

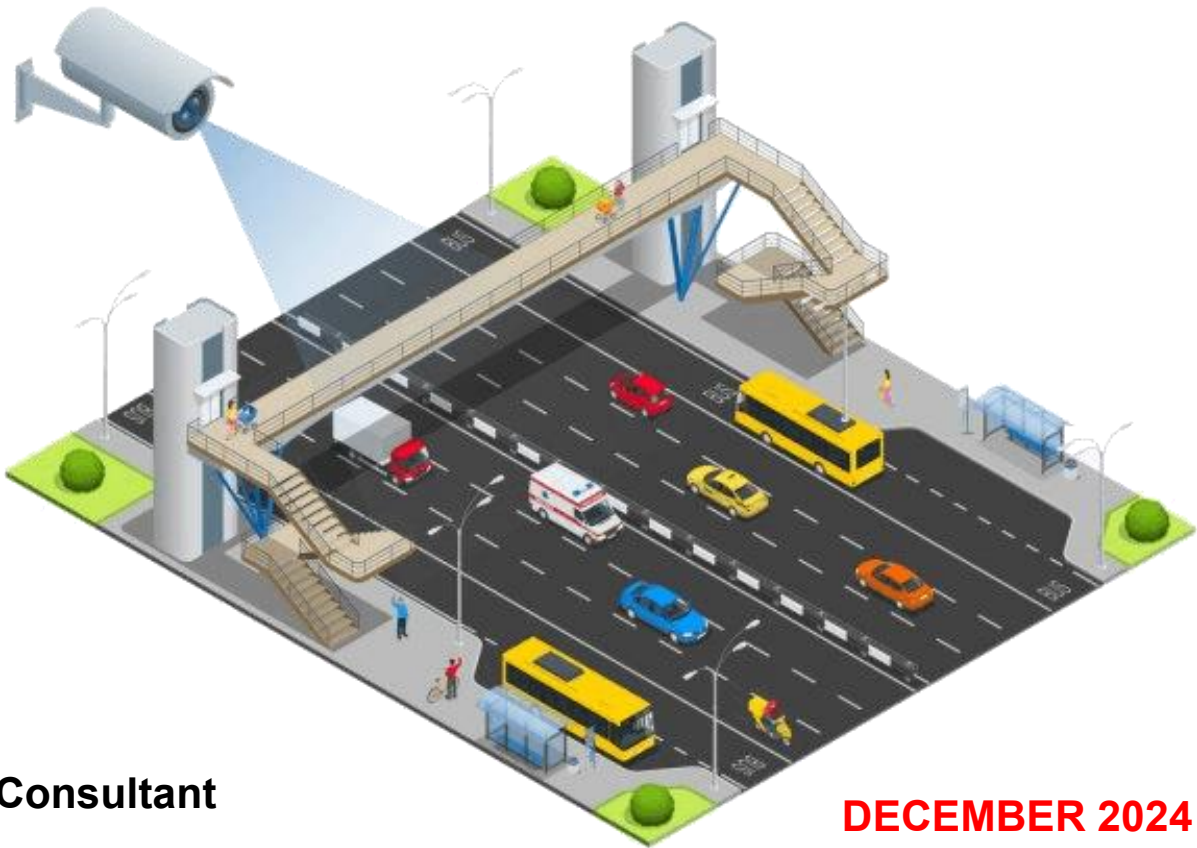


GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
**Urban Development Directorate (UDD)**



# MOBILIZATION REPORT

“Transportation Surveys for Roadways  
and Waterways; Package-03 Under  
Preparation of Development Plan for  
Meherpur Zilla Project.”



**Consultant**

**DECEMBER 2024**



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## Executive Summary

This report outlines the initiation and mobilization of the Transportation Survey for Meherpur District, aimed at developing a comprehensive transportation master plan to address both current and future transportation needs. The survey will analyze the district's transportation infrastructure, traffic flow, and socio-economic factors that influence travel patterns, while engaging local stakeholders to ensure the project addresses real-world concerns and priorities.

The district of Meherpur, located in southwest Bangladesh, faces growing challenges due to rapid urbanization and limited infrastructure. The project's objectives include identifying traffic bottlenecks, infrastructure gaps, and key transportation issues, as well as gathering data to inform effective planning and interventions. The surveys will cover both roadways and waterways and will utilize advanced technologies like GIS-enabled mobile applications and Kobo Toolbox to collect, process, and visualize data.

The report details the project's early phases, including the mobilization of the consultant team, deployment of surveyors, and stakeholder engagement through meetings and focus group discussions. The reconnaissance survey has already identified key issues, such as congested areas, poor road conditions, and the need for improved healthcare and educational facilities. These insights will guide further data collection and analysis in the subsequent survey phases. By leveraging digital tools and data visualization, the survey will provide actionable insights to local authorities and planning agencies, facilitating the development of a transportation master plan that promotes sustainable infrastructure development. Ultimately, the successful implementation of this survey will improve transportation systems in Meherpur, fostering socio-economic growth and enhancing residents' quality of life.





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# 1. Introduction

Transportation systems are integral to the socio-economic advancement of any region, profoundly influencing accessibility, mobility, and the overall quality of life for its inhabitants. The district of Meherpur, given its strategic geographic positioning and burgeoning economic activities, necessitates a thorough investigation of its transportation dynamics to facilitate judicious planning and infrastructural development.

