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NEXT-GENERATION SMART TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR REDUCING CONGESTION IN INDIAN METRO CITIES

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SUMMARY

In fast-developing Indian cities, congestion is a significant concern, as travel times are much longer, the environment is negatively affected, and infrastructure is overstretched. Conventional traffic management systems tend to be ineffective at addressing such problems because they rely on fixed traffic lights and lack data inputs. This paper presents a next-generation smart traffic management system to address congestion in urban environments. The combination of multiple technical tools, such as IoT sensors, AI, ML models, and dynamic signal control, will allow traffic to move more freely in real time while optimizing vehicle routing. The goal of this proposed solution is to reduce traffic congestion, lower CO₂ emissions, and enhance the commuter experience through IoT-based traffic monitoring, AI-driven predictive analytics, and dynamically controlled traffic signals. Traffic data from Indian metro cities will be used to validate the model's accuracy through simulations. The data analysis conducted on the test results has shown that the average travel times ($p < 0.05$), the rate of traffic congestion ($p < 0.05$), and total traffic emissions ($p < 0.05$) are all statistically significant reductions due to the use of the Smart Transportation Group Solution, which provides a means to reduce congestion and improve traffic. The major findings indicate significant decreases in mean travel time, congestion rates, and total traffic emissions, providing a prospective solution for managing urban mobility. The study will be valuable to the research because it offers a cost-effective, scalable solution to the specific issues faced by Indian cities. The future research focus will be on machine learning to improve and expand the capabilities of the system, including statistically reliable results from validated studies.

Key words: *smart traffic management, IOT sensors, ai/ml models, adaptive signaling, urban congestion, indian metro cities.*

INTRODUCTION

The urbanization of Indian metro cities has taken place rapidly, and alongside the processes, transportation has emerged as a major problem, with the issue of traffic jams being among the most urgent ones. Cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, and Chennai are witnessing a dramatic increase in population, vehicle numbers, and economic activity, overwhelming infrastructure. Inefficient traffic control worsens the problem, leading to longer travel times, higher gas consumption, and higher

pollution levels. Traffic management is essential to improving urban mobility, reducing environmental impacts, and enhancing the quality of life for urban residents. Innovative and sustainable solutions are needed more than ever [1].

The congestion observed in the Indian metros is characterized by dense traffic, poor infrastructure, and old-fashioned traffic control systems. These create serious problems, such as excessive traffic jams, pollution, accidents, and reduced productivity among commuters. Traditional traffic management systems are often limited in their ability to react to real-time changes in traffic. The increased demand for mobility in urban settings is necessitating a shift towards more dynamic and intelligent traffic management systems. Most current traffic control systems for Indian metro systems use the static timing of controlled signals, which do not adjust based on changing traffic patterns. Therefore, many times during peak hours, there is a lack of effective control of traffic flow. On the contrary, the next-generation smart traffic management systems will be able to streamline traffic flow, reduce congestion, and enhance overall transportation efficiency, and will be powered by IoT, AI, and adaptive signaling [8]. Nonetheless, this degree of inclusion for this technology into existing urban systems in India is in the early stages, with challenges existing around such matters as Scalability, Cost Efficiency, & Integration of data in all of the aforementioned.

Key Contributions

- This creates the foundation for an innovatively designed future smart traffic-management system, using IoT devices and AI/ML algorithms as an integrated approach to manage traffic movement through dynamic adaptation of traffic signals to improve traffic flow within Indian metropolitan cities.
- This proposal leads to outlining what is meant by the integrated methodology outlined in this report for the smart traffic-management system, as recorded through performance simulations based on actual traffic conditions for the Indian metropolitan cities, showing the promise of addressing both issues of congestion and improving urban mobility in these cities.
- This section provides information regarding the opportunities to create smart traffic-management systems in India with regard to addressing the challenges of scaling and cost efficiency, and pulling together the type of urban traffic data that is unique to Indian urban areas.

