Engineer
20	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	C.L. Dhabaliya	Additional City Engineer
21	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	C.A. Srivastava	Additional City Engineer
22	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	A.B. Datani	Deputy Executive Engineer
23	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	V.C. Kark	Deputy Executive Engineer
24	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	R. B. Solanki	Deputy Executive Engineer
25	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	B.M. Bolaniya	Deputy Executive Engineer
26	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	Jay.R. Patel	Deputy Municipal Commissioner
27	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	I. H.	Deputy Executive Engineer
28	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	C.D. Thakkar	Deputy Municipal Commissioner
29	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	Mahesh Prajapati	Additional City Engineer
30	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	Jayesh	Deputy Executive Engineer
31	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	Pareesh T. Patel	Deputy Executive Engineer
32	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	B. N. Dhumechu	Deputy Executive Engineer

33	Rajkot Urban Development Authority	V.B. Savaliya	Deputy Executive Engineer
34	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	Devang Pandya	Urban Planner
35	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	M. R. Srvaraya	City Engineer
36	Rajkot Municipal Corporation / KPMG	Nirav Sanchaniya	Consultant
37	Rajkot Urban Development Authority	Rajesh Kunsaya	Deputy Executive Engineer
38	Rajkot Urban Development Authority	G.V. Mistry	CEO
39	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	Ankit Katakwar	Consultant
40	Rajkot Municipal Corporation	Dhainya Trivedi	Consultant