This mobilization report delineates a comprehensive framework for executing a series of traffic and transportation surveys within Meherpur. These surveys are designed to amass both quantitative and qualitative data, thereby enabling a meticulous analysis of the existing transportation modalities and forecasting future infrastructural needs. The overarching goal is to furnish pertinent stakeholders, encompassing local authorities and planning agencies, with actionable insights that will inform the formulation of a sustainable and efficient transportation network.

In an epoch characterized by rapid urbanization and expansion, the challenges confronting transportation systems—such as congestion, safety vulnerabilities, and inadequate infrastructure—demand targeted and empirically-grounded interventions. This report articulates the methodological approach for the systematic collection of critical data pertaining to vehicular movement, road conditions, travel behavior, and freight transport within the region. The amalgamation of these data points will not only facilitate comprehensive analyses but will also underpin the development of a robust transportation master plan.

The synergistic collaboration among diverse consultants ensures that all dimensions of transportation are addressed in an integrated manner, thereby paving the way for coordinated infrastructural development that meets both present and prospective demands.

## 1.1 The Project Location

Meherpur is a district in southwest Bangladesh that lies in the northwest of Khulna Division. Its borders are to the east and west, respectively, with the districts of Chuadanga and Kushtia in Bangladesh and the Indian state of West Bengal. Meherpur was a Nadia district subdivision prior to independence. The district is 716.08 square kilometers (276.48 square miles) in size.

Meherpur Sadar Upazila, Mujibnagar Upazila, and Gangni Upazila are the three upazilas that make up Meherpur district. Meherpur, which is home to more than 0.8 million people, is a significant hub for trade and agriculture in the area. The district headquarters is located in the town of Meherpur, which is also the largest town in the district.

Meherpur's historical significance and rich cultural legacy are well-known. There are numerous historic sites and ruins in the area. The yearly Baruni Mela, which is conducted in honor of the Hindu god Shiva, is one of Meherpur's most colorful and bright celebrations.





Meherpur's economy is based mostly on agriculture, with a sizable section of people working in farming and associated fields. Rice, wheat, and jute are just a few of the crops that may be produced in the area because of its rich soil and temperate temperature. The non-agricultural sector has grown significantly in the region in recent years, as evidenced by the opening of a number of small and medium-sized businesses. With a profusion of picturesque lakes and rivers, verdant forests, and undulating hills, Meherpur is renowned for its natural beauty. Numerous wildlife sanctuaries, such as the Kanaighat Wildlife Sanctuary, which is home to a wide variety of species, are located in the district.

Meherpur's public services and infrastructure are both deficient. Additionally, the district is vulnerable to frequent natural catastrophes like cyclones and floods, which can result in significant damage and fatalities.

