

MAKING TAMIL NADU'S CITY FUTURE-READY: MOBILITY, AS LIVED AND HEARD



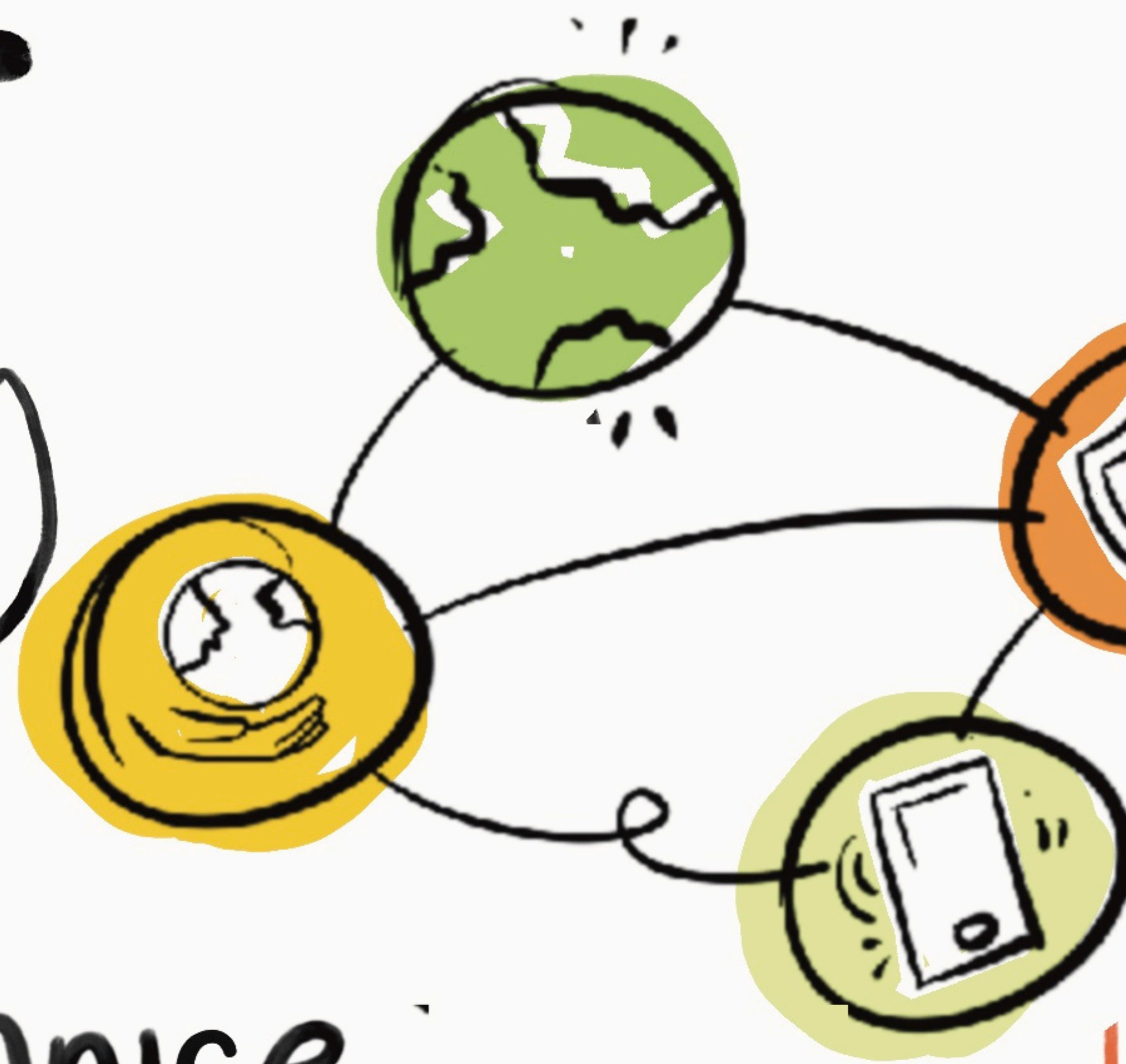
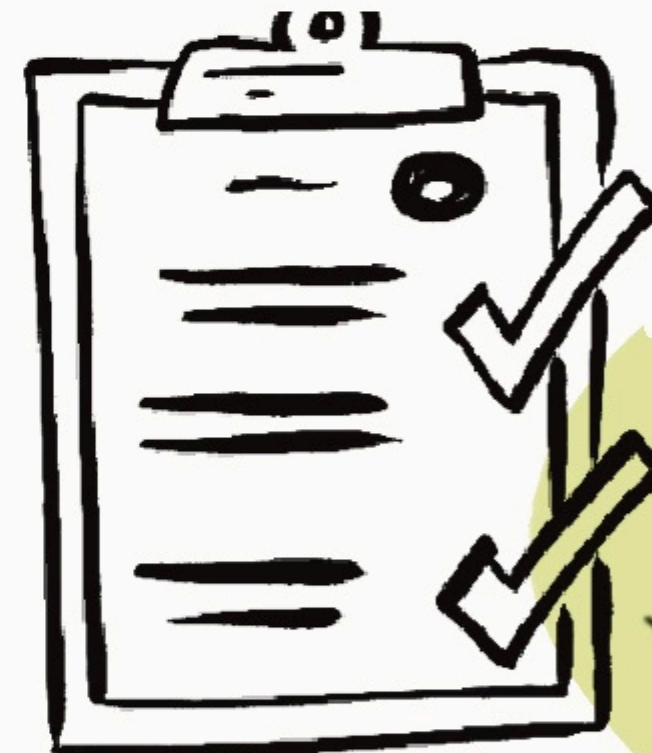
OUR INTENT

