

ABSTRACT

Walkways facilitate movement of people, and in this report a sidewalk includes any type of dedicated passage for pedestrian oriented activities. Even with pedestrians constituting a large proportion of trip makers along Nairobi's urban areas, the current practices of the local authorities underestimate the importance of walking. The urban roads and streets in a high density, mixed-use development area, have been designed taking into consideration the requirements of vehicular growth and neglecting pedestrian's needs. In cases where facilities are provided, they are either encroached by hawkers or physically obstructed by parked vehicles. Consequently, pedestrians are forced to use the road carriageway, hence increasing their frictions and making them vulnerable. In order to determine how well pedestrian walkways accommodate pedestrian movement, or how safe it is crossing the road, this study assesses the walking conditions in Nairobi's Westlands area. It evaluates the level of service of the pedestrian walkways along Peponi road, based primarily on space, speed, and density, and includes safety as a potential performance element. This study revealed that the peponi road pedestrian walkway is mainly done on the areas around Lower Kabete road towards Westgate Shopping Mall but other areas towards Kitisuru have not been done. This lead to the pedestrians competing with motorized transport for movement space thereby causing conflict. The study recommend construction of pavement showed be extended to cover the areas that are not covered previously and to make the road more uniform. This uniformity will improve the safety level of the road from its current state and equally improve the image of the Estate and the city at large given that the areas is one of the places that is frequented by international investors and diplomats. The findings of this study are compared with the planning, design and operation guidelines for pedestrian facilities and recommendations made in research studies from developed countries in an attempt to enhance pedestrian environments in Kenya.

Key words: Pedestrian Flow Characteristics, Pedestrian Level of Service, Pedestrian Space, Pedestrian Speed, Pedestrian Density, Pedestrian Walkways