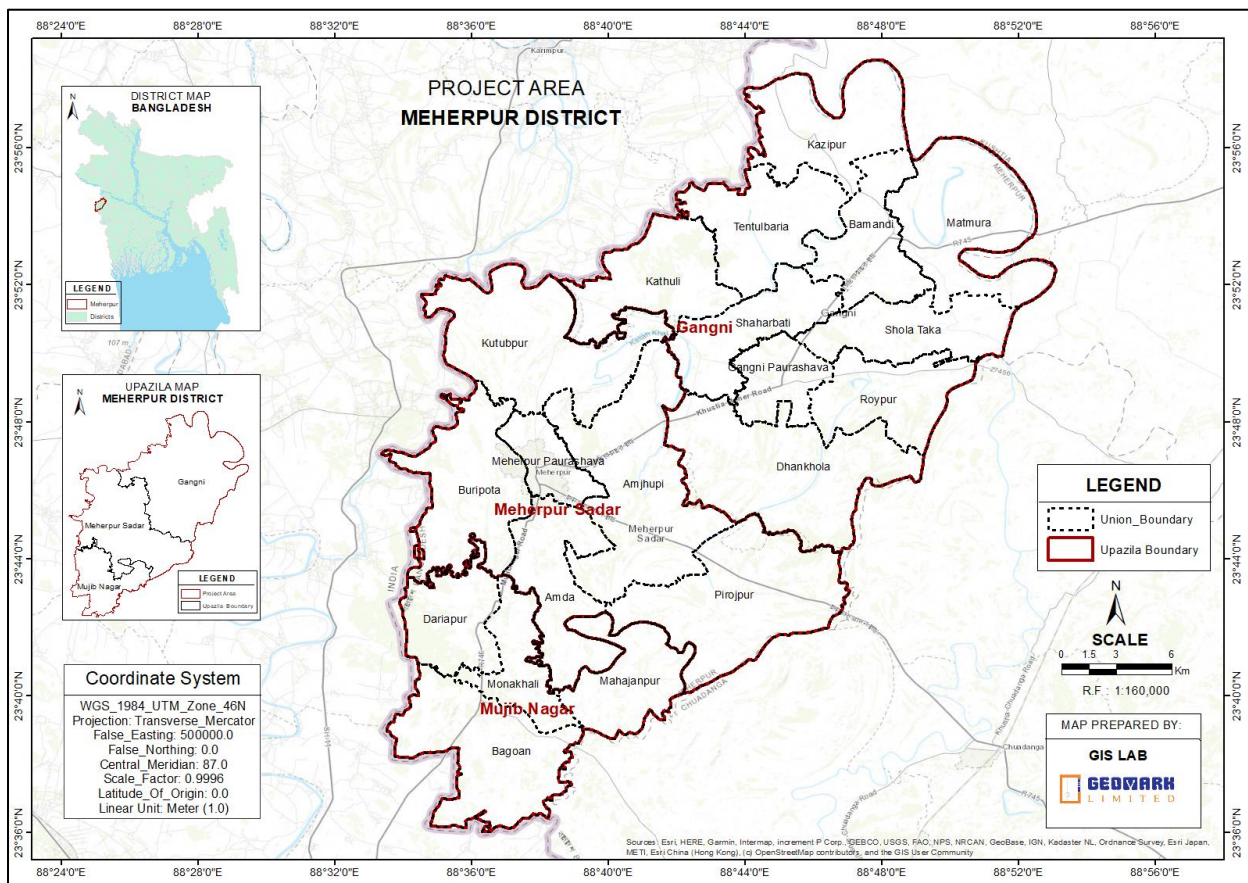


Figure 1: project Area







### 1.3 Project Commencement

The contract for consultancy services between Urban Development Directorate (UDD), the Client and Geomark Limited, the Consultant, was signed on December 02, 2024.

### 1.4 The Consultant

GEOMARK LIMITED is a brand name with specific focus to the Planning and IT Enabled Services (ITES) specializing in the geospatial applications including Advance topographical survey, Socioeconomic Survey, Planning, Data Entry, GIS, CAD, LIS, MIS, AM/FM, processing of remote sensing data, digital mapping/surveying using GPS, geo-spatial solutions and so forth.

GEOMARK LIMITED has vast experience on transportation survey through smart device, data processing, data analysis and report writing.





## 2. Project Overview

### 2.1 Objectives of the Survey

The principal objectives of the traffic and transportation surveys in Meherpur are articulated as follows:

<b>Investigate Travel Behavior:</b>	Gather nuanced data on travel behaviors through methodologically rigorous household surveys and interviews, aimed at elucidating the purpose of trips, modes of transport employed, and frequency of travel. This information is vital for forecasting future transportation requirements based on demographic shifts.
<b>Analyze Traffic Patterns:</b>	Scrutinize vehicular movement and traffic volumes at strategically significant locations to elucidate peak and off-peak dynamics. This analysis is imperative for identifying congestion points and circulation patterns, which are crucial for future transportation planning.
<b>Evaluate Existing Transportation Infrastructure:</b>	Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current state of roads, intersections, and transportation facilities to identify deficiencies and opportunities for enhancement. This evaluation will encompass detailed documentation of pavement types, road conditions, and accessibility metrics.
<b>Engage and Collaborate with Stakeholders:</b>	Cultivate dialogue and collaboration with stakeholders, encompassing local government entities, community organizations, and the general public, to ensure that their perspectives and needs are duly incorporated into the planning process.
<b>Synthesize Data for Comprehensive Analysis:</b>	Ensure the seamless integration of data derived from various surveys into a cohesive database. This integration will facilitate an exhaustive analysis of the interrelationships between transportation infrastructure, land use patterns, and traffic dynamics, thus contributing to a more holistic comprehension of transportation phenomena.
<b>Forecast Future Transportation Demand:</b>	Utilize the amassed data to project future transportation needs predicated on anticipated population growth, urbanization, and economic expansion. This endeavor will culminate in the development of a 20-year transportation demand prediction model.
<b>Inform Policy and Planning Initiatives:</b>	Equip local authorities and planning agencies with empirically supported recommendations for transportation policy formulation and infrastructural investments. The objective is to engender a sustainable transportation framework that aligns with overarching regional development goals.
<b>Assess Goods Movement:</b>	Conduct a thorough examination of goods movement within the region, encompassing an analysis of the types of goods transported and the modalities employed. Understanding freight patterns will inform logistics planning and identify necessary infrastructural enhancements.

Figure 2: Objectives of the Survey





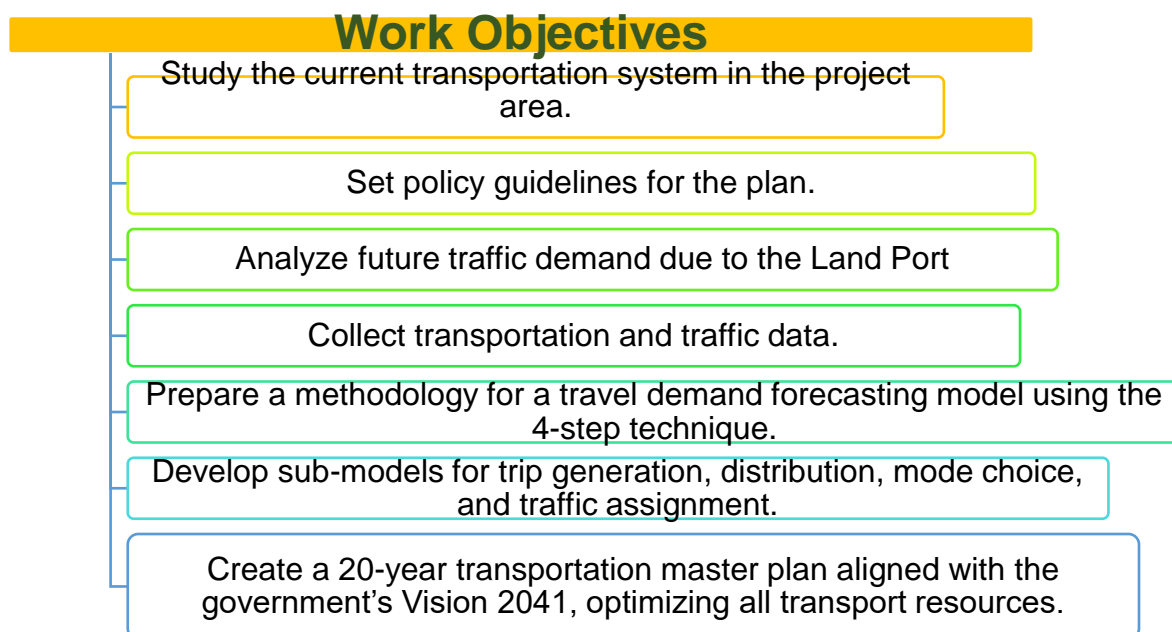
By accomplishing these objectives, the surveys will substantially contribute to the formulation of a comprehensive transportation master plan for Meherpur, addressing both contemporary challenges and prospective opportunities inherent in the region's transportation landscape

