Uma (Facilitator) 00:00
[inaudible] can you give me a boost? My name is Uma. I care for dignity, respect and listening. Today’s meeting is called by TDC. ATDC, ATDC. [VOICE IN AUDIENCE] So, yes. Okay. So today, today is a... today is a time to just listen to work done by the committee. Please just. Just be quiet. You are hijacking a community process there is no need we will listen. Are you done? Are you done? Okay. You... So how many people are going to listen to this scream and say yes to it. Or we should just send her home. Why don't you go home? Krishna, Krishna, we... get. Anybody from working committee. Please stop shouting could you. STOP SHOUTING! STOP IT! Now, working committees here. I'm so glad. And thank you working committee for showing up. Krishna, we can learn to speak and listen to while I have a deep care for you. Let's not do this. Right?

Anu (WCom) 02:24
Thank you. Yeah. All right. Are you going to listen? Are you going to say “no” to everything? Yes. No, we are listening to her. It’s okay. Krishna, and this is a forum which has been announced for something for which people have come. Sorry. If you just come to hijack the thing, that’s your problem, but there are other people who have come to listen. And if you really don’t care about anything, Jesse don’t upstage the thing either. Okay, fine. [nervous laughter] All right. Okay. So if you’re all only here to upstage the thing, that’s your problem, this has been announced in good faith for something, we have got your mail. We have got mails from others who are in support of it. So you’re not the only one, you know, resident in town. The problem that you face, which has also been announced on Auronet, sorry, on News and Notes by Council. Yeah? Is something which you need to go directly to the Secretary and address. This is a thing which has been..., the appointment has been made there. We have made our recommendations. Whatever problem you have, we in the working committee don’t quite see it like that some of us have put forward... you know, the the way the appointment, you know, what we had requested earlier, but that was an appointment, which the foundation could not deal with, because it was not correct. We have to also own up to what was not very correct in our process.

Sauro (WCom) 04:34
I would say these meetings. I can speak I mean, this meeting has been called by the TDC to present their funding. And I think it would be the correct that we discuss for what the meeting has been called forth. I’m aware that there is an issue, I mean about and planning can be dealt separately. I mean that I don’t think that is a scope to be dealt today on this point of view. We have to be very clear. I mean, the there the working committee has made the recommendation for an office order for nominating ATDC some members for full time up to 2023, some member for the interim term up to first December 2021. I mean, the Office order of the foundation is different for what we have recommended. And that is part of a larger problem because we have different issue how TDC is to function we have two different organization one recent as an organization of 2017. One standing order of the Auroville Foundation that is different. This topic was brought up by the working committee in a meeting of January 2020. With the governing board, there was an agreement which is minuted that the two type of organizations should be synthetized and harmonized that is the [inaudible] two governing board. So we aim to work in that we aim to work in that direction. We had a conversation with the council even yesterday, how to bring the issue of this topic to.. how we can go ahead and bring clarity in all these different set up organization. So we are not going to set the topic aside. We’ll come back soon with this. I know there are many people who’ve made a petition in they want to be answered, but for today I will invite to listen what is the topic of presentation of what the meeting has been called for. And then we can take it up with this matter in the next general meeting or whichever that is can be easily done. I mean, it can be easily called then. That is a joint topic that Council and working committee are committed to deal in try to bring clarity in this issue.

Suhasini 06:50
She might have something to say. If you think we can go on with a meeting right in the mic please.
Anu (WCom) 07:04
Krishna, when you talk about the community, please remember it includes everybody. And there are different Yeah. It includes everybody. No, don't shout. Don't shout, right. Give her a mic if we have.

shrimoyi 07:28
The community does not mean only the forest group does not mean only the stewards of land does not mean people who have loud voices and come to meetings and shout. And people who just want to hijack everything for their own interest. Okay. There is a large community This is also not the community we are 3000 people. Okay? Just because some parts of the community can have loud voices can come here and show their strength of power. We believe in the green world. We believe in a forest. We don't want a city. That is not the entire community. Yeah. So why should we? Why should...

Sauro (WCom) 08:18
I would, I would say I mean it also read the conversation that is dealt with the council just yesterday. We'll come back with the... Working Comm will come... we'll have to organize another meeting to clarify this point. That is something definitely we are committed to I mean, there is a difficulties also because there are different points of view within the working committee itself. That is clear. But we will come back to these we will come back to these and we'll have a general meeting where we will discuss all these problems related to the town planning and the governance in general. I would invite for today to stick with the topic and then this topic this I know I was expecting this issue coming out sometime today. That is I was not expecting so soon but I was suspecting coming up today. That's fine. Is there is not an elephant in the room is something to use in open and we'll have to deal and discuss and we will take the appropriate time for that. That is...

09:19
...... inaudible
09:21
We don't have

Lakshay (ATDC) 09:22
Sorry. Friends, okay. Okay, friends. I hear you Krishna Krishna Suhasini Suhasini Okay. Wait, wait friends, you Krishna and others. You have Suhasini you you already Had two GMs to explain your point of view you already had. And you have yourself been asking TDC to conduct a GM for at least six months since I am there. And here we are doing listen to us. Let me finish. Let me finish please. Here we are doing you Here we are conducting our GM to explain our processes that we have taken on the crown it may be now this is up to you to decide once you listen through the presentation, whether the processes have been followed or not. That's what this GM is for. But if you're protesting already, how will you hear what we are here for? Now? Let me finish let me finish there is we are it's not it's not like previous gms where there was no question and answer session. This GM has been designed in a way this, this GM has been designed in a way that we have about 100. We have about 70 to 80 minutes of presentation and there is a 40 minute of q&a, then you can raise your questions. It's 40 minutes, I said 40 minutes of q&a 40 minutes of q&a is following once you listen. Alright.

shrimoyi 11:09
Look, Krishna, working committee will call a meeting. But there are many points of view this is not the only point of view which is going to hijack the community. Okay. And thank you. And so let's now carry on with the meeting give due respect what it is do you have come for the general meeting? It has been announced? It will the time will come Fred Not now. Please. We need to start? We need to start? Why? Hey.

Lakshay (ATDC) 11:24
Okay, this is the last one.

Fred 12:01
Yeah. I think we're calling the good faith and the trust that something positive will happen today. I think the input from people who have come forward is important. And whoever takes a minute or takes a notes shall have as a preamble that the validity of the groups who are presenting has been put into question. Both, both the TDC (clapping)... Let me just let me just follow up what Sauro has been calling on us the validity bath of the TDC and the working committee, how that came about his input into question, we come here not to be convinced not to be persuaded, we are expecting factual information to be given that's all and if in the process of that something of a common ground can emerge. And if there is a given a chance, which is more important than technical data, and processes and percentages, that the community gets a chance even now to present their information that should be given a fair chance. So under. So under under these provisions. I think I appeal to everybody whose heart is pounding that we listen factually just a status quo report on the information and Sauro was explaining we don't want and one more provision has to be there. If you talk about coming together collaboration when there is a peace talk, there has to be a ceasefire. We cannot while we are sitting here, action to be taken by the group's like we did before while the trees have been cut. If you agree that for the time being till something which a community can...
agreed action or stopped, timeout. Then I think in good faith, we can all stay here.

14:18
clapping

Anu (WCom) 14:21
Thank you, Fred.

shrimoyi 14:23
Let's just be respectful of the entire community. Let's go on. Thank you.

Uma (Facilitator) 14:32
So right we stay with just a presentation. We stay with the presentation as the meeting is called so Sreevatsa would you start please?

Sreevatsa (ATDC) 14:54
Well, I should say like I came here in good faith and looks That's that's your wish to ask me. But today I stand here in good faith. But with this kind of crowd I doubt like know how much you will be able to present and let this not be the precedence in the future. And this really will tell you and I fully believe that we are all properly selected and we have all the empowerment to do what we are doing, right and I completely disagree with what Frederick has said. And this is my stand and with this I'm making this presentation. Actually wanted to start with this. This versus in Savithri the yoga of the king the yoga of the souls release and why I found this very interesting and important is that's how I personally saw the crown the release of the soul of Matrimandir is the soul the crown is the release of the soul a world's desire compelled her model but.... let me let me let me express my views now you people could have the you people can shout and we have to listen all these things like you know quietly and now you don't give me an opportunity to speak? I mean I mean I'm in front of some bunch of hooligans here? Now please I think you should all learn to first be respectful work for whatever human unity you profess. This is not the way it is supposed to happen yeah let's see

audience 16:18
.... inaudible

Sauro (WCom) 16:32
I invite everyone to be i, sorry I invite everyone to be I invited everyone to be quiet, no we don't sorry

Lakshay (ATDC) 16:44
friends friends friends Sauro, Sauro.

Sauro (WCom) 16:48
You don't agree, I invite okay

Lakshay (ATDC) 16:50
let me, Sauro ...

Sauro (WCom) 16:51
okay. You say you say no but I invite everyone to be quiet and lets and lets go into the content to the meeting topic which has to be addressed I say it will be dealt in a separate meeting by working commitee, now you say not sure okay, but please let's stick to this

Lakshay (ATDC) 17:09
friends I'm also ... Uma, Uma ...

