

LYARI EXPRESSWAY

Concerns and Proposals of the Urban Resource Centre

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ABSTRACT

This paper critically examines the Lyari Expressway Project which is being constructed to divert the heavy traffic load from the inner city areas of Karachi. Technical validity of the project; transparency; consultation with the stakeholders; capacity of concerned civil agencies to exercise and manage the project; implications on existing settlements that fall in the right of way; relationship of the project with the larger city planning issues and aesthetic and social repercussions are addressed in this paper. Concerns and proposals raised by Urban Resource Centre – a research based non-governmental organization are presented in a bid to study the validity of the project in comparison to other planned options available for the purpose.



EXCERPT FROM THE TEXT

If the government is desirous of saving the people living in the Lyari bed from a flood disaster, there are other ways of doing it. These alternatives should be discussed. If on the other hand, the government wishes to reduce traffic congestion, there are a number of projects whose impact would be far more beneficial than that of the Lyari Expressway. These projects include the building of a road from Tir Hatti to the Jail Roundabout reducing pressure on Guru Mandir; the completion of the Preedy Street and Korangi Road extensions; the building of inter-city and intra-city transport terminals, workshops and depots (a lot of spade work has been done already on these by the Governor's Task Force or Municipal Services) and the building of the Circular Railway and its extensions.

The Northern Bypass and the Lyari Expressway both begin and end at approximately the same locations and serve at least for port related traffic the same functions. Therefore, one can ask that after the building of the Northern Bypass, what exactly is the need for such an elaborate Expressway?

