

Perspective Plan – VISION 2025 for Barddhaman Planning Area:

Concept Paper

PROLOGUE

The Department of Architecture and Regional Planning, IIT Kharagpur has been entrusted by Burdwan Development Authority (BDA) to prepare a Perspective Plan- 2025 for the Barddhaman Planning Area (BPA), stretching over 157 Sq. Km. with a total population of 4.5 lakh in 2006. This concept paper is being floated to invite inputs from various stakeholders as a first step towards participatory planning process.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY AREA

POTENTIALS

- ◇ The planning area has developed amidst a vast agricultural hinterland producing high yielding variety of paddy, rice, wheat, mustard, and vegetables.
- ◇ Barddhaman town being the district headquarter, has recorded a high urban growth (27.35%, 1991-01). Also, being in close proximity to Kolkata Urban Agglomeration, it serves the region as a major service provider for all kinds of quality education and health facilities.
- ◇ The per capita income of BPA is relatively high (about Rs. 15,000/- p.a.) as compared to the state average (around Rs. 12,000/- p.a.) arising out of wholesale trading in agriculture surplus.
- ◇ The availability of potential land can be utilized for inviting new investment in development of specialized institutions for agricultural support services such as packaging, food processing, marketing etc.
- ◇ Endowed with cultural heritage like historical monuments, temples, mosques, and a natural setting, this region can be developed as a potential tourist destination.

THREATS

- ◇ Haphazard and uncontrolled growth may lead to incompatible land use, generation of mixed traffic, especially due to setting up of shopping malls, entertainment centres
- ◇ Wide disparity with respect to access to water, sanitation, and drainage within municipal area and adjoining fringe areas will grow if not addressed.

- ◇ Water logging, a common feature in and around the town after heavy rain.
- ◇ Increasing traffic congestion near the core areas due to rapid increase in slow and fast moving vehicles all along the old G.T. Road.
- ◇ Under utilization of vacant and fallow land may increase the pressure on urban areas.

DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Socially beneficial**
- Regionally contextual**
- Environmentally sustainable**
- Financially viable**
- Institutionally executable**
- Politically acceptable**

VISION FOR THE REGION:

- ◇ **Achieving Rural-Urban Continuum** through enhancement of complimentary role of the Bardhaman Urban Centre between the Kolkata Metropolis and Asansol- Durgapur Industrial Complex.
- ◇ Setting up **destination hubs** for attracting multi faceted investments such as agriculture food products, rice parks, transport terminals, health cities, etc. in the area to utilize the agricultural surplus generated in the fertile hinterland.
- ◇ **Positive image building** through promotion of cultural, built and natural heritage along with augmentation of the district headquarter function.

The road map to achieve the Vision will include the following:

- Preservation of distinct social fabric through an effective control mechanism with a high value of public serviceability.
- Generation of facilities and activities to support small investors, informal sector, slum inhabitants and rural migrants.
- Provision of higher service facilities to attract various investors and industrial houses.
- Improvement of transport network system for faster communication between urban centres and rural hinterland.
- Provision of decent housing for all sections of people living in the region.
- Augmentation of physical and social infrastructure, drainage, sanitation, education, health, recreation and cultural facilities.
- Framing of land policies and development proposals to eradicate bottlenecks for future developments.

- Transportation of the region to a hub of tourism through preserving and promoting the cultural heritage.
- Revamping of the institutional and administrative system to manage future urban development.

SUGGESTIVE PROJECTS

- Logistic Hub** for the prime urban center.
- Rice parks, Medium scale industries and Mini cold storage.**
- Health city, Heritage town & Software Parks** etc.
- Multi level Freeways** for better accessibility with all roadside modern facilities (PPP Model)
- Developing cheap **Para Transit Modes.**
- Development of world class **Modern Townships.**
- Temporary camps, some quality Hotels and Resorts** near the Damodar River bank.
- Revival of **Banka** riverfront for outdoor recreational purposes.
- Creating a tourist corridor connecting major areas of religious and tourist interests.
- Zones for **Multiplex, Retail-malls, Theme parks** for outdoor recreation.
- Environmental illumination** of townscape elements in the high density area of the town
- Major organized **Open spaces** like, **Urban squares**, ceremonial / **Recreational grounds**, and permanent fair grounds.
- Modernisation** and **Upliftment** of urban sanitation and solid waste management.

CONTENTS OF PERSPECTIVE PLAN

- Existing characteristics and potentials of region
 - Settlement Systems
 - Demography
 - Economic Base and Employment
 - Resource and Environmental Sustainability
 - Physical and Social Infrastructure
 - Housing and Slums
- Identification of policy issues through Participatory Approach

- Projected requirements and assessment of deficiencies
- Evaluation of alternative set of Development Strategies
- Future Growth Direction
- Investment Programmes and Priorities
- Development Management and Capacity Building

MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS

- ❑ The People
- ❑ Govt. of West Bengal, Directorate of Town Planning
- ❑ Burdwan Development Authority
- ❑ Barddhaman Municipality
- ❑ Zilla Parishad
- ❑ District Functionaries
- ❑ Representatives of Industries and Chamber of Commerce
- ❑ Foreign Investors
- ❑ Representatives of NGOs and CBOs
- ❑ Other Government Departments – GSI, ASI, etc
- ❑ Interest Groups like BDA, Directorate of T&CP
- ❑ Developers & Entrepreneurs
- ❑ Administrators & Judiciaries
- ❑ Funding Agencies
- ❑ N.G.O's & Academic Institutions
- ❑ Eminent Experts – Technocrats, Scientists, Intellectuals
- ❑ Media
- ❑ IIT Kharagpur – Planning Consultant

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