Uma (Facilitator) 17:12
how many people in this room would like presentation to happen just raise your hand please. Can we just have Yes, I agree with you should we just have a little bit of a ground rule that we will not shout even that we agree or disagree let the presentation be happening? Is that okay? How many
people agree with that please raise your hand Okay, so please do not close anything that I enough people are looking for this presentation. For the rest of you I really beg you just hold on for a few minutes for presentation to take place. Right Is that okay? get very good, right now.

Lakshay (ATDC) 18:02
So is it only your.....

Uma (Facilitator) 18:06
can we, Can... Suhasini... you can (arguing in the background) ...you cannot say

unknown 18:17
Suhasini it's not your thing. Mother is not only yours ha...

Anu (WCom) 18:21
Suhasini Suhasini you started the interface group what meetings with a fake quote of the mother so don't give us lectures

Anbu (ATDC) 18:31
background arguing.....Why not? Why not? Why what is the problem? Why not?

Anu (WCom) 18:40
I'm sorry. No, this is

Lakshay (ATDC) 18:43
okay. Okay, okay friends, friends, friends,

Anu (WCom) 18:48
some of the provocation Suhasini

Lakshay (ATDC) 18:55
every word is about to be a problem.....(people)... Suhasini if every word is going to be a problem, how do we proceed you have how do we proceed? Then every word that we contention for you if we say crown crown will be contention for content mother is content What do we talk about them? If you have come with an attitude but it will not progress Have you started interface and release with a there are people like me who do not want to take part in your old history for the sake of them let it continue. Yeah, can we call a minute of silence please can we call a minute of silence? can we can we call a minute of silence

shrimoyi 19:40
there's a clear there is a clear intention to disrupt everything. I don't think so. If it goes on like this no point. No point

Sreevatsa (ATDC) 19:51
the worlds desire compelled her mortal birth, one in the front of the immemorial quest protagonist of the mysterious play in which the unknown, pursues himself through forms and limits his eternity by the hours and the blind void he struggles to live and see a thinker and toiler in the ideal sir, brought down to earth dumb need a radiant power. Yes, next slide please. So, our intention to call for this GM today is to present as what is crown because we are well aware that there have been quite a lot of different opinions, different voices, different understandings of crown has been going on for a long time. And then we have come to a to a stage paradigm stage like know where we really have to start moving forward. And it is important that, you know, we understand what crown is. And the second one is the history, like know, the development the study is, which has happened, we would like to respectfully appreciate, and thank all the people who had like, no, made these studies made these proposals worked on different researchers in this field. And in this part, I would like to present all these studies, like know, which are which are seen as a benchmark for us while doing whatever planning or to the when we give it to the consultants outside. (Third one) ya the next one. And why? Why are we here? Why do you want to do this right now? What is the hurry? All the why? The next And how do we realize the crown? So our intention was to actually address these four? Can you go to the next slide, please? I think it's not working. Yeah. So what is the crown, we all know this famous picture of the galaxy. And if you see the crown is the circular kind of an abstract shape, which goes all around. But what is interesting is, crown has infrastructure lines, which are very important for the development of the whole town. The Crown has mobility corridors, which gives a unique character to Auroville. There are buildings on top of the crown sides of the crown. There are parks and public spaces. The famous one being here, like no, we have this, the park and then you
have this bliss, the bliss forest is right now over here. And over here we have this Darkali. And then we have the lanes of forces, which actually overlaps and goes into the crown. In the industrial zones, if you see actually these, these four lines of forces actually fly over the ground. And then apart from that we have the ground reality is your geographical realities like Ohdai-paromboke and other things. Again, the famous ones being in Darkali, I think at the latest stage, and we'll be presenting what are the Ohdai-parombokes which are there. And many, so a crown is much more than what we think a crown is much more complex, a crown is much more vibrant than what we actually we know or think of a crown. So historically, when we looked into it, where did it all start from? So, we had this document, which was sent to the Ford Foundation by the mother in 1968. Where we see the mention of the crown, the two dotted lines, what you see are mentioned as crown. And this is the road, the plan of the road structure of the of Auroville in the document. These are the crown buildings where they have even identified what kind of hospital stores and like no different different spaces in it. But mind during the time, actually, this is not the galaxy concept of what we are, we are actually following there's a little bit shift in the galaxy. The stadium, what you see is right now over here, so it got tilted. But nevertheless, we what understand this, from the beginning, there was a certain clear clarity about that there is a need of a crown, there's a certain allocation for the crown. There's a certain geographical boundary for the crown. There were roads in the plan which was submitted for the Ford Foundation, personally signed by the mother. And in that we don't it's not mentioned as the crown it's called as the service ring. So service ring is seen as something which can actually the main ring of the town. It's where the main road for the mechanical traffic's in the scene where like know the restaurants, coffee houses, permanent information, all these kinds of spaces, bars, what I meant in those days is not the bars of the liquor store, but obviously like no coffee shops, and those things kind of things, international zones another sorry, international zone Economic Zone is what we right now call as an industrial zone. So, there was a clear write up as what the crown will be in 1968 itself. Now, this is a picture from the master plan which was developed in consultation with the resident assembly in 1999. And then here, if you see it mentioned as a crown road, and the circular one, what you what you see over here is the crown it's written as a crown road. Now, this was approved in the 1999 master plan prepared by, the by the community and which was sent for official gazettement. These pages are all from the gazetted master plan. In fact, page 52 where each of these things talk about the crown like in residential zone talks about the crown international zone talks about the crown industrial zone talks about the crow. And then Apart from this, it also clearly mentions there is another special use zone which traverses all the four zones in a concentric fashion with a width of about 75 meters consisting of a circular road with building facing it, this is termed as the crown area. Now, this is the quotation This is exactly what is there in the gazetted master plan. And in the physical infrastructure section of the master plan, what you see is, sorry, again, there are it mentions about two ring roads, two ring roads are proposed within the city area one circumscribing the four main use zones and other adjoining the utility zone which is designated as the crown road. The right of way of this road is also suggested to be 30 meters. So, the point to be clearly underlined over here is it is suggested it's not like no enforceable. This is the map from the again the gazetted master plan where you can actually see the crown and there's an outer ring road. Next one, again, in the in the proposed land use section of the master plan, you can see talks about crown... can you go down please zooming... so what I showed you is like no something which started from 1968, and then the 1999 like no. in preparation with the community. And then the 2002 when it was sent to the governing board for acceptance. And then based on that, L'avenir de Auroville had invited consultants. First there was a consultant called Hans Billinger, from Germany, who had come down. And he had given a proposal about how mobility could happen. Why was mobility seen as an important part of it is, that's one of the most uniqueness of the master plan of all, sorry, the concept of the galaxy, is it is seen as a pedestrian city, it's seen as like, the first rate actually goes to the pedestrians, and then to the cyclist, and so on and so forth. So how could we develop a city, which actually gives the first preference to pedestrians and that's why, like no, history, we feel like no, mobility is a very important part in doing the planning and manifesting Auroville. And the interesting things what he has suggested is, he clearly says pedestrians take priority cyclists will be allowed where they where they do not disturb cars and motorbikes will be permitted only when necessary for emergencies or for delivery and removal. Only those with walking problems will be allowed to use motorized vehicle in the pedestrian zones, access for vehicles for delivery and removal can be restricted to certain times of the day. So this is the base concept of which mobility has been on and off like no been constantly being pursued in L'avenir de Auroville. And this was his concept of like, know how it could happen. If you see the orange lines are all ... sorry, the yellow ones are all pedestrians. So you could see like, no, there's quite a lot of pedestrian lines inside this this map. And then, he had also worked out about how we could have a community transport his proposal was actually if we had four buses, one originating from each of the service zones, we will be having a bus every 10 minutes and at the service node every 20 minutes. So you felt, like no, having more, having a community transportation and with a pedestrian ... this would be what, like no, actually will help us to really manifest Auroville. And this was his proposal as a first phase where he started let's start working only with two zones. And these are some of the reference images which have taken the liberty to post it from his study, where he envisions crown could be something like this or it could also be something in this or it could be even a mixture of both. But also he has given us a word of caution where he says a majority of Aurovilians need to be convinced of the advantage of the motor free city and what has also been a very important part is, like no, we have to move about with certain behavioral change. We just can't ask the best of the both of us we also have to participate as participants of the project. This has been clearly recommended by any consultants numerous times, in whatever ways possible. And then we, when that was being prepared, then L'avenir de Auroville took this and made a more comprehensive study with Helmet and Billinger in 2005. Can you can you click on the report, please? Yeah, can you go to the next next one? The next. So, the planning principles which are defined for circulation is like no reducing transport time, allowing better interaction between the residents, the crown brings together prominent activities, the pedestrian is freed from the pressure of traffic, the closer one comes to the Matrimandir. So there's quite a lot of thought which had actually gone into to, to ensure that you know how we could make our mobility corridors into something which is very friendly for pedestrians, that the pedestrians have the first right of usage. And we use only motorized vehicle to the bare minimum, where it's when it comes down to barely essential like in terms of ambulances, or in terms of fire, no, fire engines or in terms of, like no, moving. You know, any service vehicles. Go to the next one. The next. Yeah, seventh pages. So this is a very interesting thing. Because it's, it's, it's important for us to know, the whole diameter actually, like know the radius, we could cover it in 24 minutes of work. And seven minutes is all what it takes for us to move from Matrimandir to the outer ring road. So this is the the whole city area. So we also have to clearly understand that by design by intent, like no, we are blessed to have a design, which actually helps us to make it into a pedestrian free, I mean, precedent friendly town. It's not something like no, it was designed to be a motorized store. And then we wanted to move into pedestrian town, we actually from the beginning was seen as a pedestrian friendly town. And that is what actually we are the crown or whatever is supposed to manifest yes to the next one. The streets and pathways. Yes. Yes. So if you see they had suggested for the crown a totally 18 meters at the time. The building lines and all the calculations were really worked out in a very professional way. Yeah. So could you both go back to the PowerPoint, please. Yes. So this is from dream catchers, which actually started from 2004. For it was a very innovative catchers. We We definitely we respect the process of dream catching. And what it tried to evolve as a synthesis between different parallel. So this is also something which we acknowledge. And this is the
proposal which actually they had shown. I think Solar kitchen is here Solar kitchen is somewhere here. Yeah, this is Solar kitchen. Yeah. And then in 2007, there was a study by Anupama for the city center, where if you see like, no, again, this was a quite an exhaustive study funded by L'avenir at the time, they talk about the green corridors, they talk about the crown, they talk about the transportation, and quite a lot of studies have been going into it, they talk about the road network. How it could be, the vehicular circulation can happen. Interestingly, if you see the line of horaces over here, the line of forces over here is more than I think it's G+11, or something, it's done 12 floors, I all these are all 12 floors high. And on top of the crown, it is around six plus G+ five, all these things are six floors high. So it's a huge building, which actually arches over the crown and enters into the city area. But what also it means for us when it comes to crown is that what would be in turn like know if you need to bring fire tenders over there. When you have 11 storey high building, what would mean if you have to bring an ambulance over there. So the crown has to cater to a variety of like no different aspirations different different merges, which are actually happening here. Talk about the distribution of population. Another interesting thing is like no, you could see that Mahalakshmi part which actually goes to the bliss and then they talk about gardens. I mean, this was also quite a revelation for me because I didn't know there was a park and I always thought Park was a garden and the garden was a park. But somehow when Roger was there, he kind of looked into it as a park and a garden. And then the crown buildings which are on top of it. So, like I said from 68 99 2002 to 2003 then 2004 the mobility concept, and then if you see 2007 the city centre study proposals, the details of the design. And then in 2012 there was a study to give a technical parameters for the crown road This was prepared by Aqua engineers from Oroville and I think based on this stretch, the technically how the road what you see from matrimonial I mean, sorry. Solar kitchen, til arka that stretch was based on the technical specification of what the technicidity of the road over there is supposed to be. And then in 2005 15, there was a guidelines which evolved for the crown specifically for urban design in the residential zone. So, what you could see is like no, actually there has been a kind of whatever we agree or deny there has been a kind of a momentum. And constantly there has been a certain movement like know from just being a road as a concept being sketched by Roger in 1968. To no mobility plan is working on it to what urban design guidelines are. So there has been quite a lot of study which has been built one on top of each other. So it has actually like, especially from 99 to 2010, quite a lot has evolved. And decisions have been made, buildings have been built, permissions have been given the government G0I funds had been requested, roads have been paved based on all these studies. Now what is interesting is like no, we have different ideas and understanding about what the crown is like no, this is also quite perplexing, especially for me, because you have the people call it as a crown. I'm saying this from the, from what I could see in the reports and not saying what a spoke to the people. It says as crown buildings and places crown, its crown roads, crown parts, service roads, inner ring road, crown ways there, there are numerous ways of how it has been described by each and every consultant. And some of what we find is like No, nobody has been able to synthesize and, and give and tell Look, this is what crown is. I think that is where probably most of the confusions is arising personally from from what I could see. And if you ask me, me and the Present L'avenir, we all see it as a kind of a plaza like an elongated Plaza, a public space, where the importance is for the pedestrians. And of course, this the service, the vehicle service vehicles, the emergency vehicles could play, pedestrian and public transport. So this is how we are actually looking at this and how we would be so we would be more than happy to manifest. So we are not actually looking at the crown as a road, where buses and bikes zoom around and whatever it is. Now what is the character of the crown, so I don't want to to redeline the way I see it. I've taken the liberty again to quote from what has been published in the Journal of the Indian Institute of Architects where Roger mentions that we are going to create a shaded architecture that will allow for our traffic and certain outburst of light within patios and hanging gardens. Within this ring, a bustling life will exist. The town's vital soul. That's how he describes it. Now crown why now? There are some people say why can’t it be now. But we have come to a come to a time when I think it’s important for us. development has to move more ahead. It’s it’s not about it’s more than for me like it’s it’s about moving forward with development, moving forward with building the galaxy, manifesting the galaxy. And we all know like know that external pressures and internal pressures both are there. And if you really have to unlock for us like no, it is about unlocking the crown, if you are able to unlock the crown, we believe most of the development paralysis which we have can actually be opened up. And how did all these things started? In seven February 2020, we actually issued a work order to lay these part of the HT cables. And then sixth March, we had a meeting with the forest group where myself and Ulli was at the time a resource person was presented. I mean was present, and we arrived at we will ask for environmental analysis, because we want to really understand what is the rationale of why it is being obstructed. Now keeping let's keep the whole discussion was let's keep the emotion aside. Let's look at what is the rationale of why it is being what is it is the impact actually it happens like know if you're going to lay the cables. Now, this was what actually was given to us. So we had asked, Island was kind enough to do the survey for us. And he had identified some of the trees, which he had marked it. And this was the gist of what we could actually say. See, according to various rewards the initial pioneer species of planted in 1980s native species were introduced in 1995, which intensified in 1997. With a large plantation of native species and groves, and replacement planting, and the subsequent three years since 2002, sporadic planting has been implemented, but generally this area has been left to regenerate naturally for the last 15 years. So the survey identified 115 trees and shrubs that would be potentially affected. So this is what is mentioned in the report. I'm sorry. So what we actually want to take it up is, look, it's not like we are doing something which has not been decided this is the implementation itself it's it's a 12 year process. Already in 2010. The, you know, the manifesting, the crown had already started, there was a payment, which happened, like you see, like no, a lot of studies have happened in this thing to really understand and we have got some of the best experts in the world to really studied. Billinger is one of the most intelligent consultant we could really get in terms of electrical lines in terms of implementation itself is it's a 12 year process. Already in 2010. The, you know, the manifesting, the crown had already started, there was a payment, which happened, like you see, like no, a lot of studies have happened in this thing to really understand and we have got some of the best experts in the world to really studied. Billinger is one of the most intelligent consultant we could really get in terms of electrical lines in terms of implementation itself is it's a 12 year process.
which I think will help us to rationally sit and discuss and to see how we can evolve over there. And this is the direction actually want to do it. If it’s not there, like normal probably wouldn’t have gone all these things to do all the surveys and everything. So I think it’ll be interesting to know what the survey results are showing. Anbu we will be presenting the survey results. So you want to see, so, Vidya I will be addressing her part of it. Especially that is regarding the right of ways because Right of Ways, as as the terminology is being kind of understood in many different ways. I think it’s important and interesting to understand what the right of ways means. Thank you.

