

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE STRETCH OF THE PROPOSED MULTI MODAL CORRIDOR FROM BAPANE TO SHILOTTAR (6.740 KM) IN PALGHAR DISTRICT BY M/S MUMBAI METROPOLITAN REGION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MMRDA)

The public hearing for The Stretch of Proposed Multi Modal Corridor from Bapane to Shilottar (6.740 KM) in Palghar district by M/s Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) was conducted on 20th March, 2018 at 12.00 hrs at Late. Ramchandra Patil Auditorium, Sasunavghar, Tal. Vasai, Dist. Palghar.

Following Panel Members were present during the public hearing:

- 1) Dr. Prashant Narnavre
District Magistrate, Palghar **- Chairman,**
- 2) Shri N. H. Shivangi,
Regional Officer, MPCB, Thane
(Representative of the MPCB, Mumbai) **- Member**
- 3) Shri V. V. Killedar
Sub Regional Officer, Thane-II, **-Convener**

Shri V. V. Killedar, Convener of the said meeting welcomed Hon'ble Chairman and Members of Public Hearing Panel, MMRDA representatives and general public who were in large numbers and informed that, as per EIA Notification of GoI, MoEF &CC dated 14th September, 2006, amended thereto, it is mandatory to conduct prior public hearing of certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification. The Sub Regional Office, Thane, MPCB was in receipt of application of M/s Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority for conducting public hearing for part of proposed Multi Modal Corridor from Navghar to Chirner (Near JNPT) covering only 6.74 km from Bapane to Shilottar of Palghar District.

The Convener further informed that, as per said Notification, the project falls under Category 7 (f)' of Schedule. The aim of conducting public hearing is to make aware local people who can participate in the hearing and they should know the developmental activities and environment management plan of proposed Multi Modal Corridor. The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India has granted ToR for the proposal for conducting EIA studies vide their letter No. F.No.10-25/2014-IA.III Dated. 12th January, 2015. Accordingly, MMRDA has appointed Consultant –M/s. Louis Berger to prepare draft EIA Report. As per EIA Notification, one month advance public notice was published in the local newspapers on 17 Feb. 2018 in Daily "Sakal" and Daily "Sochitanche Samrthan" in Marathi and in Daily "Indian Express" in English. Also the copies of EIA report and Executive summary in English and Marathi were made available at Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Zonal Office-Bhopal and at various offices of Govt. of Maharashtra i.e. District Magistrate Office, Palghar, Sub Divisional Office-Vasai, Tal-Vasai, Dist-Palghar, Tehsil Office-Vasai, Panchayat Samiti Office-Vasai, Vasai Virar City Municipal Corporation-Virar, Environment Department, GoM, Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Thane, Regional Office, MPCB, Thane and at Head Office of MPCB at Mumbai, Zilla Parishad- Palghar, Public Works Department, Palghar-Thane, Group Grampanchayat-Poman, Gram Panchayat-Nagle. The public in general were appealed to submit any suggestions/comments regarding the above project if any. The Convenor further informed that one objection in writing is received by the Sub Regional Office, Thane, MPCB. He requested the Chairman of the Committee for permission to start the proceedings of public hearing.

Thereafter, Shri Dr. Prashant Narnavare, District Magistrate and Chairman of Committee welcomed all and informed officials of the project proponent to make an audio visual presentation of the proposed project and its environment management plan in local language i.e. Marathi. He further appealed to the participants to give their suggestions/comments/opinion if any, about the project after technical presentation of the project by the project proponent.