## 2.3 Scope of Work

The consultant will conduct all necessary traffic and transport surveys and studies for the project, prepare working paper on the relevant fields under study, and also assist the UDD team members in preparation of final plan and all relevant report still completion of the project. The consultant will extend all necessary assistance particularly in gathering and procuring all relevant traffic and transportation related attribute and spatial data of relevant feature within the project area; GIS database operation and management, analysis and preparation of all maps and reports till completion of the project.

The consultant will collect all relevant data and information through digital survey and upload the collected data to website instantly through online communication device; at the end of each month submit a report containing all information have been uploaded to website and ensure that all data and information are accessible to viewer.

Figure 3: Work Objectives



The consultant will be responsible for quality of data and information collected, data processing, cleaning and editing, and presentation into tabular form including preparation of working paper as required by PD. The consultant will deliver all raw and processed data along with working papers containing guidelines for preparing the planning package.





## 3. Mobilization and Orientation

### 3.1 Consultant's Organization

Geomark Ltd. is brand with specific focus to the emerging IT Enabled Services (ITES) specializing in the geospatial applications including consultancy on engineering & Architectural Design, Transportation Survey & Planning, Planning GIS, LIS, MIS, AM/FM, processing of remote sensing data, digital mapping/surveying using GPS, geo-spatial and textual data conversion, application software and web page/solutions development and so forth. Apart from ITES, provides professional consulting services particularly for undertaking research and development studies/projects covering and not limited to land, natural resources, environment, urban/real estate development, infrastructure development, institution and organization studies, land related legislation study, human resources development studies, general education related studies, and so forth.

The agreement between Urban Development Directorate (UDD) and consultant Geomark Ltd. Has been held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2024 for Package-03: Transportation Surveys for Roadways and Waterways under Preparation of Development Plan for Meherpur Zilla Project.

### 3.2 Mobilization of the Consultant's Team

The consultant has initiated their project activities with immediate action. The successful initiation of the Transportation Surveys for Roadways and Waterways project in Meherpur District required the strategic mobilization of a multidisciplinary consultant team. This phase emphasized the timely deployment of skilled professionals, allocation of logistical resources, and establishment of coordination mechanisms to ensure the project's smooth execution.

#### Personnel Deployment

**Team Formation:** Assemble a team of experts, including transportation engineers, surveyors, data analysts, GIS specialists, and project managers. Each member will be assigned specific roles to ensure effective project execution.

**Roles and Responsibilities:** Clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each team member, including tasks related to data collection, analysis, model development, and training. This clarity will help in efficient task management and coordination.





## Project Management Plan

**Milestones and Deliverables:** Establish key milestones and deliverables with specific deadlines to monitor progress and ensure timely project completion. Examples include deadlines for data collection phases, model development stages, and final report submission.

**Resource Allocation:** Allocate resources, including manpower, equipment, and budget, to support various project activities. Ensure that resources are utilized efficiently and effectively to achieve project goals.

### Initial Meeting

**Stakeholder Engagement:** Conduct an initial meeting with local stakeholders such as the Mayor, Union Parishad (UP) Chairman, and Councillors. This meeting will introduce the project, gather local insights, and secure stakeholder support, facilitating smoother project implementation.

**Local Insights:** Gather information on local transportation issues, infrastructure needs, and community concerns. This engagement will help tailor the project to address specific local needs.

### 3.2.1 Deployment Process

The deployment of the consultant's team was carried out systematically to ensure readiness for immediate project activities:

#### 1. Preparation Phase

- Conducted orientation sessions for all team members to align on project objectives, methodologies, and expected outcomes.
- Procured necessary equipment, including GPS-enabled tablets, mapping software, and survey tools.

#### 2. On-Site Deployment

- Established a local project office in Meherpur District to serve as the coordination hub for field operations.
- Deployed key personnel to initiate reconnaissance activities and stakeholder engagements.

#### 3. Field Team Training

- Training on the use of digital tools, data collection techniques, and engagement protocols will be done.
- Conducted mock surveys to refine the team's approach and address potential challenges.





### 3.2.3 Coordination Mechanism

A clear reporting and coordination structure was established to streamline communication and ensure accountability:

- **Weekly Progress Reviews:**

Team members report progress and challenges to the Project Manager, enabling real-time adjustments to the work plan.

- **Stakeholder Collaboration:**

Regular updates and feedback loops are initiated with local representatives, including municipal authorities and community leaders.

- **Digital Integration:**

All collected data will be uploaded to a central database, allowing for real-time monitoring and quality assurance

### 3.3 Initial Works & Meetings

1. **Work Schedule:** Preparation and adjustment of work schedule is done with Microsoft Project.
2. **Questionnaire preparation:** Questionnaire has been prepared according to ToR. Different questionnaires have been prepared for different types of surveys.
3. **Online data collection software preparation:** For transportation data collection an online free software named KoboToolbox and GIS enabled mobile application MerginMaps will be used.
4. **Inception Report Preparation:** For inception report preparation it has scheduled to submit within 31<sup>st</sup> onward.
5. **Survey Activities:** Team formation is in progress. As soon as the inception report will be approved, the team will be mobilized to the field.