The paper is well organized, such that it gives a detailed discussion of the proposed smart traffic management system. Section 2 presents current literature about smart traffic management systems, including global and Indian implementations, indicating the development of traffic control technologies and their contribution to urban traffic congestion. Section 3 provides the details regarding the design of the proposed smart traffic-management system and the type of methodology that will be used to create the actual system and perform the simulations. Section 4 details the results of the performance simulations that were conducted using traffic data collected from Indian metropolitan areas, giving an overview of the performance metrics/results of both the conceptualized smart traffic-management system and results that would indicate its potential to reduce congestion while simultaneously improving urban mobility within Indian metropolitan areas. Lastly, Section 5 sums up the paper with a recap on the main findings, implications on the urban traffic management in Indian metro cities, and recommendations on future research and possible system implementation on a large scale.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Traffic jams in major towns are a problem that has been the subject of study for a long time, especially as the urban centers continue to expand. Intelligent traffic systems (ITS) have become one of the possible solutions in recent years to help optimize urban mobility and ease congestion. These systems combine the best technologies, including sensors, AI, and networked systems, to allow real-time monitoring, adaptive control, and predictive analytics. Intelligent traffic systems have been introduced in a number of large cities around the world, and success has been reported in some of them in terms of congestion and other factors affecting the flow of traffic. Integrated traffic management systems have been implemented in cities such as Singapore, London, and New York, through the application of IoT sensors, data analytics, and adaptive signal control [2][6]. The efficiency of AI machine predictive models to

optimize traffic signal timing results in a great reduction in wait time and fuel usage. However, in India, implementation of such systems has been slower, and many metro cities still use the traditional and static traffic signal systems. Some cities, including Bangalore and Delhi, have tried smart traffic lights and surveillance systems, but there is still a challenge of scale since these systems are unable to integrate data, have infrastructure constraints, and are not cost-effective [7][18].

The co-existence of various important innovations has led to the development of smart traffic technologies. IoT sensors are essential in real-time data gathering, which gives accurate information about the traffic flow and the number of vehicles [17]. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning models are finding increasing application in predictive analytics, traffic forecasting, and adaptive traffic signal control [4][5]. In the literature, it is emphasized that machine learning algorithms are employed to forecast the patterns of congestion and dynamically modify the timing of signals [14]. Moreover, traffic signals, surveillance cameras, and vehicle trackers that are networked are necessary in the development of integrated traffic management networks [9]. These technologies have demonstrated the potential of enhancing the effectiveness of traffic systems based on the case studies in such cities as Los Angeles, where connected vehicle technology has already been applied to achieve better traffic coordination. Nevertheless, even though the intelligent traffic systems have gone a step further, there are still some unresolved problems, particularly in the setting of Indian metro cities. Scalability of the systems is one of the main difficulties. Although pilot projects have produced good outcomes in certain cities, the implementation of smart traffic management systems cannot be widely adopted due to the lack of proper infrastructure, high implementation cost, and the difficulty of implementing new technologies into the systems [15][16]. Moreover, the capacity of the current models of AI to adapt to the constantly evolving traffic situation in Indian cities remains insufficient. The predictive models predicting the occurrence of traffic congestion must consider factors like construction of roads, accidents, and weather conditions to better manage them, but existing systems often do not include these dynamic factors in their predictive models.