Vidya (ATDC) 44:14

Good evening. I’m Vidya. So I will just be picking up from what Srivas has says that I’ll go a layer deeper into what I’ll go a layer deeper into what this mobility proposal we are doing. So right I’ll be talking about right of way mobility concept and the crown road. So right of way the definition of it. It is a grant result for a pedestrian or a vehicle or a shed / ship (?) !a lot of shade) to proceed in a path which is allocated for a certain situation or a place and they get a precedence others. This is the basic definition of right of way. And if you got the technical definition of what right of ways it includes the carriageway carriageway is nothing but where the vehicles move. And then it also includes the sidewalk pedestrians, the bicycle paths, the landscapes, the drainage plus any land allocated for future expansion of the road, plus all the amenities that go for the development of the road. So all of these put together is right of way. So the actual road on which the vehicles move is only one component of right of way. This is one thing which we have to be clear. Just representational image, don’t mind the building will means the things. So if you see that the right of way it starts from the pedestrian of that tend to descend. And also mainly I took this image to show the to show the utilities that go below the road. So which will we’ll also be doing something similar in the crown. The proposed mobility concept. Yeah. So this is

Uma (Facilitator) 46:16

the main root cause, we take a pause that is not okay. That we start booing then you just stop, let there be peace, we have a moment of silence. And then we start again, as a culture, we should not allow this to happen. It’s a disrespect for people who are standing here and making a presentation. So we pause Vidya just pause a minute of silence please.

