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RM10m study on urban transport strategies for better environ planned

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THE Federal Territory Development and Klang Valley Planning Division in the Prime Minister's Department has commissioned the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) to conduct a RM10 million study on integrated urban transport strategies for environmental improvement in Kuala Lumpur.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Ibrahim Saad said the study will involve several government agencies such as the Prime Minister's Department, Kuala Lumpur City Hall, the Economic Planning Unit and the Department of the Environment.

He said Jica will submit its findings and suggestions in an Urban Transportation Masterplan in Kuala Lumpur to City Hall and the Government, which will then consider them for implementation.

Kuala Lumpur, Gombak, Petaling, Hulu Langat and Klang have been identified as the areas where the study will cover. To be carried out in three phases, it will take two years to complete, Ibrahim said in a press conference in Kuala Lumpur.

The first phase is from March 1997 to September 1997, second phase from October 1997 to April 1998 and third phase from May 1998 to March 1999.

Several surveys will be carried out. They include an opinion survey on public transport and several interviews covering the household and services.

The objective of these interviews is to get feedback from the public on urban transportation, he said.

Approximately 34,000 homes and about 8,000 commercial vehicle owners, such as the owners of lorries and vans, will be involved in the survey. They will be chosen at random.

The roads which have been chosen for the Roadside Interview Survey are Jalan Sepang-Kuala Langat, Jalan Hulu Langat-Negri Sembilan, Jalan Sepang-Hulu Langat, Jalan Westport-Klang, Jalan North Port-Klang, Jalan Kuala Selangor-Gombak, Jalan Kuala Langat-Klang, Jalan Subang Airport-Petaling, Jalan Hulu Selangor-Gombak, Jalan Hulu Selangor -Gombak and a few toll plazas along the North-South and Karak highways.

Bus stations involved are the Pudu Raya bus terminal, Klang, Putra and the Tun Razak bus terminals.

Putrajaya and the KL International Airport (KLIA) may be taken into consideration for inclusion in the survey at a later date, he said.

Between 200-300 local surveyors will be carrying out the interviews. Homeowners will be able to identify them by the special pass worn by them.

This is the 80th survey conducted by Jica at the request of the Malaysian Government. Jica has been involved in Malaysian projects since 1966, starting with the Kuching Port Construction Project in Sarawak.

The chairman of the technical committee, Encik Mahfiz Omar, who is also the City Hall's traffic management director, said the study is actually a follow-up to the earlier study.

However, it covers a wider area - KL and the Klang Valley.

His committee will comprise officials from the ministries of Finance, Transport and Science, Environment and Technology, the EPU and the City Hall.

The steering committee will be chaired by the Federal Territory Development and Klang Valley Planning Division of the PM's Department. This committee will also comprise, among others, officials from the Highway Planning Unit, the Land Transport Unit and the KL Traffic Police.

The deputy head of the Japanese team, Mr Yoshikazu Umeki, said he had conducted similar studies in Bangkok, Manila, Jakarta and Mexico City.  
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