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Explaining Principles & Characteristics of Nightly Spaces for the Purpose of Strategic Planning of Leisure Spaces within Metropolises (The Case Study of Hamedan; Eram Area)

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ABSTRACT

Change in work pattern, demographic-socio features and generally lifestyle is bringing about an increasingly demand for leisure activities through the night time - the hours out of work - into city dwellers. Preserving dynamism of urban environment and city vitality necessitates social interactions of citizens within the urban spaces. These all concerns introduce a concept, known as 24 hour city. This concept motivates a variety of social, cultural and economic activities round-the-clock. Incessant use is not likely to depreciate the space, but constant presence of citizens gives more significance to space in terms of custody. First, this paper was getting the concept of 24 hour city and nightly life studied so that based on early cases and directed researches, the effective indicators of nightly life in leisure space could be outlined. Then the indictors were assessed precisely via interview and through Analytic hierarchy process they were weighted and prioritized. Regarding to key indicators and common knowledge of characteristic feature of Hamedan City and Eram area as case study, some strategies and procedures has been offered for developing nightly leisure activities and keeping spirit of dynamism into Eram area.

KEYWORDS: Planning, Nightly Life, Nightly Economic, 24 Hour City, Public Spaces, Leisure Spaces.

1- INTRODUCTION

After 19th century and succeeding the emerging discipline of industrial revolution, a social organization has formed and gradually influenced all social behaviors which extend up to now. In nowadays cities the main part of leisure time services and socio-cultural activities are in correspondence with time frame of work hours. It happens because the majority of the people are live on a salary-base life and consequently, following the timeframe of non-working hours like evening, weekend and official vacations is unavoidable. So, the evening and nightly time takes on a considerable significance as socio-cultural activities and leisure time [1].

Considering these times qualified of leisure time and other non-working activities, concepts as "24 hour city" and "nightly economy" have formed [2]. Nowadays, cities are not just to be figured as a site of daily work, rather urban economy should be constantly dynamic and alive. Hence, shifting a portion of daily activities to night, besides reducing congestion and traffic, will bring citizens more energy and liveliness [3].

Nightly socio-economic activities are powerful symbol of a complex and dynamic relation among elements of economy, culture and society. This relation in essence has some advantages and disadvantages. Depends on condition, management system and the way this relation is concerned, these advantages and disadvantages could be assessed as opportunities and threats against urban management. Having subject assessed in terms of cities physical, economic, social and cultural capacity and identifying weaknesses and strengths as well as thoughtful planning for the purpose of developing nightly activities, afford urban management a suitable opportunity for further cultural, social and economic development of cities. It does also provide a more dynamic urban environment [2].

2- 24 Hour City

The phrase "24 hour City" – the city that never sleeps – has been associated with New York since the 1920s. It conjures up an image of a pulsating, glamorous place where something is always happening on the streets – especially late at night, a time of excitement and possible danger. In Britain, it was first used in the title of a conference "Towards the 24 hour City?" held in Manchester in 1993, which took a critical look at how strategies for regulation and regeneration affected the city at night, and the inherent conflicts between them [4].

A general survey of Britain cities initiatives, indicate to three basic elements for the concepts of 24 hour city and nightly life: 1- Providing city center for a broad variety of people to feel pleasure fearlessly; 2- developing nightly economy of city; 3- improving urban landscape to attract domestic investments [5]. "24 hour City" became a catchy marketing slogan, again with a glamorous ring, which signaled that a town was now aiming to reinvent itself as a lively place to visit for entertainment, fashion shopping and other leisure activities [4].

A 24 hour city could be used as a means of urban reproduction as well as economic development [6].

Concluding the theories, 24 hour city deals with concepts such mixture of usages, time and urban vitality:

Mixed Uses: Modernism is the most leading tendency that holds clear views about zoning. Maybe modernism could be seen as the Pandora box for the most of recent cities –especially European ones- lead to stagnation of city centers and bring about concept of 24 hour city. So, concepts as human city, sustainable city, congested city and eco-city through two recent decades were formulated for critical review of modern rationality. Throughout these concepts, proper use of urban areas via mixed uses and avoiding inflexible zoning has been taken into consideration. It seems these concepts are so directly interconnected with 24 hour city and night time [7].