Vidya (ATDC) 47:23

So we think Auroville would be the best city to implement a car free city, why are we going to it? So first of all, what exactly is a car free city, it is a city where the population predominantly relies upon public transport, and then walking and bicycle for their commuting within the city limits. This is what a car free city stands for. And our Auroville master plan also talks about non polluting vehicles zone for Auroville. So, these two we are actually going to step further in suggesting in proposing Car Free Cities not just only nonpolluting vehicular traffic. So, what are the advantages of car free stuff is that it fosters improved environmental quality, because when we reduce when most of us shift for shared transport, automatically the number of vehicles come down. So there will be less noise pollution and less air pollution, which is a pre request a good environment is a frequent request for any spiritual community. That’s one thing and the second thing is very important, especially in our case, where we do not have much land. So, we can utilize the land in a better way, if we can allocate it for other purposes other than giving it for private car parks and private parking lots and garages, that is another advantage. third advantage is its economical, obviously, for an individual it is buying a car petrol diesel spending for an insurance, maintenance, all these are anyway taken out of the list. And then when the individual economy improves automatically, the community economy also improves and also their health. So when we walk when we bicycle, obviously the health improves the public health also is improved. How to shift this is how the implementation part that how to shift from what we are doing to a car free city, the two ways which could be done parallelly first thing is the logistics. And second thing is through policies, logistics meaning availability of public transport, their entire success of a car free city depends upon how well we coordinate and provide the public transport to the people. That’s the main thing. The second thing is the traffic management and also the urban management the urban design has to be complete. entry to a car free city that’s quite important. So, we have to design the city in a very pedestrian friendly way. So that people do not feel the stress of walking through and through social methods, through education, educating people about the benefits, and then through policies. Auroville master plan itself has a basic proposal about how the mobility has to be. So, what we are suggesting is we are blending the proposal made by the master plan and the Billinger study both we have learned to give a proposal. So if you see the hierarchy of roads in the master plan, we have four types of roads, one is access roads, second is the outer ring road. Third is the inner service road crown road or the crown way. Like it crown we will call it Crown way and the radial roads. So blow up. And the outer dotted line is basically it’s just an imaginary line that is what it contains, that is the boundary of our Township. And then the blue circle is the outer ring road, which and comprises our actual city City area. And red circle is the city center and that is actually the crown access roads, if you see Auroville is very strategically placed between two important roads, one is the Tindivanam Pondicherry highways, and another is the ECR. So we’re both a benefit. And if you don’t manage it properly, it could be a real menace. So, in this way, we have to manage the traffic in such a way that all the unwanted traffic gets filtered in the outer ring road itself. So, there are four access roads, if you will see, four access roads are there, two in the east side and two in the west side, that the other one this one connects to the ECR and this to the Tindivanam highways the main function of the access road is to bring in the traffic and connect it to the outer ring road and as per the master plan I have defined what a right of way is as per the master plan the right of way for this road is 30 meters and what kind it is purely a public road. So, we cannot regulate this road very much we have to accept the traffic whatever it is, allow it till it comes to the point of the outer ring, an outer ring road, outer ring road the radius of outer ring road from the center from the banyan tree is 1.25 kilometers and the circumference is eight kilometers. So this is the size of this outer ring. And the main function of this outer ring is to receive traffic from the access roads and then distributed along its periphery to outside and the third most important function of this outer ring road is it houses four service nodes which srivatsa was saying these service nodes these are the locations where the access point access road connects to the outer ring there we will be having four service nodes. These service nodes are very important. It is at this point where the quality of our traffic changes. So whatever motorized vehicles come to Auroville will be parked there and these vehicles both Aurovilains as well as the outsiders, those visitors who come to our will all motorized vehicles will be parked in these nodes and that we exchange we change to the internal traffic internal traffic mode, that is we take a public bus, that is nonpolluting bus, or we walk or we bike. This is the proposal. So these service nodes will serve as transport mode exchange areas where motorized vehicles will be parked and non polluting shuttle bikes are about whatever we choose, we can commute it there and
Anbu (ATDC) 1:00:18
Thank you. And yeah, Shrivatsa explained about the concept and of course, Vidya has given a good brief of the facility and studies, let’s come to the reality where are we as a community. Suddenly, the crown took place now silly communities like vibrating a lot. Why suddenly crown its not suddenly insolvent and please come.

Anbu (ATDC) 1:00:03
Anbu would be presenting what happened in last few weeks, there’s so much of a survey has been getting done. So outcome of that with undo insolvent and please come.

Uma (Facilitator) 1:00:03
Anbu would be presenting what happened in last few weeks, there’s so much of a survey has been getting done. So outcome of that with undo insolvent and please come.
here like when you see mango tree and banyan tree we have around six seven banyan tree on the ground. And you see there is another pond which is two meters 20 centimeter depth of a pond which is manually made. Next to that this is a canyon big Canyon depth Canyon three meter 50 centimeter depth of Canyon which is natural Canyon actually. And we have the trees of course up to there. So we start from this end to this and this is the road which goes to a Pony Farm the paved road. So this is one stitch we studied how we studied before we do the survey, we went to Darkali, meet a Gopala and Agnes with their collaboration and cooperation, we have done the survey it needs to go for next session to them. Can you please second the youth center of course, this is where to go CSR and this is where we paved the land which belongs to Michael Banke. And these are the existing trees which we have here all took trees and other thing and from here, where our electrical cable is stopped. And this is way where we are going through the youth center this data came in with a collaboration of a youth center and I got a call two weeks back from Paul to have the data to have a look and to more or to update it or to check Of course I have given. So, when the person we have sent her surveyor he came up with 317 spieces where that has been shared to Paul and last week of course, and yesterday I sat with them and we had a meeting of course it was a very interesting and good meeting actually when I get back from Paul there was another 93 species has been added Of course trees lets say. So in that case of course then this has to be discussed again one more time because for them that is important and we see definitely we are not there to cut the tree and as Shrivatsa said bulldozer and make the road no there is a collaboration for that reason only we are taking more time and sitting with them make each other understanding this is good for our community. Okay, can you please again, of course the length is around 400 meter from here to here. So one more Yeah, can put the previous one I just told them what are the the previous one? Yeah, those are the trees actually Of course there are a one shed which we had our last meeting here with the Secretary and we there was tow kitchen and the two sheds are there under not exactly on the road but beside the road definitely. But you can see on the plan definitely. Can you please go like this third one which is from centerfield from let's say friend of Solar Kitchen, where the paved is start stopped here. And we went all the way walked up to Sovitri Bhavan here. And what are the roadblocks or what other ground reality Let's see here. Of course, now we need to do our implement the crown path which is like this. This is very crucial to tell you actually because and also it was really really fantastic meeting we had with Tapas and sorry Mita and Tsuma it was really really excellent. It was very friendly, so fantastic. How the way it went, start explaining wasn't the beginning it was a bit tough actually because there is no common understanding between us definitely like we have so rigid and it's kind of like that, but I don't mind to say it's such a word actually. But definitely It was a fantastic moment it came in yesterday or I think so it I just explained you, again. We have mostly this places we have neem trees. And then of course there are some trees Gayat tree and something tamarind and other things out there. This is the house which you see here. two houses in the middle of crown way so We will discuss this also definitely, because they came with some suggestions and opinions, not the first time, we had a two, three times actually as good understanding she came to the office explained and everything. So this is our situation where the trees are. So once you see, now the survey has been made. This has been conveyed to the particular concerned people, we explain them, they have some ideas that you’re sharing with us. So, which is on the process. Regarding the design, the design factors going on the study is going on. This is our current situation. Thank you.

Uma (Facilitator) 1:10:44
Thank you, Anbu. We have further taking from Anbu. Toby is going to tell us, what is the way forward? Toby? Are you ready, Toby? Yeah. So now from here,

1:11:01
inaudible in the background

Uma (Facilitator) 1:11:06
Can you go back to the first slide? Please? Yeah.

Toby (ATDC) 1:11:12
Thank you. Can I start? Yep. No, I don't need this. Where to start? Actually, like, this is better, okay. When we had that, walk on the crowd, more than 200 people somehow here started to think from ya, we need something of a survey. Otherwise, we don't know where we talk about. Like this, I'm not so accustomed to microphones, I'm telling you. This better. Okay. So then he said, Look, we need something of a survey, just to find out from if you go in that direction, what what is in front of you. And of course, we are not completely blind. So we made meetings with with with Darkali and withAurodam and the youth center bliss. And that were actually quite big meeting 40-50 people were there and real discussions came. But in the end, we said, okay, let’s let’s do that survey. The survey happened, and Anbu gave us the results for it. And then the next phase comes that we wanted to present the survey results. And that is actually where we just in the middle of it, we went back to the communities not everywhere we are halfway. And also this gentleman meeting was meant to present the survey results that we all on the same page from where we are more or less. And we have at the moment two three discussions per day. And that starts with Tency and that ends in Bliss. Sometimes you do it two times, sometimes it is three times needed, just to get on the same page from what the survey results mean. For us looking at this circle, the first thing is what you see there is quite some Peromboke lands, I mean, that has a completely different approach than we have village lens, or temple lands or Auroville lands, I mean, it makes a big difference. And if you want to step by step, start realizing this road, then you meet all those different things. And that is not a 123 and it is done. I mean, if you see village land, perhaps we can get an permission, perhaps we can buy the land. Now, it's also not done in two weeks, I mean, all those processes are set in a working that we that we get gradually a feeling if we if we can get so far. In the meantime, in the discussions with the different communities, we another kind of information comes up. I mean people who have lived there people who have worked there are people who have planted trees, there are people who have made ponds, there are people who have made all kinds of things. You get a history, you get why they’re there, you get everything that is needed to know from how things have been evolved in time. And in that sense, we have to be very sensitive, because you think it is just a survey, but when the survey just goes over your house of the trees that you have planted, I mean, some kind of stress and sensitivity start to emerge. The approach what we what we have chosen there is we share information that is step one. That’s also concluded I’d have more questions. And then the second step is, what does that mean? And this is where already, not everybody, because we are half way in presenting
the results, where people already start thinking. Well, fence here and perhaps cables there, and that kind of things are starting to emerge. But that is that has just started. I mean, we were in the bliss. And we had a discussion about the trees, of course, and about the survey results. And we went apart where that look, we are going to write down now what we think what is the way forward TDC, you write down what you think is the way forward, we put those things together, we see where we can get, I mean, this is step by step the way forward. And that will take some time. I mean, that is not done tomorrow, in the meantime. But now I'm taking already a step is when you want to realize something for what is ahead of us. And you think of the Paromboke, you think of the village land, you think of all of those things, then something of designing comes up? How does it look like? But that is not just a few things on paper. I mean, if you see all the things that have to be arranged, but I just said some people need the changing pipe, some people need changing fences, some people they I mean, that has so many things where you have to think of so what our line probably will be but I'm really taking a step that we cut the road in pieces and say, Hey, Luke, how do we do want it here? Is this really necessary that we have six comma seven here 6.7 here are we make it a bit small, this is very green here Do I mean all that kind of questions will come and that we are starting to feel all of us comfortable with it, that will be the next step? Well, if this is done, and that is also not done tomorrow, then the whole thing come of designing approvals and money. And I mean, that is that is still far away. So we are now in the middle, we have done the survey, we have presented a survey to already quite a few people, not everywhere, we are just in the middle. It's not that we didn't do all the physics yet. We want to do it here in a general meeting presenting the results. And now we start thinking about how you will go about and at how we go about is that we are doing our work for what we think should happen, and that other people start thinking for how we go about and that has in the end that has to match somewhere. This is basically the message what I have here.