On behalf of Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority, Shri Godbole, representative of M/s. Loius Burger gave the audio visual presentation of the proposed project and Environment Management Plan in detail. Shri Godbole explained the phase wise mode of area of Multi Modal Corridor i.e. Phase-I-Navghar to Chirner about 80 km and Phase-II Chirner to Alibag about 47 km. He also explained area proposed to be acquired from Vasai in Palghar District, Kalyan-Ambernath in Thane District and Panvel-Uran from Raigad District. As well for Phase-II, Navghar to Kharbao, Kharbao to Kalher, Kalher to Shirdhon, Shirdhone to Kolhe and Kolkhe to Chirner from Thane & Raigad Districts. He also explained land to be covered under Forest, Government, Khajan, Private, Railway, Sanjay Gandhi National Park, etc. The importance of this single corridor for multiple transport systems would be available such as Buses, BRT, Metro rail, Car lanes, flyovers, water, sewage, Electric supply, Telephone and gas lines. Connectivity to major roads such as NH-8, Bhiwandi bypass, NH-3, NH-4, NH-4B, Mumbai Pune Expressway, NH-17 etc. and connectivity to Navi Mumbai Air Port, Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL), Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) and other transport corridor. This project will not only be a high speed movement between MMR region but it will provide employment to the local people during construction period. He also elaborated that public facilities would be provided such as Emergency telephones, parking and truck bye lane, Ambulance & towing facility, fuel filling stations, Solar street lighting, service roads etc.

He also elaborated in respect of Existing and proposed growth centers, industrial areas, opportunity for commercial development etc. He also pointed out about losses to be occurred of residential properties, commercial properties, industrial properties, private forest land, trees planted by local residents etc. He also clarified that conditions would be imposed on contractor in respect of working hours.

After completion of presentation and detailed information, Chairman of the Committee appealed to the participants to express their views on the proposed Project.

Thereafter, following participants raised queries/objections/suggestions:-

- **Shri Samir Vartak, Paryavarn Savvardhan Samiti, Vasai-Virar-Coordinator** - asked whether officials of MMRDA are present in this hearing? SDO-Vasai said that, Mr. Ravindra Hazari & Shri M.P. Singh, Ex. Engr. MMRDA officials are present. He objected to this public hearing as he pointed out that, Revised Development Plan of MMRDA is not yet finalised and officials of MMRDA has communicated him in writing that, Revised MMRDA Plan is not applicable to this area as it is written assurance given to him by MMRDA chief. In addition to this, he also pointed out issue of covering wet land of 1566 hectares for this project. He raised question, whether MMRDA has got clearance from concerned authority for acquisition of this land for this project? As MMRDA in its presentation, has mentioned acquisition of this wet land for this project. He further raised that, when Revised Development Plan is not applicable to Vasai-Virar area, how this project report is prepared for this area? This amounts to misleading the people of Vasai area. He further pointed out that, name of Navghar is mentioned in the presentation which Navghar is it – Navghar or Sasunavghar?
He further pointed out that, it is mentioned in the presentation that 490 families will be shifted and 40 houses will be demolished. Actually so many families will required to be rehabilitated and many houses, private forest lands, trees which are giving income to the Adivasi farmers/residents will be affected /destabilized by this project and MMRDA has to make it clear about their rehabilitation and remuneration to cover losses to the affecting persons, which are residing there since their fore fathers. He also brought to the notice that, 40,000 citizens of Vasai had noted their objections to Revised Development Plan of MMRDA, as this type of corridor is not developed so far in any area of the country. Hence, he strongly opposed this proposed project.
- **Hon. Chairman** instructed MMRDA officials to answer the questions raised by Shri Samir Vartak.
- **Dy. Collector-MMRDA, Shri Ravindra Hazari**, made it clear that, all Growth Centres locations are proposed only and not finalised. New Growth Centres are also designated for development of Vasai area.
- **Shri N.H. Shivangi, Regional Officer, MPCB** made it clear that, this Public Hearing is scheduled in respect of environmental issues related to proposed project. Environmental related issues/objections will be taken on record whether in writing or verbal from the participants of the public hearing. These

views will be taken on record and will be communicated to the Central Govt. with video recording of this Public Hearing. These observations will also be communicated to all concerned authorities of State and Central Govt.

