

KOLKATA'S UNSOLVED CAR PARKING GRIDLOCK



PARKING PROBLEMS IN KOLKATA

- Multiple-row and disorganized parking in areas like New Market, B.B.D. Bagh and Khidirpur cause significant congestion.
- On-street parking in the B.B.D. Bagh-Esplanade area reduces road space by 34.5%, with Park Street and Dalhousie seeing 27.5% and 38.4% reductions, respectively ([Rome & Mukherjee, 2015](#); [Chowdhury, 2016](#)).
- Commercial zones experience 80% parking occupancy, with 70-80% of encroaching vehicles being two-wheelers.
- Footpath parking by house dwellers and in front of shops, schools, and apartments is a major issue ([KMC Car Parking Policy, 2017](#)).
- Two-wheelers often occupy spaces designated for four-wheelers, exacerbating parking shortages.
- Approximately one-fourth of Kolkata's road surface is used for on-street parking, leading to slower traffic and reduced efficiency.



WHY PARKING IS A SERIOUS MATTER TO SOLVE FOR KOLKATA?

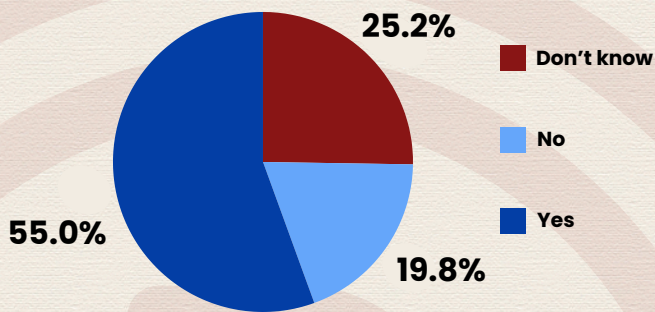
- Kolkata registered 34,963 new cars in 2022, marking the highest vehicular growth for the city ([Bandyopadhyay, 2023](#)).
- Road surface constitutes only 6% of Kolkata's total area, much lower than cities like Delhi (23%) and Mumbai (18%) ([JICA, n.d.](#)).
- The limited road space is insufficient to support proper on-street parking and vehicle movement.
- Rapid vehicle growth and low road coverage lead to severe congestion, making parking a critical issue for the city.



WHAT THE PEOPLE OF KOLKATA ARE THINKING?

INADEQUACY OF PARKING SPACE

Inadequate Parking Space in Kolkata

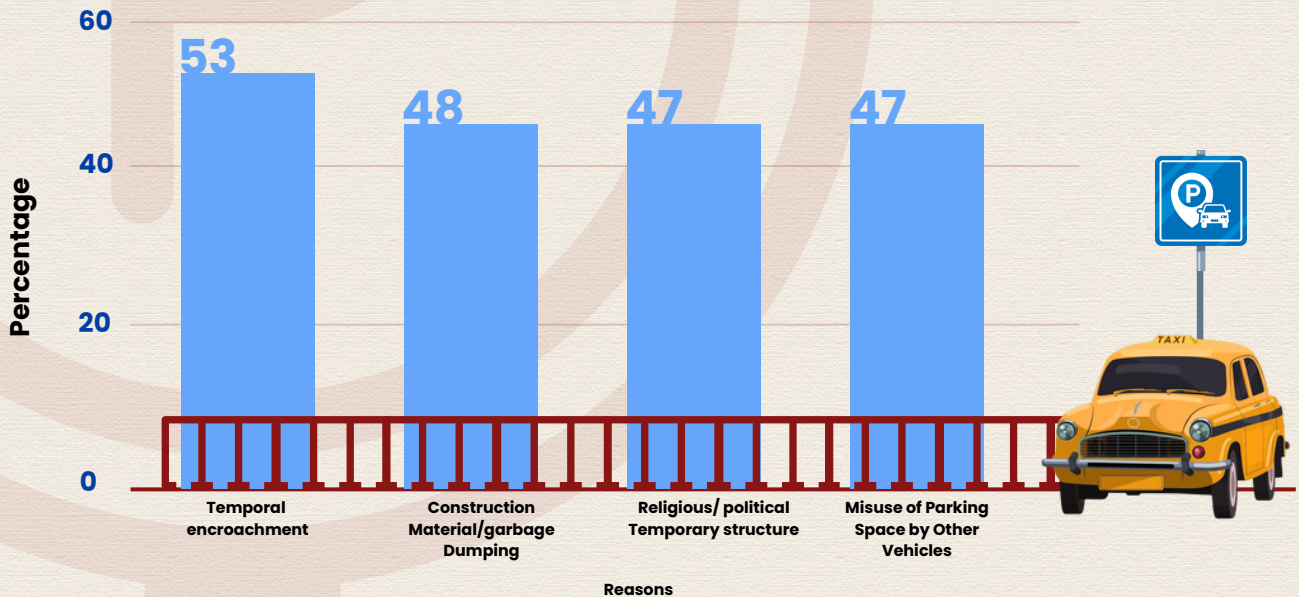


Parking space is inadequate in the city. 55% of respondents agree that parking space in Kolkata needs to be increased.



