**RELEASE: Officials from UP cities join hands with experts,   
discuss improving public transport and street design**

**Lucknow, 16 December 2017:**The Government of Uttar Pradesh, in collaboration with the World Resources Institute (WRI) India, initiated a two-day workshop in Lucknow on Saturday, aimed at sharing expertise on public transport and street design.

Relevant departments from Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Allahabad and other major UP cities participated in the discussions around global best practices on transformational street design and effective public transportation services. The workshop provided hands-on guidance towards reimagining streets and helped create a framework for designing, implementing and augmenting city bus services in cities across the state.

The bus industry across India has seen a heartening growth in numbers in the past five years, with implementation of new advancements in technology, service financing methods and management techniques. The discussions brought out that there seems to be a paradigm shift towards public transport, with strengthened policies and investment, and formal systems of high quality and capacities.

Speaking about improving street infrastructure and public bus services in the state, **Mr.** **Rajive Kumar**, Chief Secretary, UP Government, said, “More roads and flyovers are not the solution to the traffic congestion cities face today. Integration of mobility planning, land use and urban planning is important for developing inclusive cities.”

WRI India works towards making Indian cities compact, connected and coordinated by inspiring safe, affordable and sustainable mass transit, and improving street design. In UP, the team will work with the government to build capacity, provide technical support and share best practices in public transport, along with implementation of pilot projects across some of the busiest cities in the state.

“The next decade requires focus on precise and system-wide improvements. The call of the hour is to maintain public transport mode shares and introduce operational, infrastructural, technological, marketing and financing innovations to double this share. It is universally recognized that for cities to be liveable, walking, cycling and public transport must be an integral part of development,” said **Dr. OP Agarwal**, CEO, WRI India.

WRI India will also help reimagine streets in UP in a manner that improves road safety, reduces pollution, promotes health and wellness, as well as inclusive development. The ‘Streets for All’ initiative is a sustained movement towards creating streets for people rather than vehicles. The overall vision is to create safe infrastructure for all categories of road users and to bring about a paradigm change – from motor vehicle-oriented street designs to a people-oriented approach.

**Mr. Amit Bhatt**, Director-Integrated Transport, WRI India, said, “Identifying the need for better bus services in the country, WRI India launched the ‘Bus Karo’ platform in 2009. Our vision is to ensure that bus transport in Indian cities comprises at least half of the modal share of all motorized trips by 2022.”

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**About WRI Inida Ross Center for Sustainable Cities**

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[WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities](applewebdata://5DE63A70-3DCF-4EB8-8679-111E8602B634/www.wricities.org) works to make urban sustainability a reality. Global research and on-the-ground experience in Brazil, China, India, Mexico, Turkey and the United States combine to spur action that improves life for millions of people.

Based on longstanding global and local experience in urban planning and mobility, WRI Sustainable Cities uses proven solutions and action-oriented tools to increase building and energy efficiency, manage water risk, encourage effective governance and make the fast-growing urban environment more resilient to new challenges.