PRIMARY INTENT

TO LEGITIMIZE AND HUMANISE
DATA WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE.

TO HIGHLIGHT THAT POLICY
RECOMMENDATIONS ARE
STRONGEST WHEN THEY
ARE CO-CREATED WITH
THE CITIZENS.

TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN
RESEARCH AND REALITY.



SECONDARY INTENT

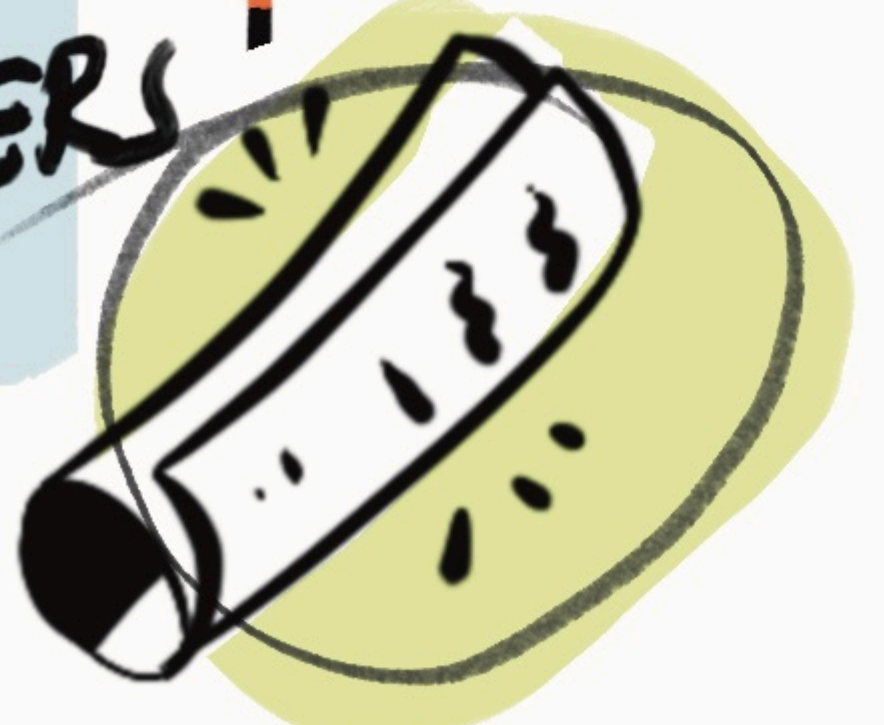
TO ADVOCATE FOR A
PARADIGM SHIFT IN
GOVERNANCE

TO DEMONSTRATE THE
VALUE OF CONVENER

TO EMPOWER CITIZEN
AND VALIDATE THEIR ROLE

TO CREATE A SENSE OF
URGENCY AND SHARED
OWNERSHIP

TO ISSUE A CONCRETE CALL
TO ACTION FOR POLICYMAKERS



THE CURRENT SITUATIONS

- URBAN MOBILITY HAS BEEN A **TECHNOCRAT EXERCISE**
- CONFERENCE HAPPEN "NAMESAKE"



WHERE DOES THE MONEY ACTUALLY GO?