Jacobs in 1961 [8] discusses the issue of a vital urban environment by advocating a diversity of mix use and "good" public spaces that everyone can and be able to use regardless of time of day. On successful city streets, people must appear at different times. This is time considered on a small scale, at different times throughout the day [8].

Time: In Klaasen's exploration of time in spatial planning, she holds the urban system to 2 approaches, mainly that of pattern and process. This is crucial in understanding time usage within a city fabric, and touches upon the concepts of temporal grain which Klaasen also addresses. A 24/7 city is not a constantly functioning environment of systems, but systems that function in rhythms, related yet separate to one another, forming a mesh of processes across the fabric which intensifies the usage of a space [6].

Urban Vitality: Urban vitality is the life force of the city, shaped by its pre-existing conditions (spatial or otherwise), requiring a critical mass to become viable and strong. Landry and Bianchini also includes a set of indicators, or "indices of viability and vitality" which they use as judgment on the health of a city and cover the fields of economics, social, environmental and cultural systems. They usually cover the bases of demography, diversity, density, accessibility, security, identity, innovativeness, linkage and synergy, competitiveness and organizational capacity, which are extensions of the criteria that are important to Landry and Bianchini's definition of urban vitality, but specified to take an adequate reading of a city. 24/7 environment is approached as an extreme phenomenon of urban vitality to be able to conceptualize an environment complicated by time and processes [6].

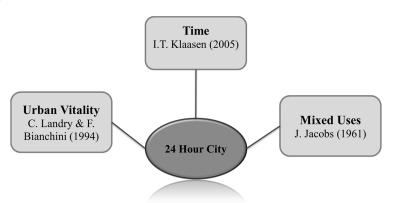


Chart 1: Conceptual Model

		C	•
Criteria	Thinker	Urbanism theory	Domestic & foreign experiences
Mixed uses	✓ Jacobs(1961)	 ✓ Human-based city ✓ Sustainable city ✓ Congested city ✓ Domestic city 	London/Melbourne/Shropshire/Mashhad (holy shrine zone)/Tabriz(Moalem avenue)
Time	✓ Klaasen(2005)	-	London/Melbourne/Shropshire/ Mashhad/Shiraz/Esfahan
Urban vitality	✓ Landry(1994) ✓ Bianchini(1994)	-	London/Melbourne/Shropshire

Table 1. Significant criteria for nightly life

3- Case Studies

Some cases and experiences are stated briefly into below table:

Table 2. Case studies

Experience		Explanation
Foreign experiences	London	London has for centuries had a reputation as a great centre for entertainment, and it was one of the first cities to develop a night time economy based on consumption – especially the consumption of alcohol [4].
	Melbourne	Over the past decade the city has successfully attracted a diverse and vibrant mix of residents, visitors and business that use the city 24 hours a day seven days a week. This rich tapestry has underpinned economic and cultural development which has seen the city develop into an internationally recognized location to live, work, visit and socialize [9].
	Shropshire	Shropshire is a county in the West Midlands region of England [10]. Its council provides an overview of the strategic plan to deliver a vibrant and safe evening and night time economy in Shropshire [11].
Domestic experiences	Mashhad	The surveyed zone in holy city Mashhad is avenues and urban spaces, surrounding Emam Reza holy shrine. There is a permanent presence of people, they are often pilgrims. This conduct to night activities around holy shrine round the clock. Most of active uses across the zone are commercial, services and retailing uses [12].
	Tabriz	Studied night spaces in Tabriz city were included Al Goli park and commercial part along Moalem avenue. The principle motives for people presence ware leisure facilities, good design and qualified natural environment. Also, diversity of uses as well as commercial and services activities at the margin side are significant factors to meet people's needs [12].
	Shiraz	In shiraz city regarding to worm and dry climate, most urban activities should be done on night. Different night spaces are available in shiraz including Darvaze-Quran, Shahcheragh, Hafezie, Chamran boulevard, Gas Square and others. Research shows People presence on night spaces is so noticeable, although climate is a key factor but considering night as the convenient time of leisure, rest and entertainment cause the main use of these spaces turn to leisure and entertainment [12].
	Esfahan	In terms of worm and dry climate, Esfahan city is as same as Shiraz that make night activities ever so significant. Studied urban space is located at the margin of Zayanderoud river. The people come to use nature and spend leisure time [12].