## 4. Work Schedule and Staffing

The work plan for the Transportation Surveys for Roadways and Waterways project in Meherpur District has been meticulously designed to ensure systematic and comprehensive data collection, analysis, and reporting. This plan outlines the timeline, activities, roles, and responsibilities for each phase of the project, ensuring alignment with the project objectives and delivering actionable insights for the preparation of the development plan.

### 4.1 Work Plan

As per TOR, the assignment is to be completed within 14 months.



## Transportation Surveys for Roadways and Waterways; Package-03 under Preparation of Development Plan for Meherpur Zilla Project

### Work Plan

ID	SL	Activity	Duration	Start	Finish	2025	2026
1		<b>Transport Survey</b>	296 days	Mon 02-12-24	Thu 29-01-26	Nov	Dec
2	*	Contract Agreement	1 day	Mon 02-12-24	Mon 02-12-24		
3	1	Mobilization of Team	9 days	Tue 03-12-24	Sun 15-12-24		
4	1.1	• Personnel Deployment	2 days	Tue 03-12-24	Wed 04-12-24		
5	1.2	• Project Management Plan	1 day	Thu 05-12-24	Thu 05-12-24		
6	1.3	• Initial Meeting	2 days	Sun 08-12-24	Mon 09-12-24		
7	1.4	• Reconnaissance Survey	4 days	Mon 09-12-24	Sun 15-12-24		
8	2	<b>Inception Report</b>	11 days	Tue 17-12-24	Tue 31-12-24		
9	2.1	• Collections of Information	2 days	Tue 17-12-24	Wed 18-12-24		
10	2.2	• Existing Maps and Statistics	2 days	Thu 19-12-24	Sun 22-12-24		
11	2.3	• Development Plans	2 days	Sun 22-12-24	Tue 24-12-24		
12	2.4	• Compile Preliminary Findings	2 days	Tue 24-12-24	Thu 26-12-24		
13	2.5	• Submission of Inception Report	3 days	Thu 26-12-24	Tue 31-12-24		
14	3	<b>Survey Report on Completion of Survey Work, Database Preparation, Editing and Finalization and Linking of all Attribute and Spatial Database (GIS Database Link and Upload the Data on Web Site)</b>	96 days	Wed 01-01-25	Sun 25-05-25		
15	3.1	• Training Surveyors of Separate Teams for Separate Surveys	5 days	Wed 01-01-25	Tue 07-01-25		
16	3.2	• Field Surveys	8 days	Tue 07-01-25	Sun 19-01-25		
17	3.3	• Vehicle Registration Data Collection	7 days	Sun 19-01-25	Tue 28-01-25		
18	3.4	• Road Condition Survey	15 days	Tue 28-01-25	Tue 18-02-25		
19	3.5	• Traffic Volume and Origin-Destination Surveys	8 days	Tue 18-02-25	Thu 27-02-25		
20	3.6	• Critical Traffic Junction Surveys	8 days	Sun 02-03-25	Tue 11-03-25		
21	3.7	• Trip Generation Surveys	10 days	Tue 11-03-25	Tue 25-03-25		
22	3.8	• Travel Behavior Studies	9 days	Tue 25-03-25	Thu 17-04-25		
23	3.9	• Goods Movement Studies	9 days	Thu 17-04-25	Tue 29-04-25		
24	3.10	• Travel time and Speed Survey	10 days	Wed 30-04-25	Wed 14-05-25		
25	3.11	• Bus, Rail & Launch Survey	7 days	Wed 14-05-25	Sun 25-05-25		

Prepared By  
**GEOMARK**  
LIMITED

Task  
Split  
Milestone  
Summary

Project Summary  
Inactive Task  
Inactive Milestone  
Inactive Summary

Manual Task  
Duration-only  
Manual Summary Rollup  
Manual Summary

Start-only  
Finish-only  
External Tasks  
External Milestone

Deadline  
Progress  
Manual Progress





## Transportation Surveys for Roadways and Waterways; Package-03 under Preparation of Development Plan for Meherpur Zilla Project

### Work Plan

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Manual Summary

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Progress  
Manual Progress







## 4.2 Staffing Schedule:

The project staffs have been mobilized right after the contract signing and the project activities were commenced along with the staff mobilization. The professionals engaged in the project will be working in the following schedule:

No	Name of Staff	Staff-month input by month <sup>1</sup>												Total Staff-month input		
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Home	Field <sup>2</sup>	Total
1	Dr. Quazi Sazzad Hossain													5	1	6
2	Dheman Mallick													2	2	4
3	Md. Saifur Rahman														8	8
Total														7	11	18





## 5. Project Planning and Mobilization

The **Reconnaissance Survey** for the transportation study in Meherpur District is an essential early step that helps gather preliminary information, identify key issues, and set the foundation for detailed surveys. Below is a detailed approach to conducting the reconnaissance survey:

### Objectives of the Reconnaissance Survey:

1. **Preliminary Assessment:** Identify major transportation routes, infrastructure, and facilities in Meherpur District.
2. **Stakeholder Engagement:** Engage with local authorities, representatives, and communities to understand local transportation needs, priorities, and challenges.
3. **Identification of Key Issues:** Identify potential bottlenecks, congested areas, critical junctions, and locations requiring immediate attention or further investigation.
4. **Preliminary Data Gathering:** Collect initial data on traffic flow, road conditions, transport infrastructure, and socio-economic factors impacting transportation.