70%
BUDGET

CHENNAI
COIMBATORE
ERODE

GO TO VEHICLE CENTRIC
FLYOVERS AND ROAD
CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

30-50%

OF ROAD
ACCIDENTS
FATALITIES
ARE PEDESTRIANS
IN CHENNAI &
COIMBATORE

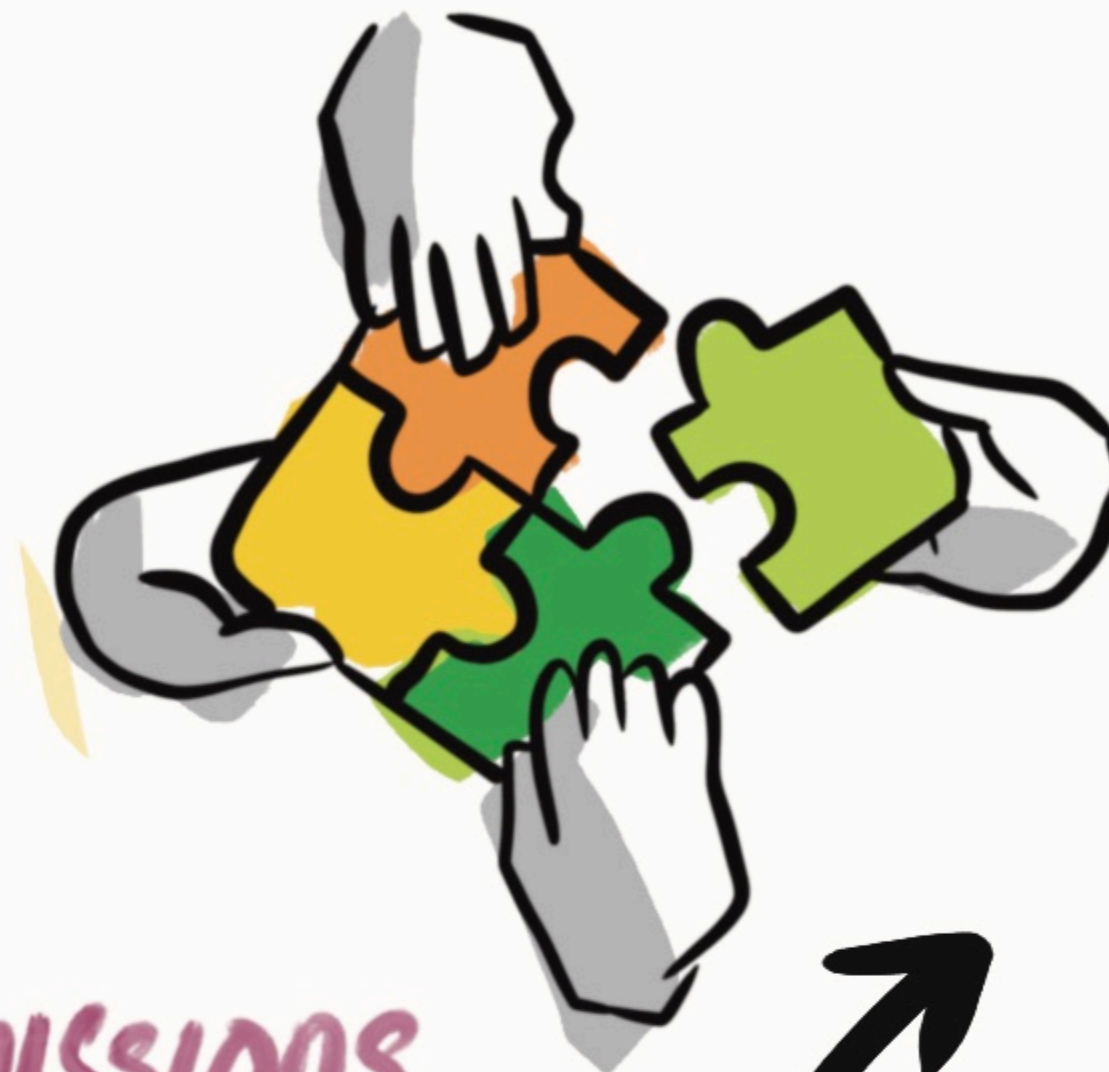


OF CITY EMISSIONS
COME FROM
TRANSPORT-
CAR CENTRIC
ROAD MAKES
IT WORSE

1/3

10 OBSTRUCTIONS
PER 100M ON
FOOTPATHS, FACED
BY A SCHOOL CHILD
in chennai

WORKS AGAINST TAMIL NADU'S
CLIMATE COMMITMENTS.



CITIZENS ARE NOT
JUST USERS; THEY
ARE EXPERTS IN
THEIR OWN LIVED
EXPERIENCE



ENGAGING CITIZENS
IS ESSENTIAL
TO ACHIEVING
TAMIL NADU'S
2031 LIVEABILITY
VISION



WHAT WE ATTEMPTED



STEP 1:

WHAT IF WE GET RESEARCHER AND THE PEOPLE INTO A ROOM TO

LISTEN?