4- Effective Factors on Night Life

First, we check factors of successful public space and then based on studies; particular factors of night life will be demonstrated. In order to present qualitative indicators of environment assessment, the indicators were studied through 2 point of view: urban designers (Ian Bentley, Kevin Lynch, Matthew Carmona, Koroush Golkar) and urban planners (Place Diagram). Combining planning theories with urban design activities, it seems in respect of user view the effective factors on qualitative assessment of public space are as follows:

1-Cleanliness, 2-accessibility, 3-attractiveness, 4-comfort, 5-comprehensiveness, 6-vitality 7-function, 8-distinction, 9- security and safety, 10-health and intensity. Worthy of attention that indicators of desirable public space are pertaining to individual perception and socio-cultural values and it is hard to generalize these indicators about world urban space. So, assessing and identifying urban public space should be initiated through local citizens. This process besides detecting urban problems in city helps to improving social life and citizenship as well as raising life quality into all urban structures [13].

Considering mentioned indicators for successful public space along with strategic situation of urban spaces at night and also intertwined essence of 24 hour city with concepts such a mixed uses, time and urban vitality, night life indicators on urban spaces were studied in 3 level of physical, social, economic and functional:

Table 3. Effective indicators on night life

Level	Indicator	Explanation	References				
Physical	Safety	Proper lighting, security preparation	[13, 14]				
	Accessibility	Penetrability, pedestrian viability, traffic volume, public transition state, parking	[3, 6, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17]				
	Attractiveness	Visual appearance of natural and artificial landscapes	[3, 13, 17]				
	Comfort	Cleanliness, comfort facilities, noise pollution	[13, 14, 17]				
	Legibility	Understanding spatial structure of space and what happening inside	[3, 14, 15, 17]				
Social	Security	Presence of different parts of community, permanent presence of guards, social surveillance	[3, 6, 13, 14, 17]				
	Comprehensiveness	Presence of all different ethnic, age and sex groups, number of participating women in activities	[13, 14, 17]				
	Justice	Having selection right	[3, 16]				
	Social interaction	Marking good place for night meeting and social treatments, mass presence of people	[17]				
Economic & functional	Diversity of activities	Retailing and shopping centers; social, cultural and artistic activities, economy and local art, retailers presence, restaurants and sidewalk cafes	[3, 6, 15, 17]				
	Intensity of activities	Intensity of activities into environment	[6]				
	Quality	Increasing hours of activities, activities excitement and attractiveness, facilities and services	[3]				
	Inclination for buying	Reasonable price, investment tendency	[3]				

5- Introducing Hamedan City

Hamedan city is the capital of Hamedan province of Iran and located in the middle part of Hamedan County and geographically it's central part of the Hamedan province [18]. Having located at one of the major mainlines on the west and Approachability across country, made Hamedan province geographically so effective on economic activities [19].

Hamedan city is located in the foothills of the Alvand Mountain and is 1,813 meters above sea level. The city has a cold climate and the area of almost 90 square meters. Hamedan is not only official and political center of province, but holds the most part of educational, welfare and health facilities.