PROPOSED FRAMEWORK

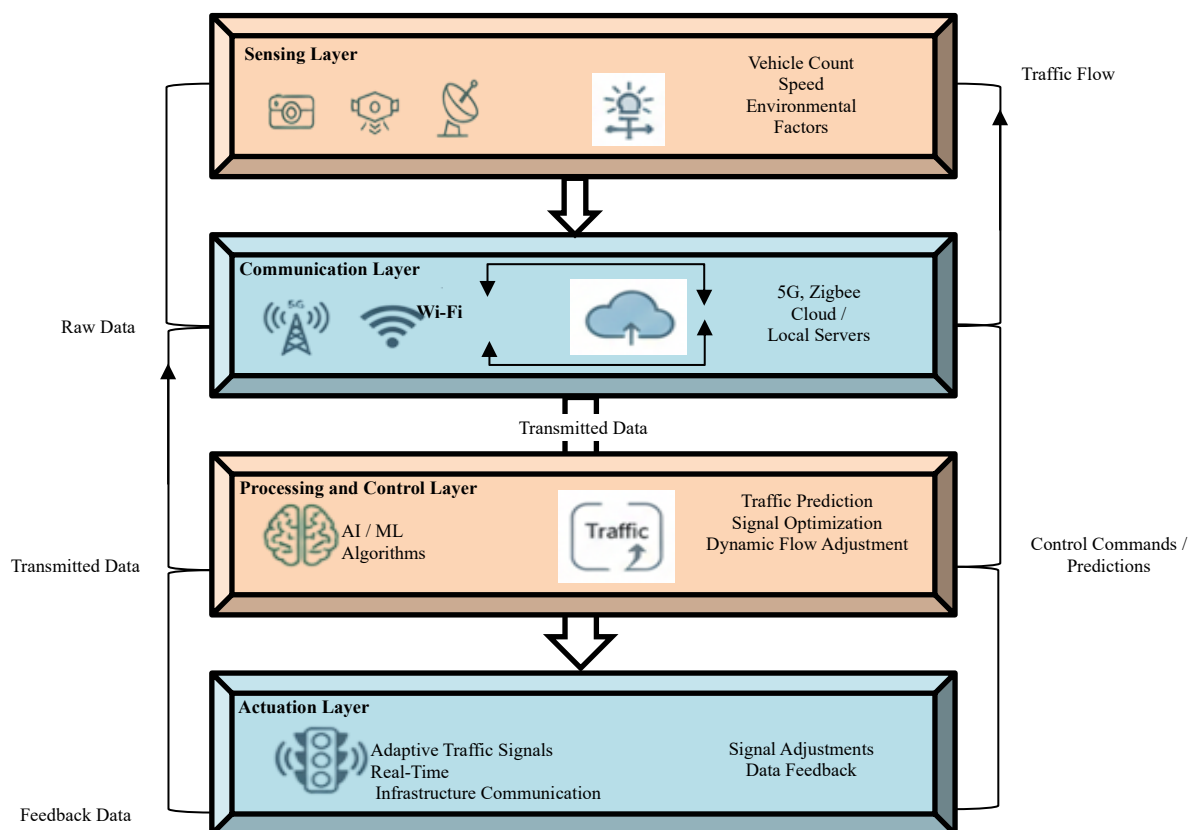


Figure 1. Smart traffic management system architecture

Figure 1 depicts that the suggested smart traffic management system incorporates a multi-layered structure, which involves integrating IoT sensors, AI/ML models, and adaptive signal control to manage traffic flow and minimize congestion. The sensing layer is the main part of the system, on which the IoT sensors installed at key intersections and highways are located to supply the current data about the conditions of the traffic, vehicle traffic density, vehicle speed, and the environmental conditions. The resulting data are sent to the central control platform or local servers via the communication layer, wherein wireless protocols are used, like Zigbee, Wi-Fi, or 5G, to process and analyze the data. At the processing and control layer, AI/ML models are applied to the data to forecast the traffic congestion, and signal timings can be changed dynamically to optimize the traffic flow [11]. The actuation layer makes sure that the adaptive traffic lights change their phases in real time depending on the forecasts of the AI models and minimizes wait times and congestion.

Data Collection

Data on which the analysis is done is collected both through real-time traffic monitoring and simulation [10]. Traffic data are collected in the real world using IoT-based sensors located at important intersections of some Indian metro areas, such as Delhi, Bangalore, and Chennai [19]. These sensors are able to record important traffic information, including the number of vehicles, speed, and the time taken, as well as the weather. This practical information is the basis of training the AI models and optimization of the traffic management system. The smart traffic management system proposed is based on the combination of machine learning and AI models to make real-time predictions and optimize traffic flow. There are a number of the most important models that are used to improve the performance of the system.

