

Straddling bus to combat Beijing's traffic congestion

China is planning to test an innovative new type of bus that aims to solve the problem of Beijing's overcrowded roads by straddling traffic lanes, allowing cars to drive underneath. If successful, the *3D Express Coach* could reduce vehicle congestion by up to 30 percent on main routes

Elevated bus stop
Allows passengers on and off

Power: Electricity and solar energy. Bus uses "relay charging" – conductors on roof brush against charging stations along route, providing enough power to reach next station

Solar panels
Mounted on bus roof and at each bus stop

Mentougou district
Trials due to begin on 6km route in July

BEIJING

10km

6 miles

Bus: 6m wide, 4.5m high – straddles two traffic lanes.

Passengers: Up to 1,400 on upper deck.

Top speed: 60km/h

Project cost
\$75 million

Route: Bus will either run along laid tracks or use regular tyres and be programmed to automatically follow two lines painted on road

Bus

TURNING

1. Before junction, lights inside bus warn traffic underneath of intention to turn

2. Vehicles wishing to turn in same direction as bus receive green signal at junction

3. Traffic moving straight ahead will be stopped to allow bus to turn first

Safety features

Alarms embedded in walls of bus are triggered if other vehicles get too close. In case of accident or emergency, passengers can disembark using inflatable slides, as in commercial aircraft

Traffic "tunnel"

Clearance 2m. Sensors on front and rear emit ultrasonic waves to prevent high vehicles from entering

Barriers

Restrict vehicle height along route

Source: ChinaHush

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