### Steps carried out in Conducting the Reconnaissance Survey:

#### 1. Mobilization of Survey Team:

- Deploying key personnel, including project managers, surveyors, GIS specialists, and data analysts.
- Providing training on the objectives, methodology, and scope of the survey.
- Ensuring all survey equipment, including GPS devices, cameras, and data collection forms, are ready for use.

#### 2. Initial Site Visit:

- Conducting field visits to key transportation nodes like highways, local roads, bus stations, and intersections.
- Observing and record road conditions, traffic flow, and infrastructure status (e.g., bridges, culverts, signage).
- Taking photographs and geo-tag locations to build an initial database.





Figure: Condition of Footpath in Gangni

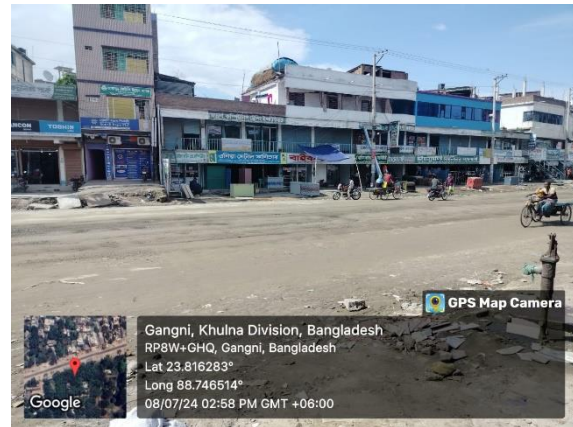


Figure: Road Condition of Gangni Upazila Bazar

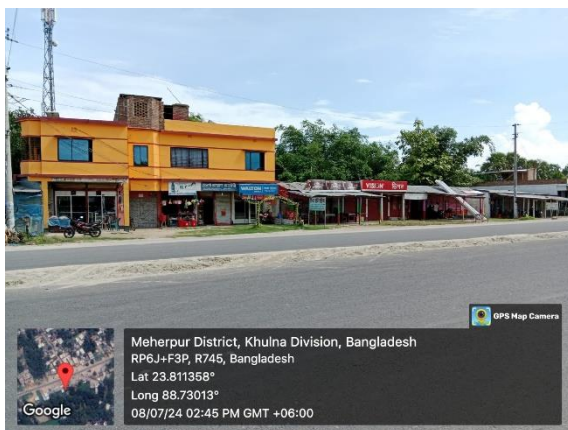


Figure: Condition of Road Median in Kushtia-Meherpur Highway



Figure: Condition of village road in Meherpur

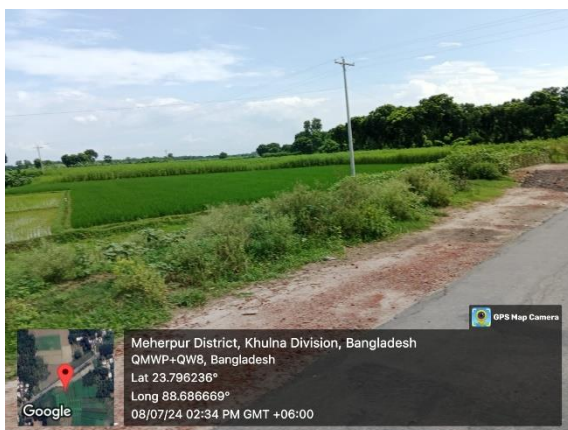


Figure: Condition of Road Edge in Kushtia-Meherpur Highway

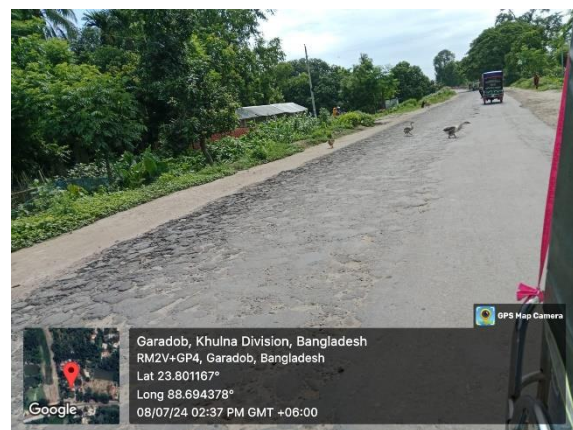


Figure Condition of Road Edge in Garadob



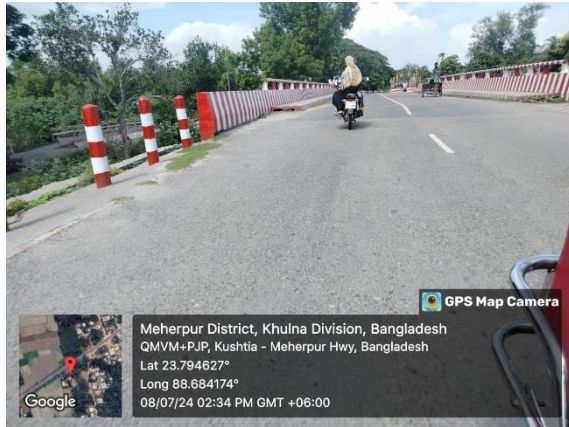


Figure: Condition of Bridge in Kushtia-Meherpur Highway



Figure: Condition of under-construction Gopalpur Bridge in Kushtia-Meherpur Highway

