

2010



It takes 1 hour 21 minutes to drive 16km....
Supportive business environment?

It takes 1 hour 21 minutes to drive 16km....

1. Introduction

The business environment in Dar es Salaam is seriously affected by congestion. At the same time few resources are spent on infrastructure improvement and expansion in the city. This despite the importance of Dar es Salaam to the national economy.

As shown in Table 1, only TShs **90,946,640,000** were made in investments in Dar es Salaam's road expansion since 2007.

Table 1 Budget estimates by the Central Government on Dar es Salaam Road Infrastructure since 2007 to date

Road name	Fiscal year (million Tshs)		
	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10
Sam			
Nujoma	9,000	1,300	450
Nelson Mandela	0	15,390	14,808
Mbagala	14,050	24,963	2,400
Total	23,050	41,654	17,658

Source: 2007/8, 2008/9, 2009/10 Budget books

As the ownership of cars is increasing rapidly, congestion is on the increase. It is not uncommon for commuters to spend 2 hours or more to travel a distance as little as 16 kilometers. This does not even include time spent waiting for those relying on public transport.

Dar es Salaam is the center of business activities in Tanzania. It is the main port of entry for goods shipped from overseas to Tanzania and an important transit point for goods destined for Rwanda, Malawi and many goods for DRC, Zambia and Uganda. Economic activity in Dar es Salaam is high and 60% of tax revenue for the national as a whole is collected in Dar es Salaam alone.

Traffic congestion in Dar es Salaam therefore has negative consequences for the economy as excessive travel time affects business operations and vehicle operation cost as well as the welfare of citizens in terms of time spent in traffic, poor health and low air quality.

To monitor the evolution of traffic congestion in Dar es Salaam, the Center for Economic Prosperity started monitoring travel times along the three main routes into Dar es Salaam on a monthly basis. This report is the first in a series of monthly reports on this issue.



Traffic Jam A.H Mwinyi Road

2. CEP's approach to measuring travel time

To assess how much time it takes for citizens of Dar es Salaam to travel to the city center the Center identified three popular routes: Airport-Posta, Mbezi Tankibovu - Posta and Mbezi Louis - Posta. For each of these routes a number of automobile drivers was asked to fill out a form every day reflecting travel time from home to town and vice versa.

CEP also determined what might be the 'expected' travel time, if there was a normal traffic flow. To this end on 20th March 2010 and between 0900hrs and 1230hrs CEP researchers travelled from Posta to the end points of each

of the routes, marking how much time it takes to travel during off-peak hours. For example, Posta to Airport an 11km distance takes 27 minutes (see Table 2).

Table 2: Overview of data collection on travel time

Route	Distance (km)	Expected time with normal traffic flow (minutes)	Obs (March 2010)
Airport - Posta	11	27	36
Mbezi tb - Posta via A.H	16	30	91
Mbezi Louis - Posta	20	30	42

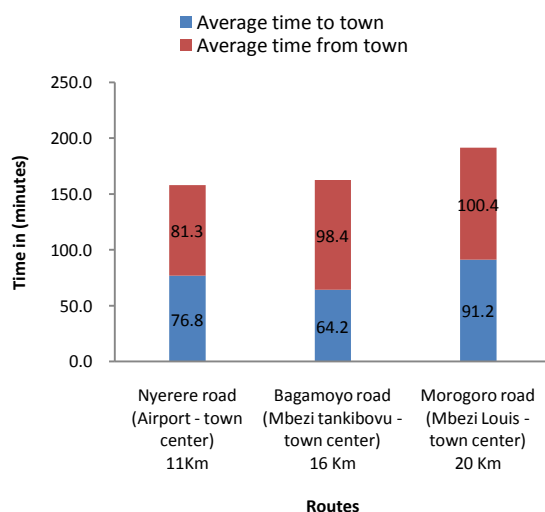
Source: Center for Economic Prosperity

3. Travel time in March 2010

3.1 Average speed on main routes is between 8 and 15kms per hour

Figure 1 presents the average travel time along the three routes monitored by CEP. Note that the times reported exclude waiting time for those using public transport, something that can easily take up to an hour each way.