RESEARCH MET REALITY: USING DATA TO SPARK A DIALOGUE



STEP 2:

CITIZEN CONVENING SPACE TO LISTEN, LEARN AND CO-CREATE A VISION FOR T.N

OUR PROCESS

OUR PHILOSOPHY



EMPOWER WITH INFORMATION



LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND



VALIDATE AND AMPLIFY



DESIGNED INTERACTIVE EXERCISES TO SOCIALISE THE PRIORITIES DOCUMENT AND MOVE CONVERSATIONS FROM COMPLAINTS TO SOLUTION



LISTENED TO 40+ CITIZEN VOICES
SYNTHESIZED THEIR DEMANDS, CAPTURED IT INTO



THIS DOCUMENT: THE DIRECT RESULT OF THE CITIZEN CONVENING

CREATION OF TN URBAN MOBILITY PRIORITY 2031.
SHARED KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS IN AN ACCESSIBLE, NON-JARGON WAY.

SHARED KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS OUR LIVED EXPERIENCES



WALKING
ON STREET
HAS BECOME
UNSAFE !!



PUBLIC
TRANSPORT
IS MORE OF
AN INDIVIDUAL
EXPERIENCE



PUBLIC
TRANSPORT
IS NOT
ACCESSIBLE
TO ELDERLY
PEOPLE OR
PEOPLE WITH
DISABILITY.



I NEED TO SEE
BETTER
BEHAVIOURAL
SENSE OF
PUBLIC ON
THE STREET

INEXPENSIVE
EFFICIENT
TRANSPORT
SYSTEM



WITHOUT
AUTO THERE
IS NO
LAST
MILE
CONNECTIVITY!

WHEN FOOTPATHS
ARE BLOCKED
WALKING STOPS
BEING A CHOICE



PEOPLE CAN'T
EVEN PAY AFFORD
10-15 ₹ ON SHARED
AUTO HENCE
BUS IS CRITICAL



CIVIC
SENSE!!