REASONS OF INADEQUACY

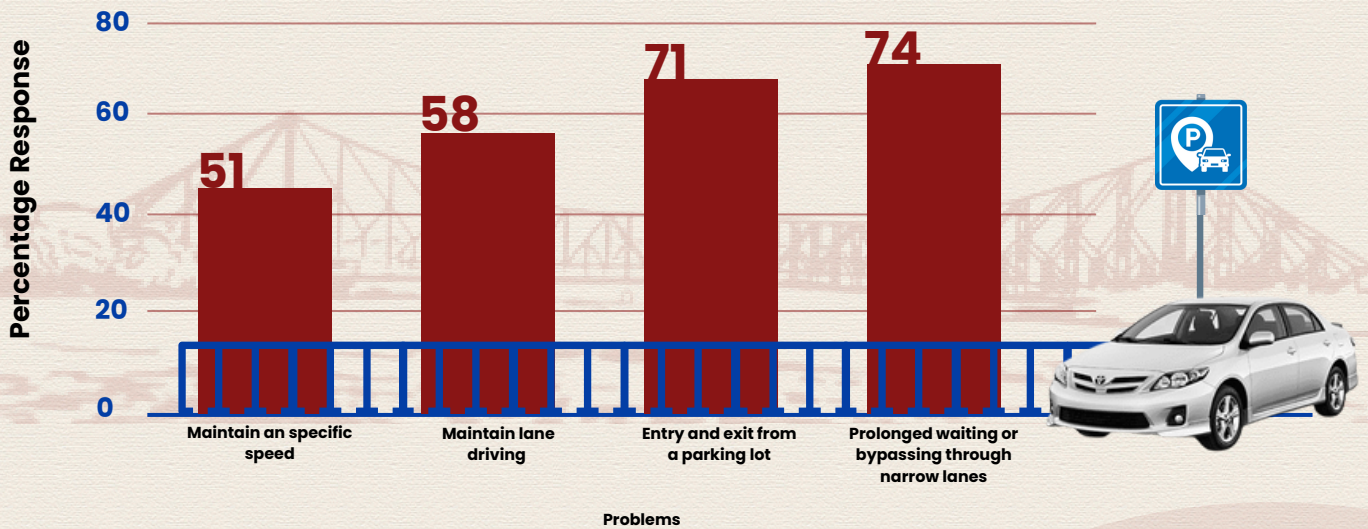
Reasons behind Shrinkage of Parking space



- 53% of residents cite temporal encroachments as the primary cause of parking space shrinkage.
- 48% attribute it to the dumping of construction materials and garbage on streets.
- 47% point to religious/political temporary structures as a significant factor.
- 47% also note the misuse of parking space by other vehicles as a major issue.