5-1- Reasons for Hamedan Need to Night Leisure Space Regarding to its Characteristics

Demographic: through having quantitative changes of population in Hamedan (1958-2012) studied, we will notice rapid growth of population over 3 recent decades that bring its population to 525794 persons on 2012. In February 2010, Hamedan was recommended as a metropolis. So, the city with current population and being a metropolis needs public spaces for nightly leisure activities.

Economic: given public census on 2007 nearly 29% of population (139271 persons) was employed and they didn't have leisure time over day. Also by creating nightly leisure activities and raising work hours, there would be chance of occupation for unemployed part of population (17708 persons).

Cultural and Historical: Hamedan has an ancient history so it has been called gate of history. Therefore the rich historical and cultural background of the city allows initiation and development of nightly leisure activities through a purposeful planning.

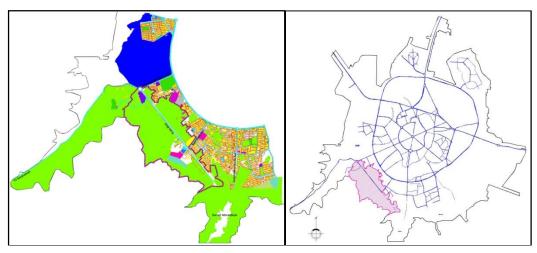
Universities and High Education Centers: having a lot of active scientific centers, Hamedan is known as a main academic city in country. Being engaged in educational activities over day, for part of population night is the only opportunity of entertainment and resting. So the need for leisure space over the night is pretty tangible.

5-2- Recreation Areas and Tourism Sectors in Hamedan City

By recreation area or tourism sector we mean the valleys and rivers which are located on south west, south east and southern parts of town and on the northern slopes of Alvand Mountain. This area of suburb holds a large amount of operational and unfulfilled potential [20]. Because of natural attraction as well as main recreation centers of the city, south west suburb of city specifically takes on a great significance. Eram zone placed south west part of city and uses as space for leisure time, walking, sport and etc. it has also a strategic position as a consequence of locating in the midst of main recreation centers of city. In the first half of year this zone experiences a partly night life. Regarding Potentials and features of the zone, night leisure activities could be developed so this zone introduces as the case study of research.

6- Introducing Cultural-Recreational Zone, the Eram

Eram cultural-recreational zone is located 3 kilometers away of city center, upon foothills of Alvand Mountain and south west side of the city Hamedan and extend from North West to south east. This zone is placed in the city district 1 that bounded in one side to area and on the other side to gardens and natural landscapes of the city. Placing between gardens and beautiful valleys and being closed to recreation center such Ganjnameh, Abbas Abad square and Lona Park have made a pleasant landscape along good weather for citizens to use intra-city nature.



Picture 1: Eram situation into Hamedan

Picture 2: Eram zone

Eram Boulevard as the main path of the zone is part of the third ring of city which is between two main traffic roads. In one side it is extended to Fahmide avenue which ends to Ganjnameh and on the other side it is extended to Saeediyeh avenue that is one of the main connecting paths to second and third ring of the city. So the zone has two main entrances. Into studies zone, there is a lot of garden-alley those are deriving from Eram Boulevard and end to gardens, valleys and Alvand foothills. Being closed to this beautiful landscape and having good weather attract people and cause their presence for different activities (resting, sport, recreation and etc.) into different hours. Presence of these occupancies highlights the role of Eram zone on local, regional and extraregional level. By now this zone has a recreation role because of natural position, recreation use and people eagerness. Part of natural feature of the Eram zone could be noticed as bellow:

Heights: of the main heights around Hamedan and also around studied zone is Alvand Mountain. This famous and great mountain is located at the south of Hamedan County and its vertical limit is; the natural border between this county with Tuysercan County. The central part of Hamedan County is located into northern valleys and foothills of Alvand Mountain, whereas Tuysercan County is located into southern valleys of this mountain [21].

Rivers: the only existing river into Hamedan City and around Eram zone is Moradbeyk River. This river originates from highest peak of Alvand but now it let to dry and being used for sewer line [18].