- **Ms. Dhvani Shah, Environment Activist**, made a request to Hon. Chairman to read out minutes of this public hearing at the end of this meeting, as she experienced that, she attended a Public Hearing held in Raigad district on 16/1/2018 but in spite of her written request and objections neither MPCB nor Collector office gave her minutes of that Public Hearing.
- **Shri Roger Rodrigues** requested to display details of land acquisition of villages in Palghar District by MMRDA. He further inquired whether questions related to land acquisition should be asked or only environment related questions should be asked.
- **Hon. Chairman** informed that, we are taking assessment only from Environmental point of view whether such projects shall be considered or not. Public opinion shall be taken on record and after positive opinion of public only this kind of project can be taken into consideration. It is also seen that, such projects are feasible or not from environmental point of view. If it is not feasible from environment point of view then Central Govt. will not consider sanction of such projects. Issue of land acquisition will come into picture only after sanction of the proposed project by the Central Govt.
- **Shri Vijay Patil- Ex Member of Z.P. Thane.**
He opined that, this proposed project plan is not for the development of people but for the development of transport system only. In this proposed project, govt. shall notify some areas for non-polluting Small Scale Industrial units. This corridor joins the proposed Air Port, at Navi Mumbai & Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust. If land of native farmers (Bhoomi Putra) and Adivasis are acquired, fruitful remuneration with employment support shall be offered to the local people.
- **Mr. M.P.Singh, Executive Engineer, MMRDA** informed that, this is a World Bank supported project and survey for development of Multi Modal Corridor is done in the year 2008 for direct connectivity from Sasun Navghar to Alibag.
- **Shri Atmaram Thakre- Ex Member of Panchayat Samiti**
Raised issue of farmers of this area who will be affected due to proposed project. He said that, information of this public hearing was not given to the local people. MMRDA shall first call suggestions/objections of local residents and adivasis in this area and then proposed plan shall be prepared. Major part of our land and plantation is affected by this project. Assurance regarding employment of local people shall be given by the implementing authority.

MMRDA has not done proper survey of the area including Forest lease awarded to Adivasis particularly in Sarja Mori village.

- **Hon. Chairman** informed that, Land acquisition process will be started only after sanctioning of the project by Central Govt. Land acquisition will be done as per Forest Right Act through local Tehsil/SDO office. After positive opinion from owners of plot holders, including plots, wells, trees will be counted and appropriate remuneration will be given as per the valuation done by District Level Valuation Committee.
- **Shri Vijay Patil, Ex Member-Zilla Parishad, Thane** –gave a suggestion that, forest lands which are awarded by Govt., if acquired for this project, MMRDA shall compensate for such land also.
- **Hon. Chairman** replied that, regarding acquisition of forest land the same will be considered under Social Impact Assessment point of view.
- **Shri Sushant Patil, Chairman, Bhoomi Putra Saurakshan Samiti**, asked, whether Project Affected Persons employment issue will be considered. Survey nos. of land to be acquired shall be displayed in the document prepared for this project and ratio of compensation shall be defined clearly.
- **Dy. Collector-MMRDA-** informed that, after public opinion in positive, we need to take measurement at site. After measurement of the plots, same will be communicated to the plot holders and remuneration will be considered as per the present ready reckoner. He further informed that, compensations are counted differently in different area in respect of costing of houses, trees, wells etc.
- **Shri Dinesh Mhatre, Ex-Sarpanch, Kaman Gram Panchayat:** - asked whether representatives of Municipal Corporation are present. He also insisted, local representatives also shall be called for public hearing. He further said that this project will help reduce the traffic of Mumbai City but how will the local people be benefitted from the proposed project? He also insisted for better compensation to the adivasis and local residents.
- **Shri Ramchandra Mhatre** – expressed thanks for arranging this public consultation of the proposed project. He reported that, such type of project will make progress of this area in respect industries and transportation. He suggested that, project proponent shall consider the effects of this project on the present environment of this area.
- **Shri Raju Mhatre-** Raised question about land filling of -local river i.e. Kaman river. This land filling will give rise to flood situation in villages located on the bank of river in monsoon season affecting the local villages. And also

enquired about establishing any Trauma Centre or Multi-speciality Govt. Hospital in this area.