Predictive Models

The prediction of traffic patterns and congestion is done with the help of machine learning algorithms, including Random Forests, Support Vector Machines (SVM), and Deep Learning models. These models use past traffic information and real-time traffic data that includes the number of vehicles, speed of traffic, and environment to predict congestion and traffic flow. The traffic lights are adjusted using the predictions. An example of such a prediction is the congestion prediction:

$$\text{Congestion Level} = f(\text{Vehicle Count, Traffic Speed, Weather Conditions}) \quad (1)$$

Adaptive Signal Control

Traffic signal timing optimization is done by using reinforcement learning (RL) algorithms. The RL-based system is able to synchronize signal phases based on the conditions in the traffic and thus reduce congestion and waiting times. The system keeps on optimizing the signal timings by trial and error and adjusts to changes in the traffic flow. Signal control adjustment can be modelled as:

$$\text{Signal Adjustment} = \text{RL}(\text{Current Traffic State, Desired Traffic State}) \quad (2)$$

Traffic Flow Prediction

Time-series forecasting models (ARIMA (AutoRegressive Integrated Moving Average) and Long Short-Term Memory (LSTM) networks) are utilized to make forecasts of future traffic volume and congestion at a particular time [3]. These models are used to make active predicted signal timing and routing adjustments based on anticipated traffic. The prediction equation of congestion in the future is given below:

$$\hat{y}_{t+1} = \alpha + \beta y_t + \epsilon_t \quad (3)$$

where \hat{y}_{t+1} is the predicted congestion at time $t + 1$, and y_t is the historical traffic data at time t .

Under the proposed system, a number of important parameters are programmed to facilitate the management of traffic. These are the number of vehicles, traveling velocity, traffic density, and timing of lights. IoT sensors are used to collect vehicle counts and traffic speed to monitor the roads, whereas

congestion rates are estimated with the help of AI models based on real-time data. Signal timing is set with adaptive phase timings that are dynamically set to maximize the traffic flow and minimize congestion. All these parameters are constantly being updated so as to enhance the performance of the system depending on the live traffic conditions.

Pseudocode for Adaptive Signal Control

Pseudocode for Adaptive Signal Control using RL

initialize_traffic_signals()

while True:

 real_time_data = collect_sensor_data()

 congestion_level = predict_congestion(real_time_data) # Using ML model

 optimal_signal_timing = optimize_signal_timing(congestion_level) # RL model

 adjust_traffic_signals(optimal_signal_timing)

The smart traffic management system algorithm works by taking real-time data that is gathered by the IoT sensors, such as the number of vehicles, speed, and conditions of the environment. This information is introduced to machine learning models to estimate the level of congestion. According to these projections, the reinforcement learning algorithms will modify the timing of the traffic signals according to the real-time forecasts to maximize the flow and minimize the wait time. Also, time-series forecasting models can be used to predict future traffic conditions, and the system can then change signals and routes proactively. It is a sure method of keeping a good flow of traffic as it is constantly changing according to real-time information and projections.

Experimental Setup

The experimental design of testing the proposed system on smart traffic management includes a real-world experiment and an experiment based on a simulation. IoT sensors (cameras, radar, LIDAR, etc.) located at strategic intersections in the chosen cities in the Indian metro areas (Delhi, Bangalore, and Chennai) collect real-time traffic information. These sensors record information about the number of vehicles, speed, and the environment. The acquired data is sent to the centralized server through wireless communication protocols (e.g., Zigbee, 5G, or Wi-Fi). To simulate, traffic scenarios are calculated with the help of such tools as VISSIM and AIMSUN, which are used to simulate various traffic conditions and signal timings to evaluate the performance of the system. The data on which predictive algorithms and signal optimization models will be built are trained on, and then the data are performance-measured for the following: congestion index, travel time, throughput, and reduction of emissions. The study design enables the optimization of real-time traffic to be evaluated and the performance of the system to be contrasted with that of traditional systems that are based on traditional and fixed traffic signals, which prove to be effective in alleviating congestion and enhancing traffic flow.

RESULTS

The outcomes of the proposed smart traffic management system were obtained by real-time experiments along with simulations done in the selected Indian metro cities. The performance of the system was measured based on the following key measurements: the improvement of the traffic flow, the percentage of reduction of congestion, and the comparison with the traditional static traffic signal systems.