Uma (Facilitator) 1:17:41
Thank you, Toby, that was rather brief. Seven are good, would you come and add something to there is tea kept outside so feel free, there's no tea break as such. So, you can just go and have your tea and come in camera is also outside. So you can see there as well. So, feel free. Saravanan please.

Saravanan (TDC) 1:18:03
Thank you! I just want to I want to walk you through a kind of a scale. I need your help. How many of you been here in 60s, can you please raise your hands and 70s, 80s, 90s, 20s? Okay, fine. So, roughly we have like you know, span of people are here. So, people in the earliest would know this all the roads that we are traveling now was once a waterways. Because we sit on a plateau and it has like a altitude it starts from the sea and gradually grows up to 50 meter. And so all the water knows how to go and where to go. It has his conscious. So if you look so over the time the waterways became a good path, cow path, and then humans started to cycle and then and and and Aurroville was here. So well over the time this waterways becomes road so what happens is the pores are closed. The water cannot go where it has to go. And then moving on on this like if you look at the Aurroville a such. We have around like if you add another 500 meter to our circle. We have around 30 access points to our Aurroville. I don't think any city or a town would have this much access. Even a Pondicherry was only five like in like access to insight to the Pondicherry. So we look we're looking at all here is a big porosity of things here. Which is good as well as bad, because what road brings in is also like a solution and a problem. So, looking at what is happening here if you look, the most urbanized focal point in this, like plateau is actually Kullapalayam, the Bommapalayam commune. If you look, it is as far as more international village than anywhere else on the planet, I would say. And, and on top, we are like, you know, stuck in a very urban attitude, where the big cities and sprawls are coming and engulfing through the pores. And we are still in our like, you know, piecemeal fashion of development, or using our mobility in terms we are like, that is our status quo. We are like no spread apart in five hamlet's that is the reality. And if you're looking at what is happening all around, there is a big, big massive sprawl is engulfing because this altitude has the responsibility to go higher latitude, I mean, like, you know, an attitude, because that's what we are here for. So looking all these aspects, the problems we are facing is mostly coming through the roads. Because we are open to the speculation. And then during the pandemic, there's a big speculation happening. Imagine if somebody buys a piece of acre of land here, or anywhere else for this reason, and make it into a layout. They're making like 20 to 30 borewells is going to happen there. So again, we are making porosity, to drain the deplete the water. And we have like a pressure. The carrying capacity for us, it's already like 15,000, we are looking at it. And in our master plan area we have already look like around 30,000, let's say and, and suddenly, in any given day, we sell swell from 3000 to 10,000. That's how humans are in this plateau at any given day time. So this is all impacts we are facing. How does these impacts come through through roads, mainly. So even if you take this crown, it totally takes only 14 acres. And even if you take inside this crown, how many roads that are criss crossing, if you calculate, it comes around 30 acres. So because of the way we move, the way how with our behavior and the movement, how we move around us, we have to question now, because we need a nudge for our behavioral change. And it has to come from everyone also. And apparently, we have given the choice to address this also. That's why we see that the L'avenir here is like you know, people who are participating to do this work, that's how we see this, because it's not about a road it's about water, that is the deepest sense behind it, because we are just stuck with the construct of roads and things we are missing what it is really is about. If you if you take this crown, and we imagine we have changed our behavior of how we move from like being a kind of a commercial far kind of branded vehicles, from there, we have to move far further away, and how we move in now and our role is very essential, and because we have given the responsibility to be the model of the city future. So, we have immense responsibility to show the world that how we address this problem. So on based on all these aspects, we are not just seeing this just as a road or anything we see like if you look at different planes and different perspective coming out or getting out of our insecurities and look at it, it has more meaning to and have a sense to how this simple and geometry can solve like more efficient way we move. So, that is what it is been like you know kind of it is not an interpretation of a crown because that is where we get lost we need to siphon the crown what it was and also use our like you know rational mind as well as irrational things what also we have to give room for this and look our present like you know status quo and what is the reality is about. So, having this all in this equation, we need an efficient mode of our mobility. Apart from that, I also want to like to tell you if you look all as I said before, all the roads which are like you're using in the Auroville or once a waterway, there's only one manmade road is in our in this whole area, the early people would know this all the way coming together. And what they did, it was around like 5pm in the evening, they decided we need a solution, there is a lot of insecurity, like, you know, going using this road. So what they did, they announced it at 6pm, that each one from one house should come with one tool. It's a must. So they assembled at around eight o'clock. And by nine o'clock, they started doing the
Uma (Facilitator) 1:27:39

Thank you, all of you. If anybody has something else to add on, it’s time for q&a. And it’s there’s a request that people are wanting to have a few minutes break to have tea. I would suggest that people who have questions just be in the room and rest of you just help yourself a cup of tea. But let’s continue with just we are already only have 20 minutes left and a break is just going to stretch it far. So please come up with the put the group will sit over here now. And Sindhuya, Rima and myself will manage the name and the mic and group will sit over here. Sindhuya is taking name or Rima and Rima is passing the mic and just just give you a name and we will give you the mic and let’s pick one person at a time and that would be nice. Sindhuya, would you come in front I it’s okay for you to just perfect. It would be very nice that we just focus on when somebody’s speaking and have silence please.

Fred 1:30:06

Reflecting on this gathering today, I was moved to just make two points. And it was also encouraging to see the presentation. Because what I felt was that all presenters genuinely wanted to inform and made it clear that it’s on the way it is something in process. And if that can be manifested in action, that it doesn’t anticipate action but allows the wish and the aspiration of the community to express itself to be incorporated. Then I think the tension and the built up anxiety will dissolve. For me, I have lived in the last 53 years here, I have been in the extremes and some people might remember me and my excuse me off, but I’m not able anymore to take sides. I agree with both sides. I don’t want to be polarized and I think if we were able to step back and allow that commonness between us to manifest this will be the most soulful city. I think that we Toby said it in Kalabumi, Anbu said it also Srivastava. When I mentioned that, let the TDC be truly brought into the community by the community. I was not questioning their qualification or their capacity. I was just thinking that we could involve the community as an instrument as the spirit of the Act said to appoint its own bodies and not depend on an outside standing or the office order. That’s all I’m saying. The second thing which I do need, I have been participating silently but participating also in voice in several meetings. And we are being given a very special opportunity. The opportunity is not only because somebody has entered us here the Secretary with certain capacities and certain qualifications, but also that the pressure on Auroville we don’t even I don’t even know the extent to which Auroville is being pressurized from within and from outside. Whether it was questions which came up why open more roads when you see how the tourists the shops, the traffic is already entering the Kulaapalayam Road had we acted 10 years ago, this development could have been stopped. When we are being told this road the crown pass we are opening it is only for electrical vehicles. How will you manifest it? How is it possible to I’m not questioning that there is a way of doing it. But I feel that right now we are not aware what is at stake. We don’t have the right to waste a moment now. And from both sides, we have to step back and then quietly fraternally move into the common ground which unites us is the only chance to save what already is manifested.

Uma (Facilitator) 1:34:20

There are a lot of chairs empty. So if anybody wants to come in front most welcome.