- **Hon. Chairman-** Appreciated this query and informed that, Govt. Trauma Center or Multi speciality Govt. Hospital shall be considered by Project Proponent.
- **Shri Balkrishna Bhoir, Nagle Grampanchayat:-** suggested that, after acquisition of land, plot holders in this area shall be rehabilitated in nearby areas only and not at faraway places.
- **Mrs. Sanjivani & Mrs. Laxmi Wagh** complained about not giving information of this public hearing to the representatives of villages.
- **Shri Kishor Thakre-** thanked MPCB for circulating information of public hearing at large. He raised question about competent authority who will give compensation of acquired land, whether Forest Department or any other Government department.
- **Ms. Dhvani Shah, Conservation Officer-Conservation Action Trust, Ghatkopar, Mumbai** raised issue of legality of base line data of survey conducted by MMRDA consultant as validity of survey is for 3 years only as per EIA Notification.
- **MMRDA consultant** informed that, the said survey is conducted in the January 2015 only for one season. He further assured that, they will seek clarification from MoEFCC regarding validity of the survey.
- **Hon. Chairman** warned MMRDA consultant that, as per EIA Notification the survey is out dated and hence illegal and need to undertake fresh survey and inform accordingly to give real data of impact on environment and future traffic load.
- **Ms. Dhvani Shah, Conservation Officer-Conservation Action Trust, Ghatkopar, Mumbai** asked about impact of this project by considering present environmental scenario of this area on wild life, forest, whether evaluation is done or not. Regarding destruction of mangroves and wild life. She wanted to know whether concerned departments have been consulted or not. She also asked for details about quarries & roads to be utilised for supplying of building materials for this project. She raised issue about imposition of toll for use of this corridor and its usefulness to the local people.
- **Dy. Engineer, MMRDA Shri M.P. Singh** explained that, permissions for quarries in the DPR will be sought from appropriate authorities. He also explained that, legal procedure will be undertaken for this project as it is very much useful for over all development of this area.

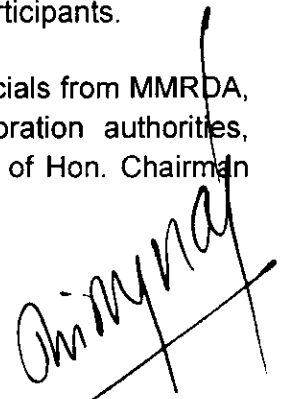
- **Ms. Dhvani Shah, Conservation Officer-Conservation Action Trust, Ghatkopar, Mumbai** asked that, why comprehensive study of entire stretch of corridor area is not done by the Project Proponent.
- **Shri. Godbole, Representative of Louis Berger** replied that, a Rapid EIA has been done. But Dhvani Shah objected for rapid EIA as it is not acceptable to this project.
- **Shri Samir Vartak, Paryavarn Savvardhan Samiti, Vasai-Virar-Coordinator** said that, MMRDA has already finalised the project we are misguided that, this public hearing is meant for environmental clearance only. Because of heavy transportation on this corridor and thus affecting whole environment, wild life & local residents. This project will destroy not only environment, wild life but whole livelihood of our villages.
- **Ms. Dhvani Shah, Conservation Officer-Conservation Action Trust, Ghatkopar, Mumbai** enquired about cost benefit analysis of the project and real need of the project. She also pointed out that, this EIA report does not mention impact of the project on wild life, habitants, mangroves, fisher man, salt pans, fish species as well use of fly ash for construction of road, its radioactive study and other details. The same shall be communicated to me in writing by the Project Proponent.
- **Hon. Chairman** instructed MMRDA officials to clarify the queries raised by Ms. Dhvani Shah.
- At the end of public hearing Hon. Chairman, read out in brief, the suggestions, objections raised during the public hearing such as, compensation, rehabilitation, establishment of non-polluting industrial zones, Employment to locals, Govt. Trauma hospital, establishment of Growth Centres, protection of wild life, re-plantation of trees, compensation for planted trees, re-survey of this area by MMRDA Consultants etc. and thanked the participants.
- **SDO- Vasai** – thanked the participants, local citizens, officials from MMRDA, MPCB, Revenue Dept., Forest dept., Municipal Corporation authorities, Environmentalist, NGO activists and with the permission of Hon. Chairman declared that Public Hearing is over.



Convener of
the Public Hearing,
Panel and
Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Thane-II



Member,
Public Hearing,
Panel and
Regional Officer,
MPCB, Thane



Chairman of the
Public Hearing
Panel and District
Magistrate, Palghar