Rating Pedestrian Facility With P-Index And The Application of Google® Map

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Monograph No. 8
December 2010

Centre for Innovative Planning and Development
Monograph 8 (2010)
Faculty of Built Environment
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
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ABSTRACT

Walking is the most natural form of traveling. We learn to walk before we can run, cycle or drive. Unfortunately, providing adequate facilities for walking is never in the main agenda of developers and, to some extent, planners. Access to good pedestrian infrastructure is a social right of every individual similar to our rights to quality education and healthcare. The problem with pedestrian planning, however, is not due to lack of policies or standards, but it’s more due to the lack of political will to see it done. Most of this lack of political will is indirectly related to the absence of an objective method of assessing the provision of pedestrian walkways. Without such objective tools, assessments are done subjectively and, thus, are opened to query and criticisms. This research proposes a method to audit pedestrian infrastructure in the form of P-Index. Applied correctly, P-Index can be used during planning, appraisal or operation. The computation of P-Index is based on four indicators, namely Mobility, Safety, Facility and Accessibility, which collectively define what an ideal pedestrian walkway should be. Combined, the four indicators paint the true picture of the pedestrian facility. The P-Index comes together with star ratings that summarise the qualitative value of the facility, similarly to how hotels and airlines are rated. The star rating provides a layman explanation of how good (or, how bad) a pedestrian facility is. This monograph concludes with a Google® Map application which is used to visually represent these star ratings online.

1.0 PLANNING FOR PEDESTRIANS

Every single one of is a pedestrian. Walking is the oldest form of transportation mode before there are cars or even before horses were domesticated. Even drivers will have to walk when they step out of their cars. However, despite its long history and its undeniable importance,