Aurélio 1:34:26

I think it’s quite significant that we’re meeting on this auspicious day where everybody in the surrounding villages is basically invoking and celebrating. Ganesh is the remover of all the obstacles. We know from the stories how important that Ganesh energy was for the mother. She even insisted that on the temple which we have from the entry from the bypass road, the Ganesh temple will be taken care of and not abandoned. I’m amazed actually to hear and want to honor the work, which not only this present team but over so many years, people have put in in facing the challenges of our will and looking for solutions for it. And I’m very touched to see actually that the present team, that they focused on those areas where it’s tricky, where there’s controversy, where people are hurt, where there’s woundedness, and all of that. So I really appreciate that gesture. I think if I look into the community, we have such an amazing gathering and pull of individuals and experts in their field. We have all what it takes to continue to grow. And I think right now we’re challenged. The first question is, Are we together in the development of Auroville? Are we agreeing that if we don’t develop actually, the surrounding areas in Pondicherry will develop much faster than us and we will be coming into insignificance in the future? Yeah. My I have a proposal actually, because it’s very touching also to see that push for development and possibly we have a positive push, even from the government side, we are pushed by the circumstances of the bio region to develop. And I think we it’s clear that we are all touched by it and want to make a significant step. I would what I’m seeing, actually, I trust the people who are in charge of all the technicalities, I see a very strong need in the community that finally this should be the location via the crown road is emerging and being built, we have to build a functional residents assembly. It’s so clear, there’s such a need there. People feel that the process were hijacked that things are illegal and all of that it can only be the gathering the assembly, the parliament of the citizens of our will, who can actually take care and guarantee that quality for the future. So let’s actually those dissenting voices are those people who are unhappy, please, I see all of them the grass roots, democrats, the anarchists, all those who came with strong passion, please let’s put our efforts together and create the functioning residents assembly which is part of the Constitution if we have that we cannot be hijacked, we are playing the victims with the same thing we are shouting This is very immature behavior, we can do much better, let’s put...
In 2001, it was later the mobility plan of Auroville existed. We knew all what could happen if we would build road without having a proper mobility policy implementing pedestrian, cyclist and electric vehicle non-polluting vehicles. This was in 2001. In 2007, we received funds 40 lakhs to build the first stretch of the crown road. We have not done one thing about mobility policy, we have not applied anything about it. And it's quite understandable, because it's more easy to build a road than to convince people to go for pedestrian, cyclist and mobility, non-polluting mobility. So, we are going to do exactly the same. In Auroville we know very well that we are very good at thinking and suddenly is a big urge to think so, we meet and we present all the results but we don't take decision accordingly. I join completely Frederic on that topic. Now personally I have a very little question other than this one. So, my question for this first point is how will you do how will you organize so that if ever there is a paved road a little bit more on the crownway, how will it be that it will be very, very very human and only Aurovilians will come? I would like to know that is really a question now. Not now. You have you have time. To do it. And then and then I have another question because we have been shown at the very beginning, the model of the galaxy. And if we zoom closely to the model of the galaxy, see it's that the perfect circle of the crown is not at all a road. It's a blue ribbon. And obviously, it is water running. So I'm just questioning, is it a road? Is it really indispensable to have it in a circle? Is it not just more meaningful to have some water running? Can we all decide about it even even if the mother has given a plan with a road in 1969 to the Ford Foundation? Can't we address the Mother and tell Mother I think will be better? If we think so. I'm not saying to impose because I said it. Can't we go for water? Wow, water is so nice, no.

Rakhal 1:38:13

J

I have a simple remark that doesn't seem to come across or Okay, so everybody knows that the more infrastructure you put, the more the prices go up of the land. You know, I'm involved in trying to find the money to buy the land. If you get us all the land, why not the crown? But if you don't get us the land first, then how are we ever going to get the the city or whatever you want to call it? It's not going to be possible. You see it happening everywhere. So get us the land, you'll get the Crown in whatever water form or very creative.

Joel 1:41:20

Fabian 1:42:16

Yeah, hi. First, I'm really sorry that the meeting started off like that, I think no meeting amongst Aurovilians should start like that. And I see that the emotions are really high. And this is maybe the energies that we are calling in right now. And we can't be like that. I'm really sorry, I didn't shout or anything. But this is really for anybody who stands up there in the front. This is not okay. I'm very grateful to Vidya who actually spoke it for the first time out in in detail is that the image of the crown road that that is promised to us pedestrian friendly cyclists only, electrical only Aurovilians and guests. That is actually only possible if the outer ring road comes. And the outer ring road. If it comes in the drawings as it's done. It's what 30 meter I don't know what but it cuts through Kottakarai village where it stops right now it cuts through essential parts of the afforestation work of Auroville. Bliss is maybe small, it's still very beautiful. But if you cut through Revelation forest, if you cut through Gapa forest, Samndri forest, what then? So for me, it's really I think it's what Rachael said. How do you solve that. And for me, it's almost the feeling that doing the crown road right now, with all the aspirations and the promises that we hold, or that we are told. It's like doing the cart before the horse, we don't have the other concept of how to bring the traffic which we don't want into the city. How do we carry it? How do we bring it out? So that's really essential for me. And I hope that the TDC is a bit more clear on this. And then I had to laugh when Vidya also showed me the images of the ideal road section and I see a German Autobahn, more or less. And it's really contrasting with what we are promising and it's about trust and I see the parts of the road which are done. And they are obviously not what is promised right now so why not put all the energy in working on those and improving those and showing together with the community how that can be done? Thank you.

Selvaraj 1:44:41

I'm really happy. I mean, the beginning I wasn't sure what was happening but the end. I feel very happy after the presentation from the L'avenir team. You know, it's not the crown road is more the crown way that's how it's sounding. And I also feel happy with the team the way they've been following up, you know, talking to the various people in the area, and slowly trying to work out the details. I hope, you know others have sounded in this mood, if we can really hold ourselves together, and try and go on that mood, because the early start of this meeting didn't sound like this. It was kind of trying to tear make different groups, which is not exactly healthy for Auroville. We need to hold us all of us together. And those who have input to bring it, bring to the L'avenir team, please join the team. And let's try to work together, please, I really pray for that. Thank you.

Mita 1:46:05

Thank you. I have a few questions and a comment. So I would just like to read out the questions. And like Joel said, maybe they'll be the other session where the questions will be answered. Since this is a lack of time. So I just want to put those questions out. One thing that I really don't understand is, is there all the push to have the pedestrians and which is great, we all agree that, you know, that's where we should go. But then it's all pedestrians, cyclists and all then why is there separately 2.7 for cycle path and pedestrian? If the whole? No, I'm serious. I really want to this. It sounds strange to me. And also, then if it's pedestrian and cyclists, then it doesn't need to be 16.7. So why is it 16.7? This, I really would like an answer to I haven't actually got an answer. Somebody said it's not it hasn't been answered. So I really would like an answer to that that, you know, makes sense. And I just want to reiterate what Rakhal said, which is what is the plan to actually control the village traffic. Because I am just close to language labs just close to the Kottakarai village, and I just see increasing traffic every single day. And also, I just want to point out, I saw a whole family in a Mercedes Benz a whole Tamil family, obviously, they've sold land got money, they were in a Mercedes Benz right at the corner of Matrimandir the you know the visitor center Matrimandir road. And I just want to point out, there's a huge amount of car ownership is actually increasing in the village. So we really need to see what is going on in a regional context. So plans have to be made for that. And my other question is, you know, the four access ways. In this map, you
don’t really see those accesses so clearly, as they are in the schematic, and I would like to know if the land has been bought for those service nodes. Because I think that is one thing. I already proposed this in 2009 that we find a place and parking where we could all park and then transfer. And is that land bought? Where do we see it? We don’t see it over here. And my last thing is, you know, when you showed the crown ways presentation, in fact, see showing is one thing, but integrating is another. And this is where what Fred said is so important. It’s not by pushing over one point of view, we have to integrate, and I think the crown ways was a chance to integrate. This is what Fred has been saying. Others have been saying, we need to find the way to come together. And if there was that whole thing in the beginning, it is because people feel excluded from certain aspects of this plan. So can we not get together and really transform that plan to include everybody. So it will respect it will certainly reflect everybody’s perspectives. I believe that’s possible. I believe that’s why we are here in Auroville. And that if we had a master plan that really unifies that makes sense. Then, as somebody said in the video, the sky’s the limit, but it’s because we don’t have that and this is why this meeting is here. This is why we have to come together. And it has to reflect that you 80 of the differing perspectives has to reflect in our plan. That is the challenge of today. That’s what we have been called to do.

Uma (Facilitator) 1:50:14
Please tell your name when you take the mic to speak would be nicer. And to just to ensure your your questions are getting listed. I don’t think that is we are more into collecting all the information and not purposely wanting to answer any thing right now. So I hope you are understanding that as well.

Ange 1:50:39
I, first of all, I would really like to thank you guys for your presentation. For your courage to stand through the initial you know, ballistics and especially, yes, just the way you gave it across thank you so much it for me it was really helpful. I’ve been here since the 60s. And I’ve watched these waterways slowly turn into roads. And, actually through all my time here I’ve been wondering how we’re ever going to move away from these existing roads to what, you know, what is supposed to happen in Auroville eventually. And seeing more and more traffic happen on these roads and even also myself getting used to them, you know, it’s quick and efficient for me to move from one place to another to use these old roads. So my question was actually just do you actually have a plan section by section maybe to to close these waterway roads and and give us another option or what how is this transition going to happen? Do you have a plan for that an idea? I’d be I’d be very happy to park my motorbike somewhere and get onto a bicycle but just do you actually have a plan section by section maybe to close these waterway roads and and give us another option or what how is this transition going to happen? Do you have a plan for that an idea? I’d be I’d be very happy to park my motorbike somewhere and get onto a bicycle but I’m not seeing I’m not seeing it as as something that is actual today yet and I’d be happy to see it happen. Thank you

Veroniek 1:52:27
Okay. I just have a question. Few weeks, months ago, I don’t know, TDC came in the area Kalpana, Realization, Creativity and they proposed to put a parking front of Realization. Just before a Realization and future Vibrance. And I’m wondering how it’s possible to put the parking there when there will be no vehicle. And then why you don’t put the car outside as it was on the master plan? Then it was the full “No” from the all the community. “No, no car here, no car anywhere they need to be outside”. Then is part of the question you planned already something and why you plan something when it’s not showing their.