DESIGNED INTERACTIVE EXERCISE TO MOVE BEYOND COMPLAINTS

OUR INTERACTIVE PROCESS

THEMATIC STATIONS
SET UP BASED ON
TN URBAN
PRIORITIES

MORE PUBLIC
TRANSPORT

CLEAN URBAN
MOBILITY

SAFE STREETS

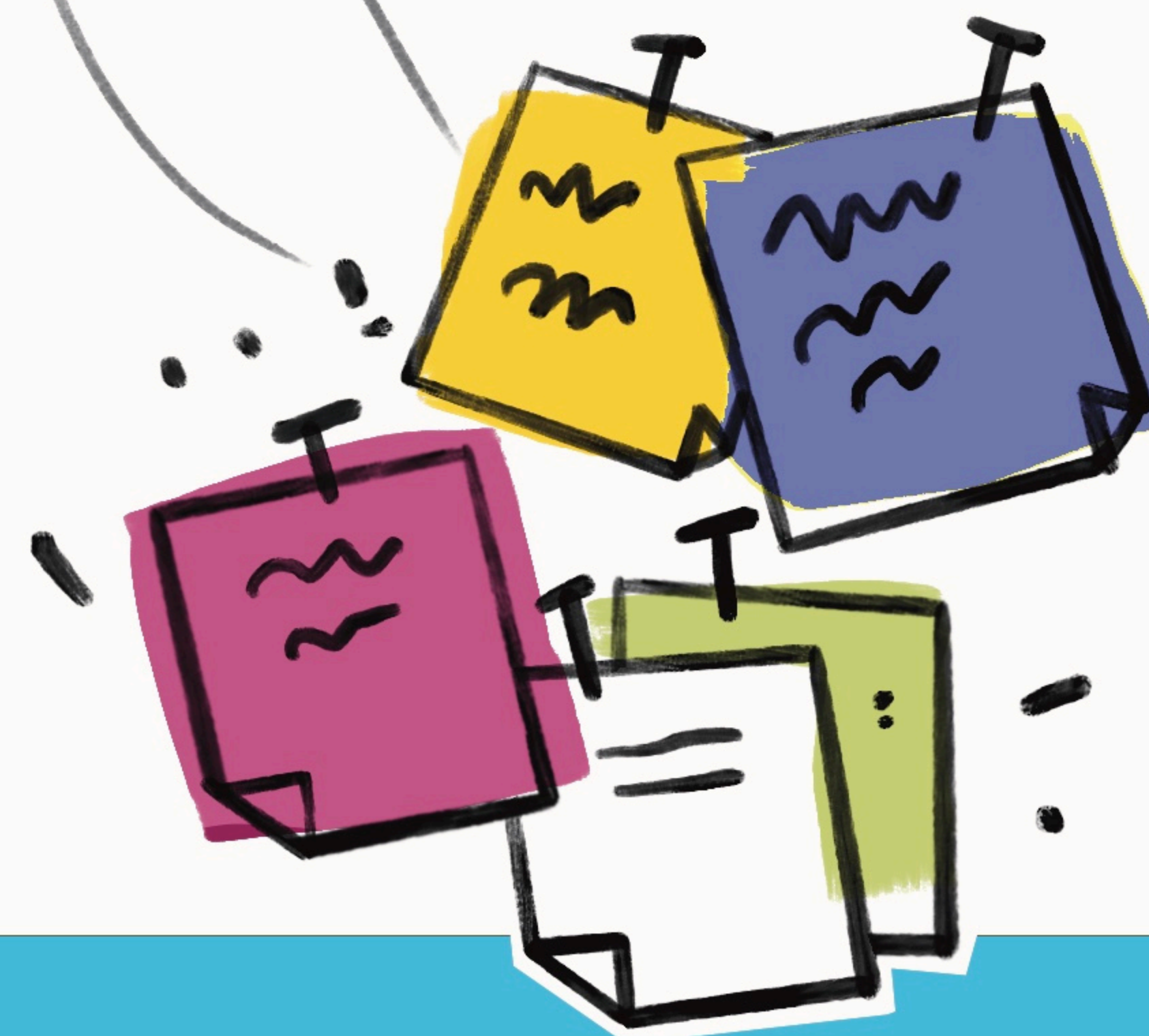
PEOPLE CENTRIC
GOVERNANCE

DISCUSSED THE DATA
AT EACH STATION;
SPARKING TALKS
ROOTED IN EVIDENCE
AND LIVED EXPERIENCE



CITIZENS ALSO
WROTE THEIR
OWN DEMANDS
ON STICKY NOTES

RAW,
PERSONAL
AND SPECIFIC



CLUSTERED & DISCUSSED

DISCUSSIONS FLOWED
ACROSS THEMATIC AREAS
AND ORGANISERS CAPTURED
COMMENTS AND
GROUPED THE
RECOMMENDATIONS



THIS IS HOW TN URBAN
PRIORITIES
WERE VALIDATED AND
ENRICHED



PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

COMFORT BEGINS
WHEN WE DON'T
NEED TO SEARCH
FOR INFORMATION.

EVERY TRIP
FEELS UNCERTAIN

DATA DRIVEN
DECISION
MAKING
SHOULD BE
IN PLACE

↑
RISING CASES OF
HARASSMENT

SAFETY OF
WOMEN IN
PUBLIC
TRANSPORT
NEEDS TO BE
STRENGTHENED

ee I DON'T
TRUST EARLY
MORNING
OR LATE
NIGHT TRAVEL
BY BUSES!