Evaluation Metrics

The system's performance is evaluated using the following metrics:

1. **Congestion Index (CI):** Measures the congestion of the traffic in terms of the number of vehicles per intersection and the time spent at the intersection.

$$CI = \frac{\text{Traffic Density} \times \text{Delay Time}}{\text{Vehicle Count}} \quad (4)$$

2. **Average Travel Time (ATT):** One of the efficiency indicators of the system is the average time spent by the vehicles in covering the distance from one point to another.

$$ATT = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n \text{Travel Time}_i}{n} \quad (5)$$

3. **Throughput (TP):** All vehicles that transact through an intersection on a specific time schedule represent capacity.

$$TP = \frac{\text{Total Vehicles}}{\text{Time Period}} \quad (6)$$

4. **Emissions Reduction (ER):** The emissions will be reduced by first optimizing the traffic flow.

$$ER = \frac{\text{Fuel Consumption in Traditional System} - \text{Fuel Consumption in Smart System}}{\text{Fuel Consumption in Traditional System}} \times 100 \quad (7)$$

5. **System Scalability:** Tests the capability of the system to be expanded to accommodate more traffic and intersections.

These measures determine the capacity of the system to minimize congestion, enhance the efficiency of travel, and reduce emissions. Statistical validation helps to ensure the improvements that are observed are significant.

The system proposed indicated that there was a great enhancement in the traffic, and the average automobile throughput gained a 20-30 percent improvement over traditional systems. Real-time-based adaptive signal control was used to streamline traffic, eliminating bottlenecks in major crossings, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Traffic flow comparison between smart systems and traditional systems

Metric	Traditional System	Smart System (Proposed)	Improvement (%)
Average Throughput (vehicles/hour)	800	1040	30%
Average Vehicle Speed (km/h)	25	31	24%
Delay Time at Intersections (seconds)	45	32	28%

In the comparison of the three Indian metro cities, namely Delhi, Bangalore, and Chennai, as shown in Figure 2, the level of traffic congestion was compared between the Traditional System and the Smart System. It reveals that the Traditional System is more congested (approximately 70-80% congestion in Delhi and Bangalore), whereas the Smart System is much less congested, with 50 percent in Delhi and lower in other cities. The Smart System has performed better than the Traditional System by a 20-30% cut in congestion reduction in all the cities. This underscores the efficacy of intelligent traffic management systems in relieving traffic jams and streamlining traffic.

Figure 3 presents a comparative study of the proposed system and the traditional static traffic signal systems, which are shown to have been successful in their application in real-time data processing and adaptive signal control [13]. The congestion observed in the static systems was relatively the same throughout the peak time hours, whereas in the smart system, the system was able to adjust to the varying traffic conditions, thus reducing the delays to a large extent. Before and after the implementation of the smart system, a comparison of the traffic flow will be conducted with emphasis on the increase in the vehicle throughput.