Valleys: the main valleys inside and around studied zone are: Ganjnameh valley, Abbas Abad valley, Divin valley, Gorg valley and Moradbeyk valley [20].

Climate: there is three kind of climate in Hamedan County: humid and cold, semi-dry and cold, dry and cold. Highlands surrounding Alvand Mountain have humid and cold climate and Hamedan plain take advantages of dry and cold climate which is more convenient for agriculture [21].

Vegetation cover: Vegetation cover is mostly in form of pasture land (grassy prairie) and tree and bush is available generally in form of garden and grove [20].

7- Analyzing Eram Zone Situation

Eram zone Analyze and feasibility study results through SWOT method are presented in below table. These results are being separated into strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats based on different research system (Table 4).

8- Analyzing Interviews and Prioritizing Indicators

To poll about effective indicators of night life in urban public space and to prioritize indicators, the interviews have been arranged with three groups of peoples, experts and urban managers they living Hamedan. These three groups were interviewed with proportion of 1, 1, and 4.

Considering intended proportion, during interviews we have decided 20 interviews with peoples, 5 interviews with experts and 5 interviews with urban managers is adequate. Sampling has been performed through random sampling.

Planned questions into interview were as below:

- 1- Effective indicators on urban night life are stated on physical level. Do you think these indicators have influence on night life? Do you mind other indicator that could be added? Mention them.
- 2- Effective indicators on urban night life are stated on social level. Do you think these indicators have influence on night life? Do you mind other indicator that could be added? Mention them.
- 3- Effective indicators on urban night life are stated on economic and functional level. Do you think these indicators have influence on night life? Do you mind other indicator that could be added? Mention them.
- 4- If you have three level of physical, social and economic and functional prioritized regarding to each ones role and significance on leisure space of urban night life, what sequence it would be?
- 5- If you have effective indicators of night life (which stated in three level) prioritized regarding to their significance, what sequence it would be?
- 6- In your opinion amongst three stated indicators (physical, social and economic) which indicators are the most important into Eram zone?
 - 7- What do you suggesting for development of night leisure activities into Eram zone?

8-1- Determining Impact Factor of Levels and Indicators through AHP Model

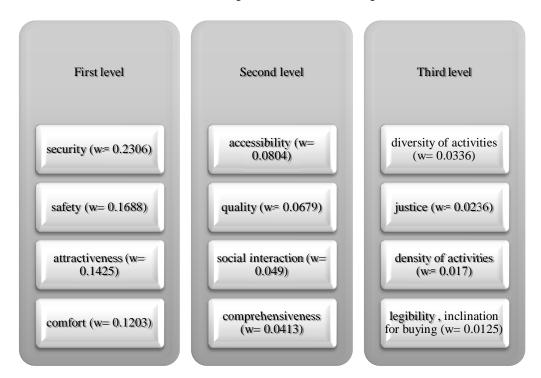
All interviewed people were unanimous that stated indicators are so effective on night life of leisure space. Based on interviewed people, experts and urban managers' opinion, we weighted effective levels and indicators on night life of leisure space and prioritized them through Analytic hierarchy process:

Considering any level significance on night life of leisure space, social level is the first of significance (w=0.6370), physical level is the second of significance (w=0.2583) and economic-functional level is the third of significance (0.1047). Indicators are included in below chart, in turn of their weight and significance on night life:

