

An Abstract of the Report on the Census of
Traffic taken on New Howrah Bridge.

At the suggestion of two road authorities from U.S.A., the War Transport Department of Government of India requested the Indian Statistical Institute to carry on a survey to gather information which could throw light on technical questions concerning the road approaches to and from Calcutta, through the New Howrah Bridge, which

is over 2000 ft. in length, and 101 ft. in breadth. The survey was made in May 1946 and lasted for a fortnight. It was designed to study movements of wheeled traffic of all varieties as well as pedestrians and of animals. The origin and destination of the principal types of such traffic in so far as such information could be ascertained without interruption to traffic was also recorded.

Over 400 persons mostly college students, were engaged ^{in this survey}. They worked in three shifts of eight hour each. Two counting stations were set up at each end of the bridge, each to enumerate traffic moving in a particular direction. Thus both outgoing going and incoming traffic were counted twice at two ends of the bridge, ^{and to have a check on the result} to ensure accuracy. Each investigator at a counting station is required to ^{account} ~~amount~~ for a particular type of traffic only. In case of pedestrians whenever individual counting was impossible, it was based on estimations in multiples of 50.

It is found out that about 26,000 vehicles of different types use the bridge daily, which implies an annual volume of nearly 10 million vehicles. This traffic is divided in nearly equal proportions moving in ~~xxx~~ either direction. More than 50% of the vehicles are driven by petrol or electricity, about 37 are drawn by human agencies and the rest

- consisting of two foot ways each, 15 ft width on either side, two bullock cart tracks close to each curb, of ~~four~~ ^{two} each of 9 ft each, two tramway tracks in the center of the roadway and two fast traffic lanes in each direction between the bullock cart tracks and the tramways.

are by animals. Nearly ~~two-thousands~~^{two-thirds} of the vehicles are mainly for the transport of passengers and the rest are mainly for transport of goods. About 1000 buses and 600 trams are observed to ply daily between Calcutta and Howrah railway station, in addition to 4500 vehicles of other types. About 7,500 vehicles daily proceed beyond or come from places beyond the Howrah railway station. Most of this traffic appears however to terminate at the industrial areas of Sibpur, Howrah, Belur and Lilooah. Nearly one lakh of pedestrians use the bridge daily, and about 1,500 animals are found daily either straying in or led on the bridge.

The total daily traffic load on the bridge is estimated at 100,000 tons. During the ^{hour} ~~month~~ of the maximum traffic density, as many as 124 vehicles estimated to weigh about 300 tons are found to be on the bridge at a single instant.

Considered by days of the week ~~at~~ it was ^{is} observed that traffic on Sundays ~~was~~ the lowest having about 72% of the average days' traffic. On the other days, it varies from 102% to 109% of the average. The total traffic on the bridge exhibits two peak hours at 11 a.m. to 12 ~~noon~~ and 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. ^{at} each period the traffic amounting to about 8% of the day's entire traffic. It is found to be very low from mid-night to dawn. Hourly average of the traffic ^{at this period} being ~~at~~ about 0.5% of the total traffic of 24 hours.