

CHAPTER - 8

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

Hampi 'World Heritage site is located just 12 Kms. from Hospet urban area on Hospet –Kampli State Highway and the site is also connected by Hampi – Bellary and Koppal-Gangavathi Major distict roads. The major transportation needs of the area are originated either from rural economy or from tourism. The traffic volumes on the regional road network are a result of the two main functions overlapping, and good transport management in Hampi must pay attention to both functions. It should also be stated here that both types of traffic are potentially harmful to the monuments, i.e., the traffic generated by the agricultural and urban use of the living landscape, as well as the tourism traffic generated/attracted by the monuments.

1. PRESENT TRAFFIC PATTERNS:

(a) Rural Transport Flows:

The rural economy generates traffic movements and volumes that are directly related to the production of agricultural products. Patterns are most visible in the form of trucks and tractors transporting bananas and sugar cane out of the area, paddy to the mills, and fertilizer into the area, apart from the traditional bullock carts on all roads and tracks. Gangawati is reported to have about 80 Rice Mills (mostly small ones); and there are two sugar factories in Hospet and Gangawati. Sugar cane-harvested from presently 5,000ha amounts to 375,000 - 400,000 metric tons (data from Agriculture Office, Hospet). leading to considerable traffic movements between November and March. Assuming an average of 12 tons per truck, there would be 33,000 sugar trucks in four months, or about 8,000 trucks per month, if 50% of them passed the WHS on the roads through Kamalpur and Anegundi, there would be some 150 - 200 trucks per day from this type of seasonal traffic alone. Most of the (1,679. ha) irrigated banana plantations are also within the Heritage area. Total yields are reported to be 83,950 tons per year generating for about 8,000 trucks per year or about 25 per day, on the narrow roads. Paddy is another important crop of the area transported by tractors, bullock cart and by trucks, from the paddy fields

to the rice mills.. Paddy-related traffic would be largely on the Gangawati - Anegundi - Munirabad road. In addition to the agricultural products there is a considerable volume of fertilizer transported from the major depots in Hospet into the villages, using all kinds of vehicles. It is not possible to estimate the traffic flows due to paddy and fertilizer transport movements.

In addition to the major crop-related traffic flows, there are flows related to intra-regional trade and socio-economic needs such as visits to health, education and administrative facilities that would be largely reflected in the statistics on bus and motorcycle trips. As motorization is as yet very low in rural India, private car trips account for the smallest portions of the daily movements recorded in the annual traffic census on all major roads.

Traffic volume on selected roads in and around the World Heritage Site

| Name of the Road | Average daily traffic (both directions) by road | | | Year of Traffic Survey |
|----------------------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| | No. of Vehicles | Passenger Car Units (PCU) | Traffic Intensity (metric tons) | |
| Hospet - Kamalpur (2001) | 2,043 | 3,371 | 9,531 | February 2001 . |
| Hospet - Kamalpur (97-98) | 1,107 | 2,240 | 5,349 | 1997-98 |
| Kamlapur – Hampi | 417 | 714 | 1,270 | 1997-98 |
| Kamlapur – Kampli | 371 | 718 | 1,793 | 1997-98 |
| Gangawati – Kampli | 638* | 1,428 | 2,064 | 1997-98 |
| Gangawati - Anegundi - Munirabad | 1,406 | 2,090 | 5,635 | 1997-98 |

* Including 160 non-mechanical vehicles - the largest percentage on all road sections listed here

The increase in traffic volumes and intensity from the last traffic census to the present figures (97-98 to 2001) may be considerable, although it may not always be as dramatic as on the Hospet-Kamlapur road, i.e. almost doubling from 1,107 to 2,043 Vehicles (or 50%, increase in PCU).

(b) Tourism Traffic:

Tourism has added two types of traffic to the existing traffic flows generated by agricultural economy and settlements. There are number of trips of tourists from Hospet to the World Heritage Site. In addition to these there are trips caused by the traders catering to the tourist bazaar around Virupaksha Temple as well as the entrepreneurs who have transformed "Hampi Village" into an assembly of 'backpackers' guest houses and restaurants.

Details of Traffic at Hampi Village

| | Volumes per day | Remarks |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indian visitors on weekdays• on auspicious and holidays• Foreign visitors (mainly January to April) | 800-1,000 1,000-1,500 100 per day | |
| Vehicles from Hospet: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Autorickshas and tempos• Buses• Cars / jeeps on weekdays• Cars /jeeps on | 40 20 40 60 | No separate data on shop owners' vehicle trips |
| Vehicles from Kamalapur: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Autorickshas | 20 (3 - 4 trips per day) | Some guesthouses in Kamalapur, mainly catering to Indian visitors |

Source: H.D.Kammeier Report

Growth of Tourist Population for the year 2000
Table 5: Tourist statistics for the year 2000

| Month | Indian tourists | Foreign tourists | Total | % | Remarks |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| January | 61,621 | 1,981 | 63,602 | 13.2 | Consistent distribution of Indian and foreign tourists over the year, with a culmination in December-January, as part of the high season from October to May, with another peak in April (festival). The lowest numbers in June coincide with the hottest season. |
| February | 41,262 | 1,806 | 43,068 | 8.9 | |
| March | 40,165 | 1,067 | 41,232 | 8.6 | |
| April | 55,350 | 463 | 55,813 | 11.6 | |
| May | 41,356 | 338 | 41,694 | 8.7 | |
| June | 15,500 | 284 | 15,784 | 3.3 | |
| July | 23,700 | 444 | 24,144 | 5.0 | |
| August | 33,040 | 704 | 33,744 | 7.0 | |
| September | 21,225 | 414 | 21,639 | 4.5 | |
| October | 30,870 | 533 | 31,403 | 6.5 | |
| November | 45,450 | 1,223 | 46,673 | 9.7 | |
| December | 61,045 | 1,189 | 62,234 | 12.9 | |
| Totals | 470,584 | 10,446 | 481,030 | [99.9] | |

The growth of tourist population has been very much consistent throughout the year with December and January being the most favourite months and the June being the lowest tourists visited the World Heritage Site.

| GROWTH OF TOURIST POPULATION 2000 TO 2005 | |
|--|------------|
| YEAR | POPULATION |
| 2000 | 481030 |
| 2001 | 574622 |
| 2002 | 456946 |
| 2003 | 665564 |
| 2004 | 370258 |
| 2005 | 804893 |

The average tourists visited Hampi is 45,000 per month in 2000 to 65,000 during 2005 has been growing steadily every year. It is estimated that the number of tourist during 2021 will approximately be at 20,00,000.