DATA EXISTS
BUT IT IS
POORLY NARRATED

POPULAR MEDIA SHOWS
PUBLIC TRANSPORT
CONNECTED TO CERTAIN
DEMOGRAPHIC

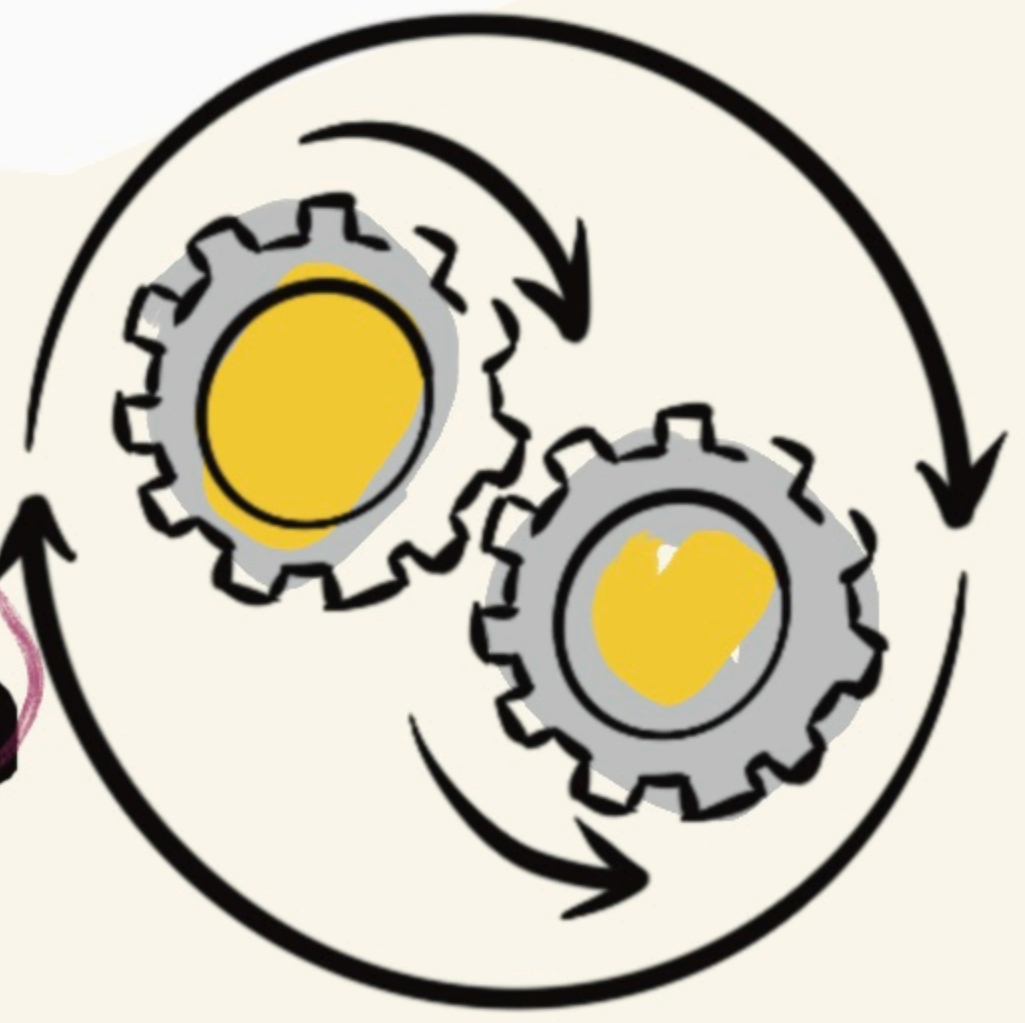
WE CAN'T
BE EVERYWHERE
HENCE, LAST
MILE CONNECTIVITY
IS NON-NEGOTIABLE

BUSES ARE
NOT PWD
FRIENDLY



ACCESSIBLE
FOR ALL?

WE NEED
SHARED
OWNERSHIP
TO CHANGE
NARRATIVE



PUBLIC
TRANSPORT
DECIDES
HOW MUCH
TIME I HAVE
WITH MY
FAMILY

ee I AM ALREADY
TIRED BEFORE I
REACH OFFICE



FUNCTIONALITY

SALES
TAX

GOVERNANCE

TRAFFIC
CONCESSIONS

EMOTIONAL
LENS

MISALIGNED
INITIATIVE

CLEAN MOBILITY



ARE WE DESIGNING
CLEAN MOBILITY
FROM THE POV OF
ONE SPECIFIC
SECTION OF THE
CITY



AUTO DRIVERS
BURDENED
BY REPETITIVE
FUEL TRANSITION
EV SHIFT HAMPERED
BY HIGH COST AND
POOR CHARGING
INFRA

TRANSPORT IS THE
LAST THING WE SPEAK
WHEN WE TALK ABOUT
CLIMATE ACTION

ISN'T IT A
GOVERNANCE
ISSUE?

CLEAN
OPTIONS ARE
NOT
AFFORDABLE
FOR ALL



WE ARE SLOWLY
MOVING TOWARDS
SAME AQI LIKE
DELHI AND
BENGALURU



BUT
CLEAN MOBILITY
DOES NOT ONLY
MEAN ELECTRIC
VEHICLES (EV)



BUT ALSO

IS EV TRANSITION
ACCESSIBLE AND
AFFORDABLE?

VEHICLES ARE
NOT WHEEL
CHAIR FRIENDLY

WE NEED
HYPER LOCAL
SOLUTIONS

QUICK DELIVERY
COMMERCE IS
SHIFTING TO
EV.

FIX WALKING
AND CYCLING
ISSUES REST
WILL FOLLOW



UN-SAFE STREETS

PEDESTRIANS FACE
HIGH FATALITY RATES

30-50%
OF ROAD
DEATH IN
CHENNAI AND
COIMBATORE
ARE PEDESTRIANS



VERY UNSAFE
FOR VULNERABLE
GROUP OF
CITIZEN

WE HAVE A
VERY POOR &
FRAGMENTED
PEDESTRIANS
INFRASTRUCTURE



ENFORCE PEDESTRIAN
FRIENDLY STREET
DESIGN

IMPLEMENT
SAFE ROUTES
TO SCHOOLS



INTRODUCE
"WALKING
LAW"



CITY BUDGET
SHOULD PRIORITISE
STREET AND
BUSES OVER
FLYOVERS



MISALIGNED
PRIORITIES
BETWEEN CITY
AGENCIES.



MAINTENANCE
ISSUE

NARROW

BLOCKED &
BROKEN

FOOTPATH

UNSAFE
CROSSING

ENFORCEMENT
ISSUE

WHY PEOPLE
DRIVE ON
FOOTPATH?