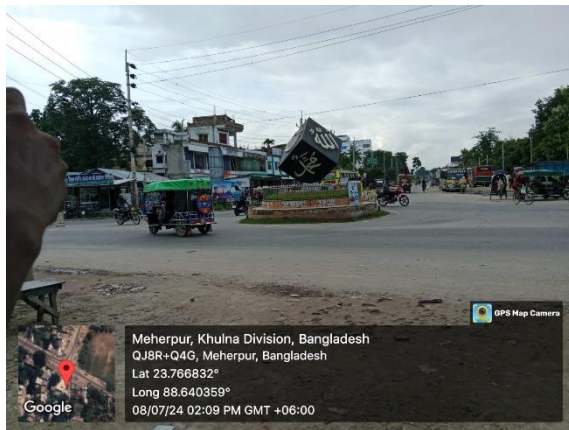


Figure: Important intersection in Chuadanga-Meherpur Highway

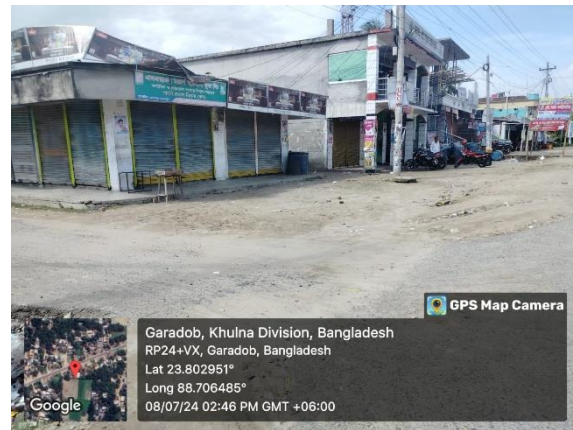


Figure: Condition of T-intersection in Garadob



### 3. Stakeholder Meetings:

- Holding meetings with local authorities, community leaders, and other stakeholders.
- Discussing transportation challenges, priorities, and opportunities.
- Gathering local knowledge about transportation issues, such as road safety, congestion points, and seasonal problems (e.g., flooding, road wear).



Figure: Upazila Engineer, Mr. Sabbir-UI-Islam, Meherpur Upazila Parishad and Consultant Team



#### 4. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):

- Organizing FGDs with local residents, transport operators, and business owners.
- Discussing transportation-related challenges, travel behavior, and local needs.
- Gathering qualitative insights on transport demand, public transport usage, and freight movement.



Figure: Focus group discussion with Bus Drivers



Figure: Focus group discussion with Auto Drivers

#### 5. Tea stall meeting:

A tea stall meeting was held near Gangni Chottor, involving participants engaged in various informal professions within the area. The participants identified several challenges and proposed solutions, summarized as follows:

##### a. Educational Institutions:

The participants emphasized a lack of quality primary education institutions in the region. Additionally, they expressed a strong preference for establishing a public university in Meherpur to enhance educational opportunities.

- ##### b. Congestion and Infrastructure Issues:
- The area around Gangni Chottor is heavily congested due to informal economic activities on footpaths and poor road conditions. A significant portion of the highway is obstructed by easy bike parking, further worsening traffic flow. The participants recommended expedited road reconstruction and the organized relocation of informal activities to ensure proper traffic management and a well-maintained environment.

##### c. Healthcare and Economic Development:

The participants stressed the need for improved healthcare facilities and enhanced income opportunities. One attendee noted that agriculture and foreign remittances are the primary sources of income for the Gangni area, underscoring the importance of supporting these sectors for sustainable growth.







Figure: Tea stall meeting

#### 6. Data Collection on Traffic Volume and Flow:

- Conducting preliminary traffic counts at selected key points (e.g., busy intersections, markets, transport hubs).
- Observing and preparing document for traffic types (passenger, freight, non-motorized transport) and peak traffic hours.

#### 7. Identification of Critical Locations:

- Identifying areas that require urgent attention or further investigation, such as:
  - Overcrowded junctions or intersections
  - Roads with poor maintenance or infrastructure gaps
  - Areas with high accident rates or road safety issues
  - Inadequate public transportation services or coverage

