Brazil: Energy Efficiency in Urban Mobility

Context: Urban Mobility in Brazil

The Brazilian vehicle fleet (including cars, motorcycles, commercial light vehicles, trucks and buses) reached more than 50 million in the last years with upwards tendency. This condition is reflected in the elevated share of road-based modes in urban trips, mainly individual ones. Due to severe traffic congestion, these are associated with high levels of resource and energy inefficiencies, for instance in terms of energy consumption per passenger/km. Urban transport systems in Brazil work at capacity limits. The situation may deteriorate considering the prospected demand increase from individual transport and the insufficient provision and integration of public transport services.

In this context, CO2 emissions from passenger transport sector are expected to reach 135.4 million tons in 2020 representing a growth of 52% compared to 2010 (PSTM, 2013). Individual transport would then be responsible for 64% of CO2 emissions, while public transports would represent 36% of CO2 emissions of passengers transport.

A-S-I approach to sustainable transport

To create cities for people instead for cars, an innovative approach to the current transport problems in Brazil is required, targeting sustainable mobility and the improved quality of life of Brazilian citizens.

One approach inspired by the principles of sustainability is ‘A-S-I’, which stands for Avoid-Shift-Improve. The approach focuses on the demand-side of urban transport. Its objectives is to create liveable cities by promoting alternative mobility solutions and sustainable transport systems that seek to achieve significant reductions of energy consumption, GHG emissions, and travel time.

Energy efficiency in transport systems results from three dimensions: the entire system (system efficiency), individual trips (trip efficiency), and vehicle technology (vehicle efficiency). These are directly linked to the A-S-I strategy: (1) Avoid the increase of transport activity and reduce current transport demand. (2) Shift to or maintain the share of environmentally friendly modes. (3) Improve the energy efficiency of transport modes and vehicle technology.
Project Objective

The objective is to improve the conditions to enhance energy efficiency in urban mobility in Brazil through better policy-making, planning and management.

Our Approach

The project Energy Efficiency in Urban Mobility (EEMU) addresses the key elements that shape urban mobility in Brazil: national policies and municipal actions.

Managing urban mobility towards energy efficiency essentially requires multiple interventions at institutional, regulatory, operational and other levels, which are subject to varying temporal and cost characteristics when it comes to their implementation. The project will thus consider the energy efficiency potential of measures over time and their demand for resources accordingly. It will further advice on the appropriate scope of actions in two pilot project cities, and disseminate promising experiences, practices and results to federal agencies and stakeholders.

EEMU is in line with the PNMMU and its synergies correspond to the national effort to reduce GHG emissions as indicated in the Sectorial Plan of Transport and Urban Mobility for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change (PSTM), legislation 12.187/2012.

Expected results

Instruments for the assessment of energy efficiency potentials and the monitoring of relevant actions in the field of urban mobility will be available.

Technical guidelines and recommendations for planning, financing, implementation and management of energy-efficient urban mobility in Brazilian cities are available.

An international and inter-sectoral network of expertise is promoted to foster knowledge transfer on energy efficiency in urban mobility.

An integrated mobility concept that incorporates energy efficiency criteria for medium-sized Brazilian cities will be ready for implementation in the pilot cities.

The project will contribute to the strengthening of technical training in the field of energy efficiency in urban mobility. Knowledge acquired from the pilot cities will spread to other Brazilian cities and within the transport sector and technical training to employers and decision-makers from the Ministry of Cities, the pilot cities and other agents will be provided.