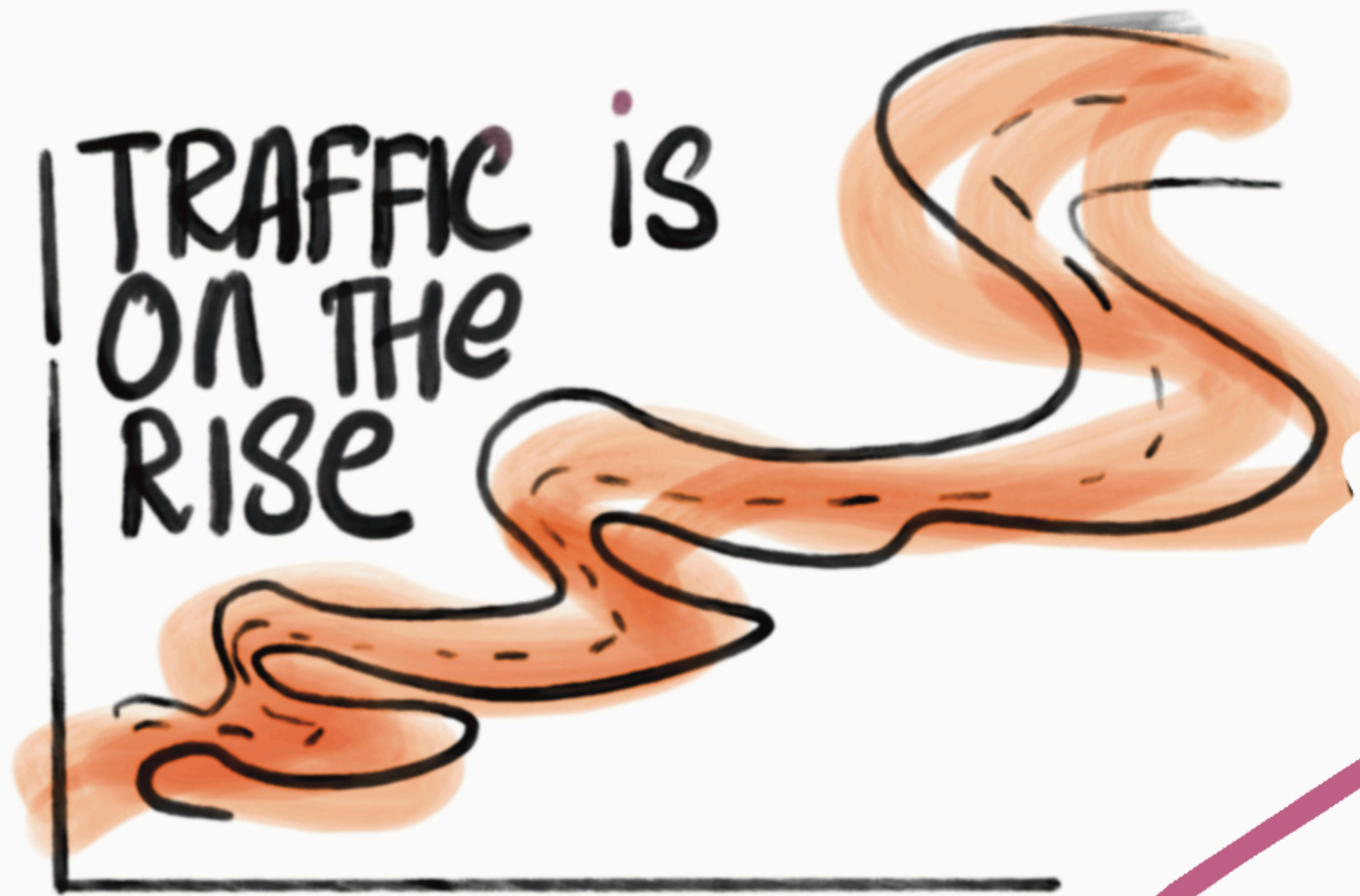


GOVERNANCE

WE ARE GOOD
AT MAKING
PLANS BUT
BAD AT
IMPLEMENTATION



TRAFFIC IS
ON THE
RISE



OUR POLICIES
ARE INFRA-HEAVY
BY DEFAULT



IT'S A FAILURE
ATTRIBUTED TO
BOTH GOVT. &
CITIZENS.

WE MUST MOVE
TOWARDS THE
CITY-LED
GOVERNANCE



UNIVERSALISING
FREE BUS TRAVEL
SHOULD BE
WELCOMED

THERE IS A
MISMATCH
BETWEEN
BUDGET &
PEDESTRIANS.

GOVT CAN'T
AFFORD MORE
BUSES, PVT. PLAYER
SHOULD BE
IN NOW



PLAN

POLICY

ACTION



IT DOESN'T END HERE

SO WHAT COMES NEXT.