Table 4. Analyzing and feasibility study of Eram zone through SWOT method

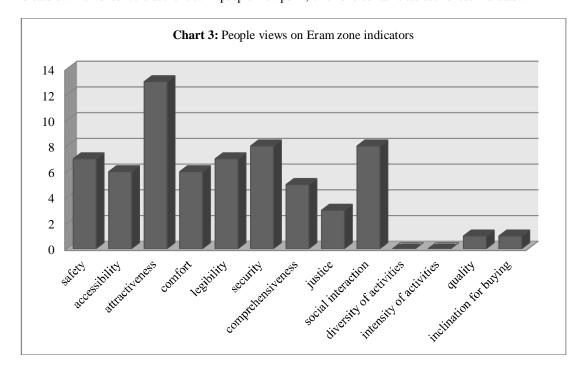
Research systems	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Natural environment and ecology	- Clean and temperate climate of mountains - Natural attractions and beautiful landscapes - Forested and pleasant valleys into and around the zone - Diversity of plant life and rich vegetation - Presence of protective green belt as a declining factor for negative effects of prevailing wind - Green vast areas with positive ecologic effects - Presence of Eram boulevard as border between city and nature	- Absence of evergreen trees into the zone	Capability for enhancing environment quality through attracting investment Developing green space and strengthening recreational role of the zone	- Long winter season - Restricted use over cold months - Absence of proper supervision on falling trees and devastating vegetation
Spatial-physical	Visual elegance in terms of natural and manmade landscapes Being far of city noisiness Legibility of the zone	 Poor lighting in the time of sunset and night Lack of comfort facilities like benches, toilets and etc. 	Unique spatial situation in Hamedan as result of locating between main recreation centers of the city (Ganjnameh, Abbas Abad Hill and Lona Park)	- Absence of proper and adequate supervision on illegal building into the zone
Traffic- Accessibility	Eram boulevard as the connection between two main traffic route (Shariati and Saeediyeh streets) Wide sidewalk Biking trail along stations rent bikes to people Highpenetrability into the zone	Prevailing of private cars in contrast to hole entering vehicles Lack of parking within zone Absence of crossing solution for passengers who want to pass Eram boulevard width	Capability for transforming Eram boulevard to connecting route of the main streets of the city (Bu Ali and Shariati), under condition of having detailed plan completely performed Capability for transforming Eram boulevard to starting point for other recreation centers	- Inattentiveness to developing public transport network across the zone
Functional	- Creating the biggest game park of country within Eram zone	Dispersion of recreation activities into the zone Absence of recreation activities diversity into the zone	Strengthening regional and extra-regional uses around Eram zone Attracting needed invests for development of recreational activities into Eram zone	Spatial restriction upon recreation use during cold and rainy months Restriction upon functional hours of recreation activities
Infrastructure		Uneven distribution of gas, water and communication infrastructure across Eram zone		Restriction upon building infrastructure because of special spatial situation of the zone Unutilizable condition of water supply system in Hamedan city
Socio-cultural	Presence of all different ethnic, age and sex groups into the zone Good place for rendezvous, social contacts and mass meeting	Irregular presence of security guards across the zone Absence of tight security into gardened alleys specially at the evening and night	- Hamedan city as the capital center of Hamedan county and province - Rich historical and cultural background as well as long urbanism precedent in Hamedan -Active universities and various high education centers in Hamedan - Expert and educated staff	- Inattentiveness to acculturation and education for proper use of urban public space

Chart 2: Prioritizing effective indicators on night life

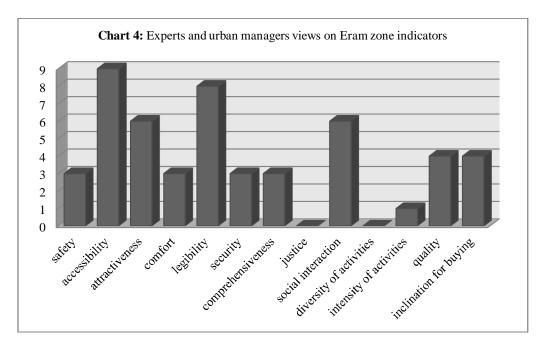


8-2- People, Experts and Urban Managers' Opinion about Indicators of Eram Zone

Following chart shows based on people opinion about Eram cultural-recreational zone, amongst stated indicators which ones were authentic? In people viewpoint, this zone contains attractiveness indicator.



Most of interviewed experts and local managers believed between effective indicators on night life of leisure spaces, Eram recreational-cultural zone contains accessibility, attractiveness, legibility and social interaction indicators.