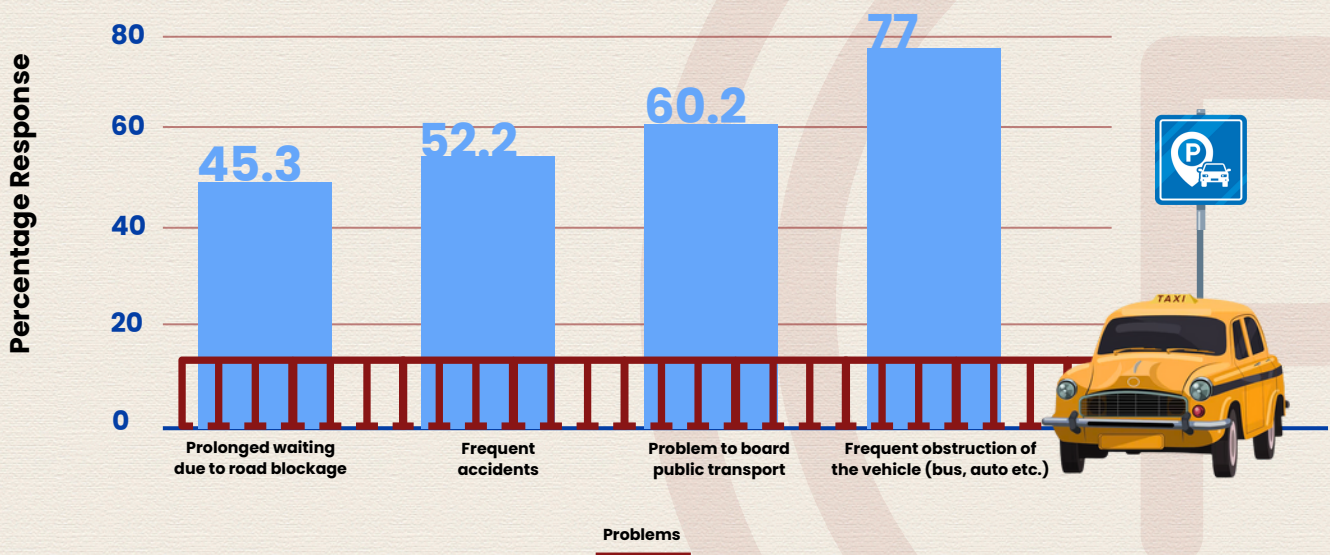
PROBLEMS FACED BY THE COMMUTERS OF KOLKATA DUE TO IRREGULAR PARKING

Frequent Disturbance of Private Vehicle Users from Parking



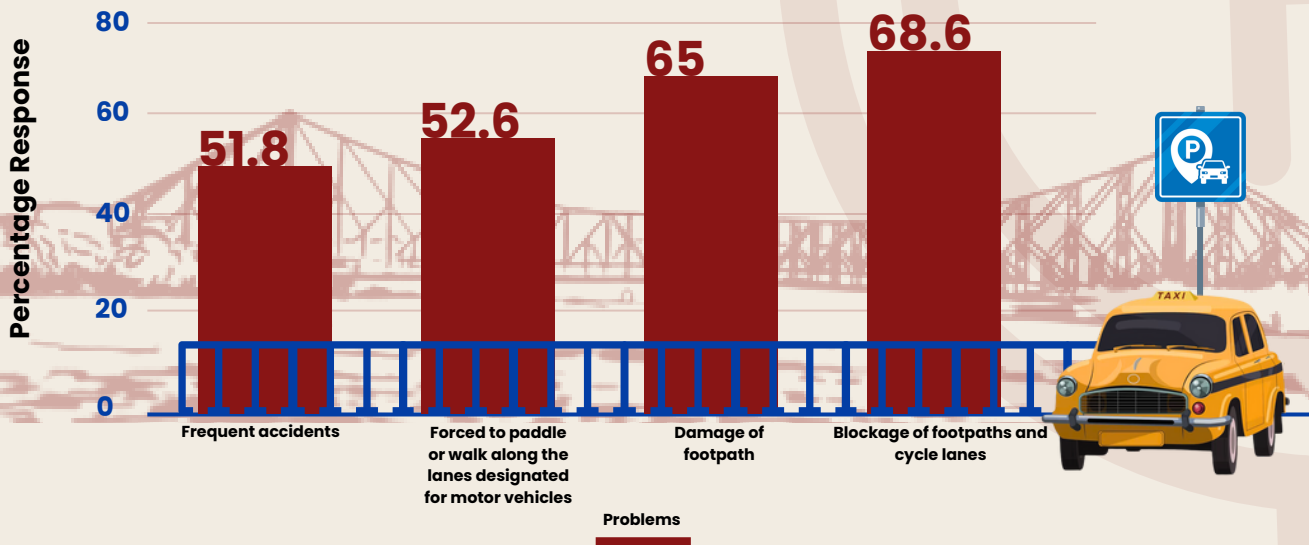
- 73.6% of respondents report prolonged waiting and navigating narrow lanes as the most prevalent issue.
- 71.2% find entry and exit from parking lots to be a significant challenge.

Frequent Disturbance of Public Vehicle Users from Parking



- 77.0% of respondents report frequent obstruction of public transport vehicles.
- 60.2% face difficulties in catching public transport due to on-road parking.

Frequent Disturbance of Pedestrians/Bicycle-Users from Parking

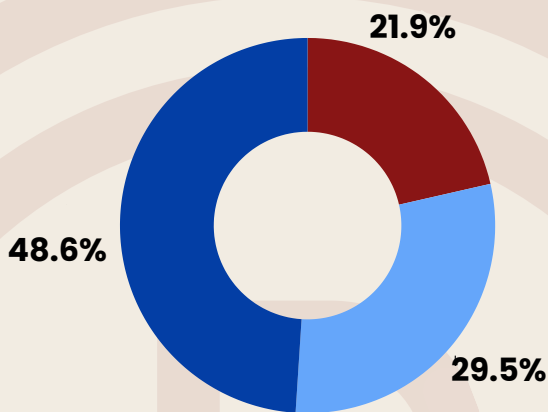


- 68.6% of respondents report on-road parking blocking footpaths and cycle lanes, affecting safety.
- 65% highlight damage to footpaths caused by parking on them as a significant concern.



