

## **Mr. Kalmadi and Mr. M Ramchandran review the progress of BRTS**

**Pune, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008:** Mr. Suresh Kalmadi, MP and Chairman, OC, CYG Pune 2008 and CWG Delhi 2010 and Mr. M Ramchandran, Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, toured the BRTS route in the city to review its progress.

Mr. Suresh Kalmadi and Mr. M Ramchandran were accompanied by Mr. Pravinsinh Pardeshi, PMC Commissioner who gave an update on the progress while driving down the Swargate – Katraj route on the bus. The BRTS bus will facilitate the people to travel in less time. With city roads getting congested as nearly 600 vehicles get added everyday, the focus will be on public transport and that's where BRTS comes in the picture.

Mr. Kalmadi has requested for Rs. 480 crore from Urban Development Secretary, Mr. Ramchandran, for the BRTS project in Pune, to enhance the system and make it more effective and safe by making over-bridges for pedestrians to cross over and completion of cycle tracks. In response, Mr. M Ramchandran has given his assurance to discuss it in the next meeting in Delhi.

Commenting on the developments, Mr. M Ramchandran said that it is the first time that BRTS has been implemented in the country and Pune is the first city it has been introduced in. The phase one of the BRTS route has been extended from 13 km to 52 km and they are looking at more funds for this purpose and Pune definitely deserves it.

Other dignitaries present on the tour were MLA Ramesh Bhagwe, City Congress President Advocate Abhay Chhajed, PMC Congress Leader Aba Bagul, Virendra Kirad, Sanjay Nande, Bandu Nalawade, Prasanna Jagtap.