

Let the BEST suggestion win!

Do you want a new bus stop? What about the frequency of your bus? An NGO is inviting suggestions in shifting of relocating bus stands in Mumbai, finds **Tresha Guha**



VIVEK SARABHAKAR

Over 4,000 BEST bus stops are set to be replaced with newly designed shelters

Now that 4,386 Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) bus shelters and poles in Mumbai are set to be replaced with newly designed shelters that will have stronger roofs and seating facilities, Karmayog, an NGO based at Fort has decided to involve citizens to suggest shifting and relocating of existing bus shelters to safer and more appropriate locations, so that these can also be incorporated while the changes are being implemented. "Over the last 10 years, there have been so many changes. Roads have widened, malls have come up, schools have opened, etc. Naturally, traffic patterns have also changed and some bus stops are at places which are not so logical today. Also, new traffic lights, new flyovers, one-way streets, road dividers have changed traffic movement in the city. We felt that since BEST will be spending money on replacing bus stops, why not provide our suggestions at the correct time instead of later complaining that a particular bus stop should be relocated?" says Vinay Somani, trustee, Karmayog.

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ing invited suggestions from the public. Says A S Tamboli, spokesperson, BEST, "We don't know who has been sending these mails. We will investigate and look into the matter." General manager, Uttam Khobragade, was unavailable for comment.

Considering that the common man utilises these services everyday, it seems logical that their suggestions should be taken into consideration. Says Somani, "BEST authorities have given us a verbal approval that they will incorporate the changes as far as possible. Of course, it will involve coordination with the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM), BEST and the traffic police. It would be ideal if the BEST incorporated suggestions from conductors and BEST drivers, since they would be the perfect people for feedback. Unfortunately, I don't think they are encouraged to give feedback. Anyway, we as residents can do our bit. The timing is perfect since BEST is anyway going to spend money on the bustops. Later we should not complain."

Meanwhile residents are very happy and suggestions have been pouring in. (See Voices)

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◆ **FLY WITH BEST**

Apart from passengers, a lot of other visitors need to go to the airport (staff, relatives of passengers, etc.). I have not seen a BEST bus going near the airport's arrival and departure gates. These buses can have luggage space and it would be a hit amongst passengers from the lower economy background. With flying as cheap as travelling in a train, common people have started flying as well. Also, BEST bus stops near Mumbai Central's main station would help outstation travellers.

Jayesh Rambhia,
Breach Candy

◆ **NON-STOP SERVICE**

There should be luxurious services for non-stop travel from Nariman Point to the suburbs. Bus stands should be erected at the corner of a road and at a three-metre distance from any main road so that other vehicles don't get stuck because of the bus stand.

Santosh Joshi,
Nariman Point

◆ **BOTTLENECK AT ATRIA**

The bus stop opposite Atria

Mall on Dr Annie Besant Road must be shifted as it creates a bottleneck daily in this narrow road next to the flyover. The bus stop must be moved in front of Ceejay House or after the traffic signal.

Prakash A Thadani,
Worli

◆ **DISPLAY BUS ROUTES**

There should be tables showing the routes of various buses. Not only the buses which come to that stand, but buses on other routes too. These tables should be fixed and laminated so that they don't get damaged. Also, bus timings should be accurate. A dispenser machine to dispense 100 ml water pouch for Re 1 should be introduced at bus stops.

Jaiprakash Taparia,
Tardeo

◆ **FOB AT WORLI**

There are two adjacent bus stops for residents of Govt. Colony and Lala Lajpatrai college students, which are very convenient. However, after the road was widened, one side of the road has 3 lanes while the other has almost 5 lanes now. Also since this is

a long stretch along the Haji Ali sea face, most cars race at a very high speed. As a result, it becomes extremely difficult to cross over and make use of the bus stop. To add to that, the pedestrian traffic signal stops working after 6.30 pm. My grandmother has stopped using the bus stop completely because she simply cannot cross the road due to the fast moving vehicles.

I would request BEST to either build a FOB over the road for pedestrians to cross or simply ensure that the traffic signal works till 10 pm. This will make the journey safer, as this is a common accident spot especially during the monsoons.

Aditi Chowdhary,
Haji Ali

◆ **CAN'T STAND THE STENCH**

The present bus shelter for Route No 73 and 106 on Mama Parmanand Marg at Opera House for North bound buses is located next to a garbage dump and the smell is unbearable. Also, there are hardly any passengers who use this stop. Hence, it is suggested to can-

cel this bus shelter and the stops for the above routes be merged with other stops that are located opposite Panchratna.

Also, the present bus shelter on Dr Annie Besant Road at Worli near Podar Hospital for south-bound buses is located exactly on a pedestrian crossing. Hence, when a bus stops here, the pedestrians crossing from LIG Housing colony on the other side get stuck in the middle and face the danger of getting knocked down by the moving traffic. It is

essential that BEST shifts this stop to a safer location.

A V Shenoy,
Opera House

◆ **THE HEAT IS ON**

The bus stops on Kennedy Bridge (Ardeshir Irani Bridge) at Gamdevi are in urgent need of bus shelters. We residents would appreciate it since it will help us when we are waiting for a bus in the hot sun or during the rains.

S H Mhatre,
Gamdevi

VOICES

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VOICES

■ CONNECTIVITY NEEDED

Wadala is badly connected with Matunga and King's Circle. If new buses could be introduced, it would ease out the problems of the people in this locality. Hardly any limited buses ply here.

Neha Chheda, Wadala

■ SEATING SPACE

The condition of the bus shelters along the Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Road, between Wadala Railway Station and Sewri are very bad

and they need urgent repairs.

Also the bus shelters at Madhav Nagar, Azad Nagar and Wadala

Rly Station should be provided with seating as the frequency of buses is quite low.

Balkishen Khanna, Wadala

■ BUS TIMINGS

Bus stops should be built on footpaths, so that they don't affect vehicular flow. The stop should list bus timings.

Swapan Purkayastha, via email