PERMANENT AVENUES

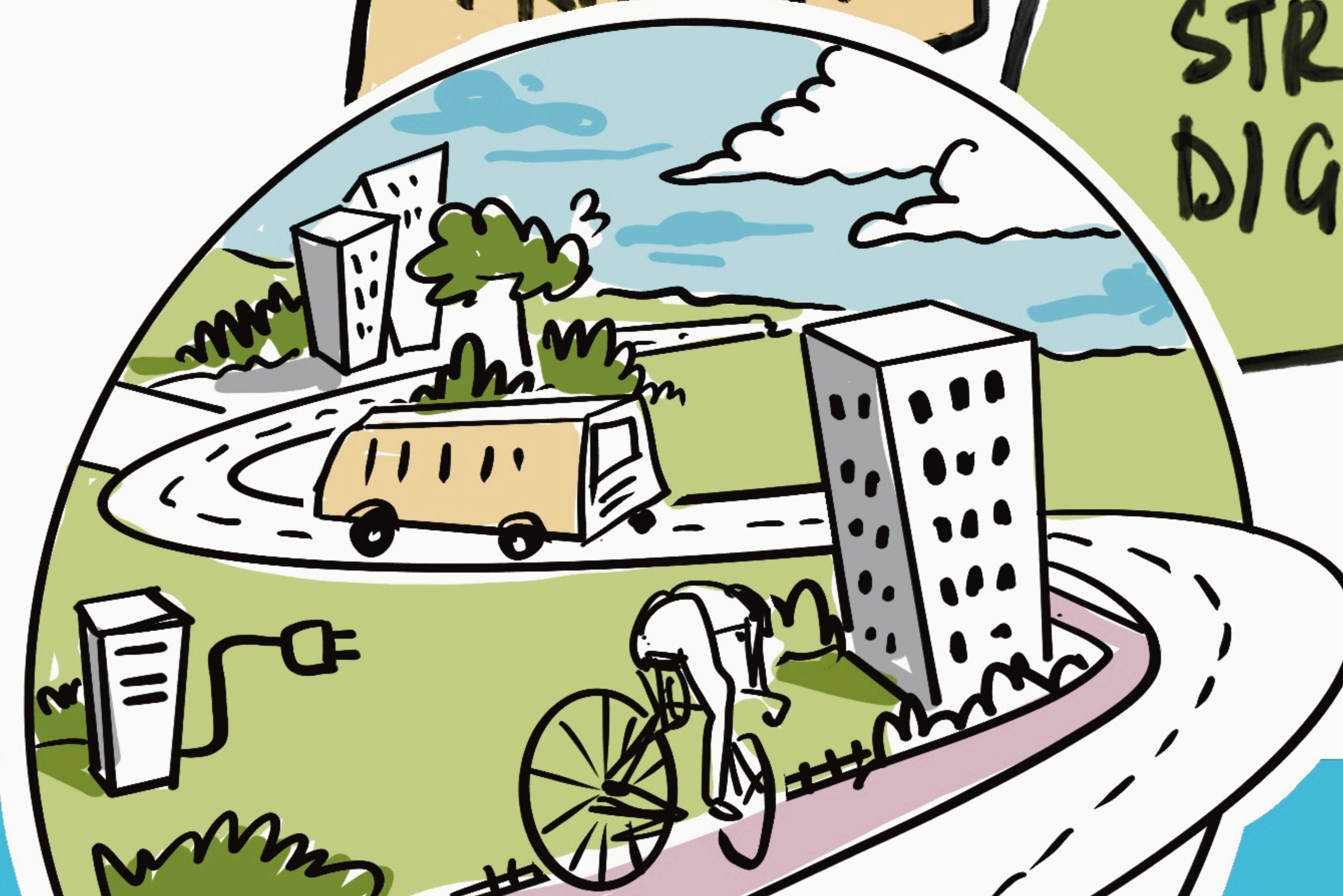
"WE NEED PERMANENT
STRUCTURED SPACES
FOR CITIZENS
ENGAGEMENT NOT
JUST BEFORE ELECTION

WE NEED

REGULAR
CITIZEN ASSEMBLIES
PARTICIPATORY BUDGETS
ACCESSIBLE FEEDBACK
PLATFORMS

TAMIL
NADU
URBAN
MOBILITY
PRIORITIES

STATE AND
CITY BUDGETS REFLECT
THE NEEDS OF THE
MANY, NOT JUST THE
SPEED OF FEW
A CHILD, WOMEN,
ELDERLY WHO CAN
WALK FREELY ON
STREETS WITH
DIGNITY



SHARED CREDITS

March 2026

Making Tamil Nadu's Cities Future-Ready: Mobility, as Lived and Heard

(This visual report was conceptualised and crafted through live graphic recording and synthesis of research presentations, data discussions, and community testimonies shared at Roundtable Discussion held in Chennai in January 2026.)



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