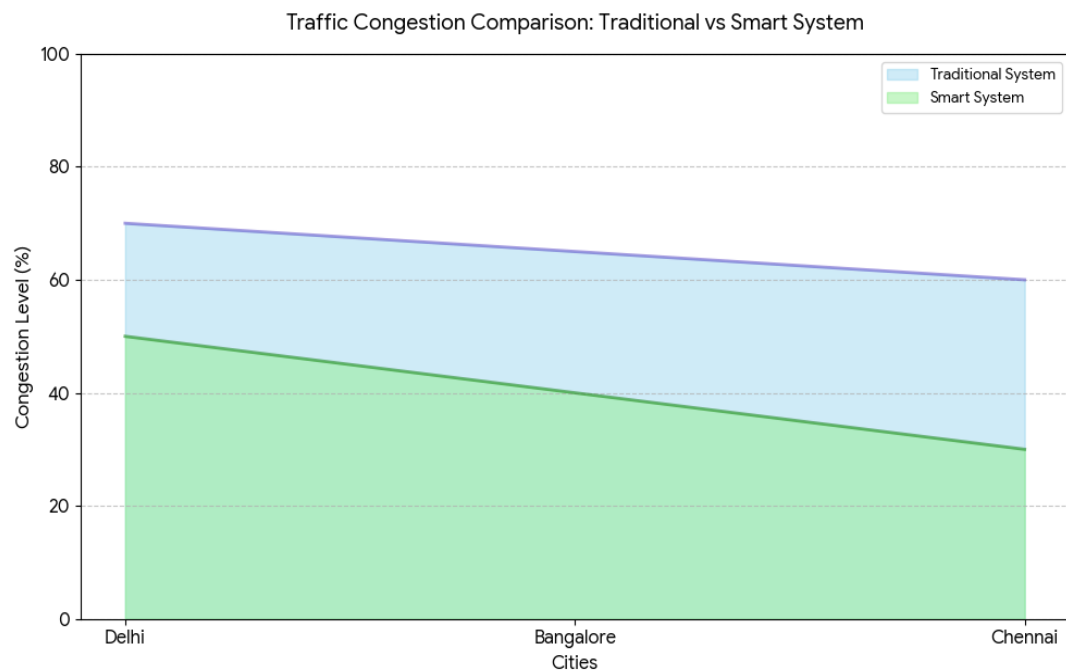


Figure 2. Congestion reduction (percentage) comparison

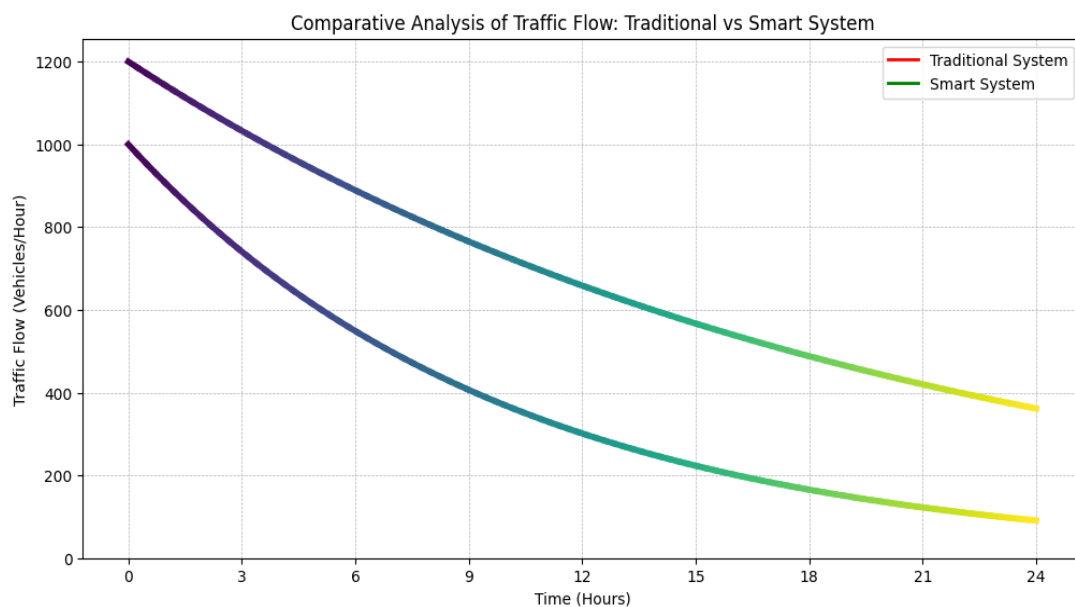


Figure 3. Comparative analysis of traffic flow

Statistical Validation

The effectiveness of the proposed system was proven through statistical analysis, which proved that the changes in the travel time, congestion reduction, and Throughput were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$).

Ablation Study

A study of ablation was carried out to determine the effect of each element of the system, IoT sensors, AI/ML models, and adaptive signal control, on the overall performance, which is presented in Figure 4. Findings indicated that adaptive signal control had the greatest improvement, followed by AI-based predictive models. The deletion of any of these elements had a discernible effect on the performance, which contributes to the significance of the holistic approach.