Fig 1: Average time spent to and from Posta for Nyerere, Bagamoyo and Morogoro routes (excluding waiting time)



Source: Center for Economic Prosperity

The Figure shows that it takes on average between 77 (to town) and 81 (from town) minutes to travel from Posta to Airport. As

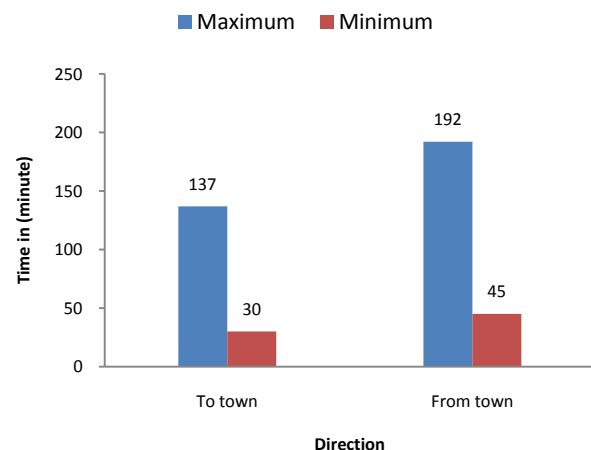
the distance is 11km it implies that the average speed on that route is between 8 and 9 km/hour.

From town to Mbezi – Tankibovu (16km) takes 64 minutes in the morning (to town) but as much as 98 minutes in the evening (from town). And from town to Mbezi Louis (20km) takes between 91 and 100 minutes. In other words, the average speed at which cars travel is between 11 and 15kms per hour.

3.2 Travel times are very unpredictable

There is much variation in travel time. As shown in figure 2 below. During the month of March the maximum time recorded for Bagamoyo route, from Posta to Mbezi tankibovu was 192 minutes (three hours and twelve minutes) while the minimum time was 45 minutes.

Figure 2; Maximum and minimum time spent to and from Posta via Bagamoyo route to Mbezi tankibovu (16 km)



Source: Center for Economic Prosperity

Likewise, from Mbezi tankibovu to Posta, the maximum time spent was 137 minutes (two hours and seventeen minutes), whereas, the minimum time spent stood at 30 minutes (half an hour).

For the Nyerere route, much variation has also been noted. For example the maximum time spent to Posta was 88 minutes (one hour and twenty eight minutes) while the

minimum time recorded was 23 minutes, below the standard travel time.



Billboard at Namanga, Mbuyuni A.H. Mwinyi Road

There is less variation from Posta to Airport during the rush hours where as maximum time recorded stood at 72 minutes (one hour and twelve minutes) and 29 minutes the minimum



Traffic Jam Morogoro Road

The maximum time spent for Nyerere route recorded during morning hours stand at 88 minutes (One hour and twenty eight minutes) while during the evening hours the record drops a little bit.

4. Conclusion

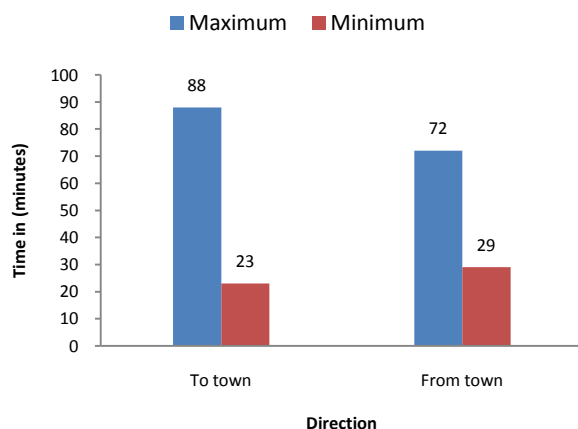
The Centre for Economic Prosperity has started to monitor travel time in Dar es Salaam. It has found that the average speed on the main routes during rush hours is very low: between 8 and 15 kms/hour. For those who also have to incur waiting time to catch public transport it seems to suggest that walking would often times be faster than relying on public transport.

At present the Center monitors three routes, but starting next month another two routes will be added. It is envisaged that in the near future the Center will be also able to calculate the economic waste as a result of excessive travel time.



Blocked drainage system at Shoppers Plaza

Figure 3; Maximum and minimum time spent to and from Posta via Nyerere route



Source: Center for Economic Prosperity



Center for Economic Prosperity
P.O Box 110024 Dar es Salaam

Tel: +255 (0) 784715709, 255 (0) 713276962

Email: info@ceptz.org Website: www.ceptz.org