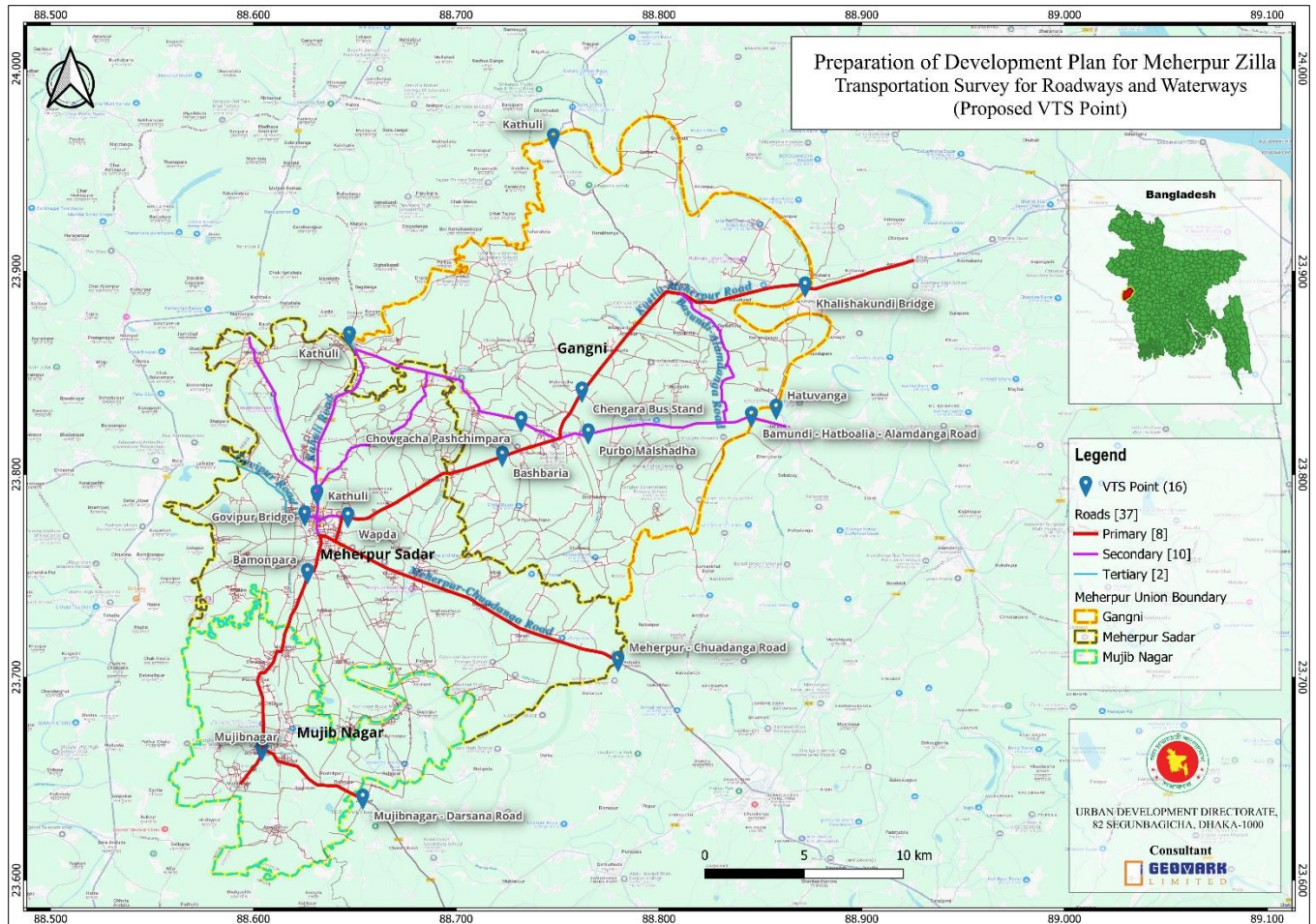


Figure: Tentative Location Map for Video Traffic Survey





## 8. Environmental and Socio-Economic Factors:

- Gathering basic socio-economic data that may influence transportation, such as population density, employment centers, economic activities, and accessibility to services.
- Observing environmental factors that may impact transportation, such as agricultural zones with heavy transport usage.

## 9. Preparation of the Mobilization Report:

- Compiling all data, observations, and findings from the reconnaissance survey.
- Including maps, photographs, and diagrams to illustrate key points.
- Outline the identified issues, priorities, and recommendations for further investigation in the detailed survey phase.
- Document all stakeholders engaged and any key insights gathered during meetings or discussions.

### Output of the Reconnaissance Survey:

- **Mobilization Report:** A comprehensive report summarizing the findings, with key observations on the existing transportation infrastructure, issues, and initial recommendations.
- **Visual Documentation:** Maps, photographs, and geo-tagged data collected during site visits.
- **Stakeholder Insights:** A summary of feedback from local authorities, businesses, and residents on transportation needs and challenges.

This reconnaissance survey sets the stage for the more detailed data collection and analysis to follow, ensuring that the transportation study is grounded in local context and priorities.



## 6. Conclusion

The Transportation Survey for Meherpur District is an initiative aimed at developing a comprehensive transportation master plan that addresses the current and future needs of the district. Through meticulous data collection and stakeholder engagement, the survey will provide invaluable insights into the existing transportation infrastructure, traffic flow, and socio-economic factors influencing transportation patterns.

The reconnaissance survey conducted in the initial phase has laid a solid foundation for the subsequent, more detailed surveys. The collection of traffic data, identification of critical infrastructure gaps, and understanding of local transportation challenges will be instrumental in formulating targeted interventions for improving transportation efficiency and accessibility. Moreover, the involvement of local stakeholders and the integration of their feedback ensures that the project is grounded in real-world concerns and local priorities.

The use of advanced digital tools, such as Kobo Toolbox and GIS-enabled mobile applications, along with the integration of data visualization techniques, will enhance the overall quality of the survey and facilitate data interpretation. This will provide decision-makers with the necessary tools to assess transportation needs, evaluate infrastructure quality, and prioritize future investments.

By the conclusion of the project, comprehensive reports, visual documentation, and actionable recommendations will be delivered, providing a roadmap for the improvement of transportation services within Meherpur District. These efforts will not only enhance the district's transportation system but also contribute to its broader socio-economic development. The collaborative approach between Geomark Ltd. and the Urban Development Directorate (UDD) ensures that the project aligns with the government's strategic objectives for sustainable urban growth and infrastructure development.

Ultimately, the successful implementation of this survey and the subsequent development of the transportation master plan will significantly improve the transportation landscape of Meherpur District, fostering economic growth, improving mobility, and enhancing the quality of life for its residents.





## Annexure: Questionnaire