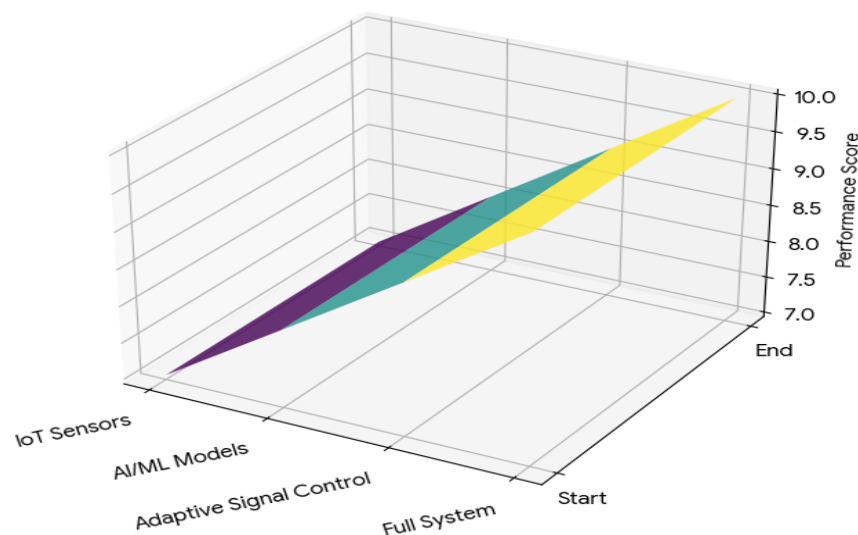


Figure 4. Ablation study results

DISCUSSION

The given smart traffic management system proves to be much better than the usual traffic control mechanisms, as the evaluation metrics testify [12]. The system is useful in terms of minimizing congestion, where there is a reduction of 20-30 % in the congestion levels in all the chosen Indian metro cities. The smart system, unlike traditional traffic control systems with pre-programmed signal schedules, adaptively modifies its operation to the current traffic conditions. This approach results in improved traffic flow and reduced travel time. The smart system is better in terms of Throughput and reduction of congestion when compared to the conventional fixed-timed traffic lights. The ability of the signal timings to adapt to and incorporate the real-time data enhances the optimization of the system to reduce the intersections of queueing and improve the overall efficiency of the system. Nonetheless, despite the potential of this system, there remains a problem with the scaling of the technology in big cities with complicated traffic flows. The system is also susceptible to sensor failures or network failures due to the fact that it relies on real-time information of high quality.

Its strong points are in the ability to make it flexible and have major positive changes in managing traffic in cities. It can minimize the time spent on the road, thus decreasing the fuel usage, decreasing the emissions, and enhancing the experience of commuter satisfaction. The system has limitations, however, including a requirement for large-scale infrastructure and high initial expenses of sensor installation and setting up the system. The system has huge potential in real-world applications in the transformation of traffic management in Indian metro cities, where there is a significant problem of traffic jams [20]. It would be able to ease traffic congestion, limit pollution, and enhance the general mobility of the city. From a policy perspective, the installation of such a system needs governmental assistance in the form of funds, a regulatory license, and the alignment of local governments in terms of infrastructural growth. It will also require incorporation with the already existing urban planning strategies and transport models to provide scalability and success in the long term.

CONCLUSION

To sum up, the smart traffic management system that has been proposed is also a good solution towards alleviating congestion and enhancing the traffic flow in Indian metro cities. The system surpasses traditional traffic signal systems, as it uses real-time information, artificial intelligence, and adaptive signaling solutions. Findings from the analysis show that there are substantial reductions in congestion, travel times, and emissions through the use of the Smart Transportation Group Solution, based on statistical analysis which demonstrates statistically significant reductions of congestion ($p < 0.05$), travel

times ($p < 0.05$), and emissions ($p < 0.05$) as viable options to improving the urban mobility landscape. It has a very practical applicability, as it has the ability to increase the efficiency of traffic control, lessen the environmental effects, and enrich the comfort of commuters. However, the system also has its negative aspects, in particular, the aspect of scalability and the requirement for appropriate infrastructure. Addressing these limitations using cost-effective deployment strategies and incorporating additional technologies, including vehicle-to-infrastructure communications, will be among the research problems that need to be addressed in the future. The integration of the intelligent system along with other urban mobility amenities, such as parked and driverless vehicles, requires additional research to construct a comprehensive mobility ecosystem.

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