PEOPLE'S AWARENESS OF THE EXISTENCE OF PARKING POLICY

People's Perception on the Presence of Parking Policy for Kolkata

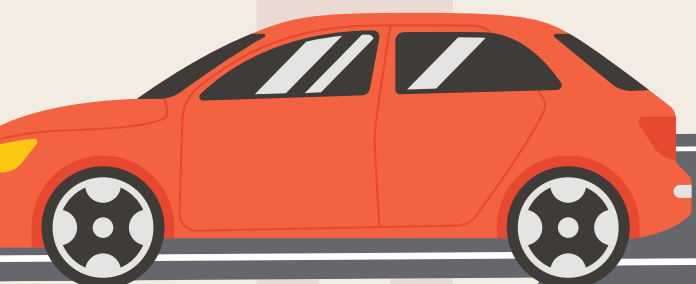


■ No, there is no parking policy
 ■ Don't know
 ■ Yes, there is a parking policy

- 48.6% of respondents are aware of the parking policy in Kolkata, but 57.4% are sceptical or uninformed.
- 21.9% deny the existence of the policy due to observed irregularities.
- 29.5% are unaware of any proper parking policy.

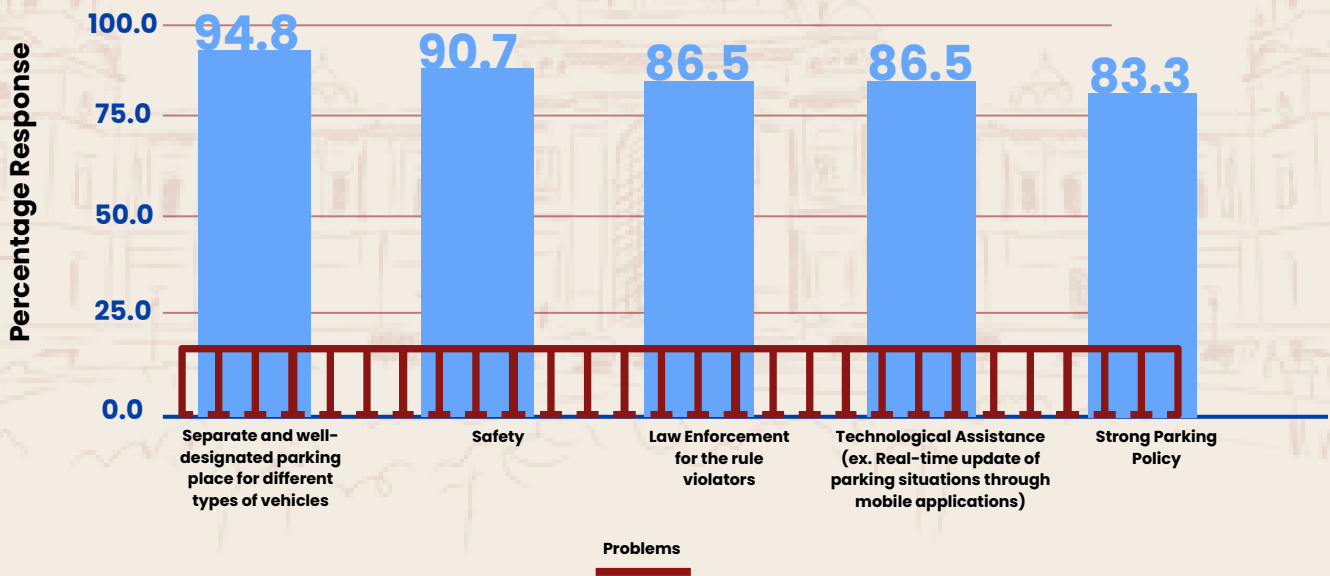
PARKING MANAGEMENT IN KOLKATA

- **Regulation:** KMC oversees parking in Kolkata, with support from Kolkata Police.
- **Objectives:** Reduce obstructions, ease commercial area congestion, and provide adequate parking.
- **Fees:** Night parking fees are higher (2x for two-wheelers, 3x for others), with uniform charges regardless of duration.
- **Collection:** Fees apply in licensed areas, 50 feet from junctions, avoiding obstructions.
- **Patterns:** Parallel parking enforced; specific zones for taxis and other vehicles.
- **Management:** Registered agents handle daily operations; KMC inspects and adjusts capacity.
- **Updates:** KMC may raise night fees; multi-storey parking and off-street solutions are being developed.



PEOPLE'S SUGGESTION FOR BETTER PARKING POLICY IN KOLKATA

People's Opinion about the required parameters in the future parking policy of Kolkata



1. 94.8% stress the need for well-designed parking for different vehicle types.
2. 90.7% prioritize safety in parking areas.
3. 86.5% advocate for law enforcement and technological aids for real-time updates.
4. 83.3% emphasize the importance of a strong parking policy for comprehensive regulation.



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