Suryamayi 1:53:22
Thank you. Thank you, TDC for your presentation. I have a question actually on something that you did address, but it’s still fuzzy for me. So I’m hoping that you can today or some other time, just help me get more on that. And I think it’s also a question actually for the whole community really. And the question is around why now? Why is the crown way a priority now? I heard you say that there are all these concerns around mobility that that you would like to address. And I think those are very pertinent and very valuable. I heard you say that in the crown way, there’ll be so much more public infrastructure, also valuable. But in the context in which we are today, where even though all of these things are concerns that we should start to think about when we have no traffic jams when we have public infrastructure that is underutilized. But we have other issues that are development issues, like we have hundreds of Aurovilians that live in precarious housing. And that’s not even counting newcomers. I’m just lacking a little bit of clarity on why this is a priority now even if we just call it a development priority, because there are other priorities that could be non development, even if we’re just saying, Okay, let’s look at our development priorities. I’m still struggling to understand why this is one today. And so I would personally really like to understand that better. I would also like to hear from the TDC. What are other development priorities that you’ve identified? And, yeah, just to just to know what those are so that we can have a little bit of context as to why this is something that is something we might need to focus so many resources, financial, I mean, they’re going to be massive human resources, not to mention the natural resources that you know, are going to be impacted. So, yeah, as a community member who’s being asked to consider this as a crucial issue today in terms of a development priority, I just need more.

Fabienne 1:55:35
I’m Fabienne, I would like to come back to what Mita said about the sector, which she is living with the Laboratory of the Language Laboratory is and the threat there, which is coming from that side. Five months ago, we appealed to the TDC, to do something on the direct entrance, which is the short way from New Creation to Sanjana, let’s say, this, area, which is the main road of the residential zone. Because people are using that road now to enter Auroville and our little cycle path has become literally a highway, we have big trucks, we have all kinds, even buses, all kinds of traffic on that side, people at home at any time of the day and the night. So we came with a proposal because there is a road, actually a road designed by TDC, that we have agreed on, maybe the only one, that we have ready to have constructed. Meaning when you take the road going to Sanjana, you find a little sign that says “stop”. In fact, this road should continue past between Matreye and the canyon of Sugawathi and join Sangha at the end. So we wanted to have that stretch done, and have some control at the end. We had two meetings, very constructive, interesting. And then suddenly, this obsession
of Crown Road came up. And we have been brushed totally away with a mega plan of the outer ring with the huge infra... of Crown Road, I call it... you should see the design, because it's really interesting. And then, why? We have two places that under immediate threat. And how can we believe you if you are not able to address this problem, that they will be only cycle on this road? No way! It's not possible.

Yuval 1:57:49

Sonia, you're generous with you.

Sonja 1:57:54

I was one of the first ones that put up my hand. I just wanted to know, is like I hear for our Aurovilians, for guests. What about all the people that come to work in Auroville? Are we forgetting? Like, I would like to know? Is it the idea? Is it possible that this crown is going to replace all the other roads that are in within this crown circle? Is this what is happening? Or are they going to stay and we have just a crown and we have all these crossroads? And is it still possible to actually close those roads like that Ange said are they going to be closed? Is this going to be accepted? Because this is a lot of people in the morning and in the evening go to their work, and they're not gonna walk and they don't have electric cycles. So: Talking... Yeah, maybe they have a bus. Maybe you have a bus. But this definitely... it's a big group of people that needs to definitely be included in the planning. This was my...

Yuval 1:59:11

My name is Yuval. You know when you take black ants and red ants and you put them in a jar of glass, they live very much in peace. When you shake them they kill each other. And then you don't see why this happened who checked this, you see? And what I want to try to say for all these what we talking about: The key is the landboard buying the land. The key that we buy the land is acquisition. The acquisition is hold up by the Secretary because she said the circle is not is not right. She cannot go to the collector and demand because you will give her another land. Bullshit. Don't say like this with your head. I don't believe in she can do acquisition. If she want. So we talking here about all these, because for years an years or l'avenir needs to play with Zen. Now suddenly they cut trees and everybody wake up, you know. And what is very important that we realize, and we be aware of all of us is only us, it's not them. And don't talk like this even. I think

Suhasini 2:00:30

I'm Suhasini. And I would like to start with saying, I really resent being called anti development. Because over the last 30 years, if there's somebody who has fought to develop the crown, it's me. I have seven public projects built on the crown. And each one was an uphill task with every development group that did not want to locate public projects on the crown. So please, don't call me anti city, anti galaxy, anti crown, and infantilize my input. Okay? Now, coming to the subject that I want to bring in, so you have done the survey. And as any person who is involved in planning, development of architecture knows that the survey is just an informational basis, on which there are four other surveys that have to be done. Otherwise, you cannot actually undertake urban planning. Urban planning is not about drawings. And it's not about surveys. It's actually about political, social, economic, and environmental issues. So I would like to know from the TDC, given their capacity, and I'm not going to be harmonizing and say that they have the capacity, they neither have acquired nor academic capacity. So let's be honest about it. When are they going to actually table four major studies that have been done that addresses these four issues? And each of these studies have been done with work orders from TDC. And just because the outputs were not so comfortable to a certain lobby within Auroville, they have been sidelined. Mr. Doshi with a whole group of Aurovilians spend months translating the galaxy to the ground reality in a way that the next two steps, which is actually: doing the land suitability study for land use, that would take into account present land use and projected land use as per the master plan. Second one would be: identifying development priorities looking at Aurovilles development, and the directions that we want to go which was also undertaken. And the third is looking at what is it that we want to do the developmental directions, that takes the intent, goal and the raison d'être Auroville and if all this is reduced to something telling me that the Matrimandir is a soul and the crown will release the soul using some kind of dimwitted logic, I am sorry, it is actually marginalizing, infantilizing very detailed and pertinent questions. And so I really would like to know from the TDC when are you actually going to get competent people who are in this community to be consulted and take into account the political socio economic and environmental aspect of the studies already done, and the development priorities that have already been done with your work order, and the land use study that has already been done? And on top of it, the regional planning studies that have been done, all these studies give you indicators with challenges and with opportunities, which do not reflect either in the words of the TDC or in the actions of the TDC. So when you start quoting to support whatever dummbitted thing that you're putting out to us, maybe it can be reduced to: Are you for the city or not for the city so we can marginalize you? I am really sorry. I do not accept that I am actually facing a planning group that does not even understand what planning is about.

Renu 2:05:04

Hi, I'm Renu. So there's a couple of observations in the last 50 years that I realize, and it's the Incredible Shrinking Auroville. So, when I was a kid, Auroville extended from Lake State to the ocean, and one of mother's first sketches for it shows that. Later in the mid 80s, mid 90s, we had purchased land and we started moving towards the center. And we had taken on the policy to start foregoing. Our policy then was that we needed to control the roads. And so like the road from Tindivanam, up, Auroville owned all that land. Then the same kind of mentality, there's been a buzz in this mentality, we need to build a city we need to build with the city. And so all previous plans that we said we need to control the roads we need to control development on the road was thrown out of the window, and that land was exchanged. And for very.. I'm sitting in the Land Board today, and I can tell you: not a single exchange actually really benefited Auroville if you start looking at it money wise. So all I'm seeing is an incredibly shrinking Auroville and a shriller and shriller cry: “Give us the city, build the city.” When the city is building coming out all around, the greenbelt doesn't exist. There are villages that exist. All of this bothers me. But finally, I want to say another thing is, we've been working, the Secretary has come in with some energy,
and she wants to put the energy but why does she want to put the energy in this? Why did she not choose something that unifies Aurovilians like water? Because that is the main thing we’re all going to face. I was glad Saravanan brought it up. And the ring road is not a dam or a water pond, or whatever else I kind of misunderstood. You know, why aren’t we working on things that are going to be crucial to our existence and not just Aurovilians, to the region? That’s a noble cause that I can get behind. So I don’t understand that I’m just seeing this incredibly shrinking, shrinking Auroville. Then there is another thing I don’t understand. The Secretary asked for alternative models, Prashant Suhasini. Lotus, Dharmesh, a whole pile of people worked for a week, showed them to her. She barely, she barely looked at them. She was barely interested in them after that work. And we would like to show those to the community. Every time we’ve tried to book the Unity pavilion, that has not been allowed. It was seen as divisive and bad. And again, but somehow this all happened. So I’m very surprised by you, Jaya, that’s really unusual for you to be like that. So that’s bothersome. And let me just see, I think I’m missing a few things. So I think we do need to look at all the alternative perspectives. I think we do need to question what our priorities are. I think we need to think about why this is a priority. Does this have something to do with GOI grants? Does this have something to do with the cable that the youth center didn’t want to go through it? And that dragged on and on on and on an EIA impact assessment done? So all of these questions, maybe are the motivating factors behind why suddenly now the Crown is. And I think, we fought the Sri Aurobindo Society, on what our development priorities were going to be, and who is going to make decisions about what those are. And so I think that’s really important that we, we take the help when we get the help, but we have to be firm about where we want our priorities to go. So, that’s another thing. No, there’s, there’s more I’m sorry. So do I think we all agree that the RAD has to come together, I do agree that we need with the TDC that we need to move out from our little fence and our little thing I do agree, I have other problems that I do not agree, The circle does not have to be perfect. It is not true. This kind of gobblety-goo and pseudo religious nonsense that is coming up is nobody who knows mother will agree with that what mother wants us to collaborate. So for some crazy reason, this is what we have to collaborate on, then let’s meet do meaningful and real collaboration, really taking in people’s concerns. really understanding that we don’t need a circular crown everywhere where it can weave In and out, and that were only 3000 people at this point. And the development has to go with what is happening now. This whole thing of some pressure on I don’t know which mother this is, is no mother, I recognize she's not punishing us if we don't make a circle. She's not punishing us if we don't have a 40 meters flat. This is just no mother I recognize. Mother was not like that. So my question is: stop the religious shutting down of the conversation of the Aurovilians allowing themselves to participate in the manifestation of what the master plan looks like. That is what I’m saying. Stop all of the thing about saying: “it has to be like this”. The first two hours. I know this stuff by heart. Most of us do. It’s tedious. Thank you.