9- Codifying Planning Process and Proposing Solutions

Regarding demographic, economic, cultural and historical features of Hamedan city and Eram zone as well as performing feasibility study through SWOT method, perspective, guidelines, policies and executive programs were codified based on interviews and effective indicators on night life of leisure spaces in order to develop night life activities into Eram zone:

9-1- Eram Recreational-Cultural Zone Perspective

"Eram is a developed zone that is known a safe, attractive and vivacious place via offering a variety of activities at the evening and night time all year long"

Eram zone through this perspective will possess these features:

- ✓ Proportionate development to cultural, historical, geographical and social circumstance of Hamedan city on basis of Iranian identity and regarding to ecological feature of the zone
- ✓ Developing a diversified night economy along with social justice, civil partnership and public participation
- ✓ Capability for offering nightly facilities and recreational services to visitors and city dweller so desirable
- ✓ Having safe environment and social high-security

9-2- Codifying Strategies, Policies and Practical Measures

Guideline 1- increasing safety and security of Eram zone: through declining antisocial behaviors and raising public trust via lowering riskiness and crime commitment into the zone, the persuasive policies are realized by practical measures like: security guards presence and regular surveillance on the zone, using modern and sophisticated equipment such as closed circuit TV, good lighting of the zone, different lighting on special building sand places and offering advantages to well lighted building.

Guideline 2- integrating zone management to coordinate managerial policies, planning and export legal grounds: to realize coordination policy, practical measures are needed amongst getting an accountable institution chosen as a responsible management as well as defining a new structure for accountable organization.

Guideline 3- promoting diversity in nightly economic activities so it would not be exclusive to a special group of people: to realize policy of setting up commercial, cultural and educational uses into the zone, these practical measures are in need: increasing restaurant and cafes number, creating shopping centers and supermarkets into the zone, building amphitheater and cinema into the zone, allocating a part of the zone to retailers, using ceremonies to hold exhibition, festivals and celebrations during night and evening into Eram zone.

Guideline 4- improving access to Eram zone: the policy would be performing suggested network within the framework of approved detailed plan across intended zone with emphasis on pedestrian role and development of nightly public transport. To realize the policies, these practical measures are needed: transforming Eram Boulevard to connecting route of two main streets, Shariati and Bu Ali, building convenient parking those are controlled by security guards and closed circuit TVs, designing special place for walkers they

want to cross Eram Boulevard width, planning nightly public transport including timing, informing, budgeting and etc

Guideline 5- fostering consumer culture for urban public space specially overnight and evening: the policy would be underpinning public participation and enriching informing networks. To realize these policies, practical measures amongst introducing Hamedan history and culture besides setting up electronic and regular informing systems are needed.

Guideline 6- attracting investments for development of leisure activities and night economy into Eram zone: the policy would be providing necessary credit and facilities for investment. Granting long term and low interest rate loans to investment applicants is needed.

Guideline 7- elevating infrastructural situation of the zone: the policy would be coordinating all infrastructural key sectors. The needed practical measures are providing geographical information system (GIS) for all infrastructures, identifying infrastructures and correcting deficiencies.

Guideline 8- developing nightly leisure activities into Eram zone during cold months: the policy would be equipping public domain to confront atmospheric condition and creating accessibility and providing facilities during cold months. To realize this policy the practical measures are including: building covered spaces-like covered amphitheater - for nightly leisure activities, as well as offering low cost services over cold months

Guideline 9- developing comfort facilities into Eram zone: the policy would be installing needed equipment and facilities for urban space users. To realize this policy the practical measures are including: raising number of benches, siting ground, toilets and constant cleaning of the zone.

Guideline 10- preserving and developing natural ecologies around Eram zone and its boundary: the policy would be adequate and proper supervision on natural ecologies by responsible organization. To realize this policy the practical measures are including: providing detailed ecologic plan for Eram zone and its boundary as well as strict reaction to those who cut trees and destroy vegetation.

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