Elisa 2:11:04

Hi, I’m Elisa. Somehow I will repeat what I’ve heard. Because I had the big resonance with many things which have been said, and my main concern right now and my main questions to us, as a community is actually: What dynamics of governance are we willing to have in Auroville and are we willing to nurture in Auroville? Somehow, I’ve heard a lot of push pressure. And we saw how these meetings started. And it’s really reflecting a very confusing unease movement in the community at present. There was a lot of lack of clarity on the movement where ATDC was on. And somehow, the meetings I’ve attended in presence of TDC, some some members of TDC, some members of Working Committee, some members of the secret... sorry... and the Secretary felt really that there is a direction and there was no curiosity, there was no openness in my felt experience, there was just a direction taken. And the top down, top down dynamic that I perceived somehow felt really in resonance with what I feel on a planetary level with the confusion between the vaccine, which, which is about individual choices, and the sanitary passes that are coming up and that are very top down dynamic. So meetings were falling over our head since the last two weeks. And I have personally a lot of concerns of the lack of process and the lack of communication and the lack of right posture. Which posture do we have within? First, within us, but also in our collective body of Auroville? And what what also healthy posture do we have with the Secretary? And we need a powerful secretary, we need a powerful RA, but there is not okay to use the secretary movements in order to feel that something shall manifest without understanding from which dimension of our collective body it is coming from. So there’s a sense of really some toxic dynamics personally for me, I need to say, and, and he doesn’t feel right. And I’m asking you know, even at the very beginning, when I heard I Anu and Shreemoy, members of the working committee labeling the question that was asked from the forest group or the green or the trees saver. I am very concerned with the way, the how we are moving forward on this issue. And, and it is not, it is not for me. It is not for me, and I’m not part of the forest group I’m not part of, of whatever was mentioned. So we are lot who are concerned. So I’m really my question. And please, if you are strongly opinionated, and right now the working groups show some colors or to some members. Show some colors of have strong opinions. And according to me, working groups shall embody a centered posture. And that’s all at least it’s the practice it’s all your guides our practice in our governance within ourselves and every day. But when we are holding some collective responsibilities, we need to come from a centered posture and here where’s unease did this come from out of the community. So, how have I have to question I’m sorry, it was more concerns than questions, how do you include that how do you leave the true governance inside out that feels right that relate to healthy collaboration?

Ashok 2:15:35

Thank you. So, my name is Ashok. I see many people were raising a question about the mobility within the city, I mean, with the existing crown road and then the planning crown road here. So, without having that, without having a crown road, I mean, you can actually already see you can stop mobility by the crown road there and you can you can create a parking there and people can work. So, just imagine how many people are coming to Auroville to work? 50% of our traffic comes from the workers, right? And then probably the other 20% from the villages, because they have been using this road to cross to the other side. And then we have a tourist coming in, tourists they we are already stopping them here and there. So, in order to control our traffic, and then we have to at least try this this is just a what a segment to break we can always take this and then redo when we actually moving to future we are going to do that right? This is not a fixed, if it’s broken, we are going to replace it. If we have a new building is going to come there for more population we are going to work on it right? We are going to integrate this Crown road with it. So that means we are going to change the material we are going to even accommodate whatever is there at that point. We are not saying that we should take out all the existing buildings on that crown road, because people have been living there. Yeah, I’m saying no no no no need to remove that right now. Let people feel do they actually want to live there? No, no see there are are practicalities there you have to apply you apply everything and there.
Uma (Facilitator) 2:17:39
We are really really short of time. Can we have this you please put your point what you want to say people are taking notes please respect time.

Ashok 2:17:48
Yes. Thank you so people we have come this far yeah? We have I mean like many of you sacrificed to see the city to manifest, the solution is within us. If we want to do it we will do it if we don't want to do it. We will not do it. Thank you.

Uma (Facilitator) 2:18:19
How many names we have? Because we are... a lot of people have left and we are... we are actually on time but including the fight we have got little late. So right now, how important these three names are. Can you close beautifully. Olivier, other two are you really have a burning contribution to make. Okay. Okay, Can can we promise ourselves to be little brief and close it respectfully, people are not there to listen to you either. So just be brief. Three, we are not taking more name, please. Is that okay?

Paulette 2:19:03
No, first of all, I was in the list and since long time I wanted to answer question because Srivatsa is gone. So a recurring question... Oh you're here. So a recurring question is mobility, the religious and so on. So first of all, I feel that the people don't understand what in fact is the crown road and the same essence of the crown road, which is exactly mobility, which is a major state of consciousness of the galaxy and leaving in Auroville so that automatically that's why the result is obstruction. So into I should say the major architects in Auroville have been concerned with mobility, even before the billing plan in 2011. We met for one enough year with all the major architects and Lalit and discussed mobility. Then nothing was happening because there are two problems. One is Aurovilians and the other are our servants and our workers. So you understand that if we start making a galaxy and reducing the street to the minimum, and it's only cycling in pedestrian, I hope the Aurovilians will wake up, because this is happening all over the world is only here that is not happening. But still we have the problem with the workers in the servants. So according to the mothers, there are no servants and no paid workers in Auroville we do all the work our self. Also there are no tourists and especially not to reach going to Matrimandir is your Shiva inside the in principle not for visitor. So you understand the immediately automatically reduce a tremendous number of outer people. Anyhow, Srivatsa raised the issue. First that there is no... there is problem if we don't have all the land. Michael Bonke has a big chunk of land and he has to give on the crown road. But then there is the peramboke land and the other thing. So he told me that he was preparing a map seeing how to deal, because the problem of the villagers is obviously a serious problem. But the moment I'm personally convinced, that the moment we start practicing the mother guidelines, and there is not town unless we practice the guidelines, automatically everything else would fall to places we will live with the professionals. The relationship with the villagers will be the real one, because they're supposed to be the first Aurovillian souls.

Ashwini 2:22:05
My name is Ashwini. I’m happy with the presentation what you gave today. But I have a concern as a woman and as the Aurovillian. A few weeks before I was bullied severely with a few outsiders on motorbikes. When I was really shocked that day, I contacted the groups concerned and I didn't get a proper answer. And then I went and spoke to the securities around. They said sorry, we do not have enough security. For example, from Dana, we cannot stop people from coming inside. Every day, these young people are finding ways to come inside. So today when you say that it will be only Aurovillians who will be using this road. At the same time you say there are many restaurants and all coming up. I do not feel safe. I do not feel safe for the young people who are here. So I would request for the team. Yes, I'm happy about the Crown. I'm happy about the growth. But please, just like how in the outside world, there is a lot of security, even a woman at 12 o’clock, we can go on the highway because there is Police there is security, I would request that you have security so that we women feel safe. That should be one of the considerations. Thank you.

Olivier 2:23:27
I'm Olivier. And I thought that this was supposed to be a session of question and answers. But we are mostly questions, I see no answers. And I understand that we don't have time anymore. I just hope that this questions have been properly written down, that they will not be forgotten. And that they will be answered. Because I think we are all concerned. But if you really want to manifest something in Auroville, we have to do it together. And to do it together, it means that we have to respect each other, we have to listen to each other. That's really what is the most important today. And for the future. If we continue to push forward, our own ideas we'll achieve nothing we'll just block the development of Auroville. So I hope all these questions have been properly written down. And that the TDC and Working Committee whoever can answer to this will answer to them. Thank you.

Uma (Facilitator) 2:24:29
Thank you Olivier for giving a very strong message. And just to tell you yes, please don't leave we have a moment of silence and close it together. And now that we have all the speakers have completed, one minute silence and all of the question has been noted down. It is also videoed, so we have... group is going to look into that and it's very nice that it is not getting answered in haste, but really is recorded for reflection and build upon it. So it's it's an asset for us, is not a liability. We are looking at it. But anyway, thank you for pointing it out Olivier. Can we just sit together for one minute of silence before your Lakshay you will say something and we close it with a minute.