

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 8 LANE SPUR STARTING FROM Km 26.582 OF VADODARA MUMBAI EXPRESSWAY MAIN ALIGNMENT (DESIGN CHAINAGE 0+000) AND TERMINATING AT PROPOSED JUNCTION WITH THE MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR OF MMRDA (DESIGN CHAINAGE 79+783) IN THE STATE OF MAHARASHTRA PROPOSED BY NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS, GOVT. OF INDIA)

The public hearing for proposed Development of 8 lane SPUR starting from Km 26.582 of VADODARA MUMBAI EXPRESSWAY MAIN ALIGNMENT (Design Chainage 0+000) and terminating at proposed junction with the MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR OF MMRDA (Design chainage 79+783) in the State of Maharashtra proposed by NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (Ministry of Road Transport and highways, Govt. of India) was conducted on 16th March, 2021 at 2.00 PM at Survey No.7/16, Adjacent to Vinayak Woods, Reliance, Reliance Road, village-Wahuli, Tal. Kalyan, Dist. Thane.

Following were the panel members for conducting public hearing as per Maharashtra Pollution Control Board's Office Order E-17 under letter no.BO/JD(WPC)/PH/B-210222-FTS-0244, dated 22/2/2021: -

- 1) Dr. Shivaji Patil
Addl.District Magistrate, Thane
- **Chairman,**
- 2) Shri. Shankar Waghmare,
Regional Officer, MPCB,Thane
(representative of the MPCB, Mumbai)
- **Member**
- 3) Shri. J.S. Hajare
Sub Regional Officer, Bhiwandi,
- **Convener**

Shri J. S. Hajare, Convener of the said meeting welcomed Hon'ble Chairman and Members of Public Hearing Panel, public representatives and general public limited in numbers. He further informed that, as per EIA Notification of Gol, MoEFCC dated 14th September 2006, amended thereto, it is mandatory to conduct prior public hearing to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification. The Sub Regional Office, Bhiwandi, MPCB was in receipt of application of National Highways Authority of India for conducting public hearing for proposed Development of 8 lane SPUR starting from Km 26.582 of VADODARA MUMBAI EXPRESSWAY MAIN ALIGNMENT (Design Chainage 0+000) and terminating at proposed junction with the MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR OF MMRDA (Design chainage 79+783) in the State of Maharashtra proposed by NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (Ministry of Road Transport and highways, Govt. of India) in the State of Maharashtra. The Convener of the Committee further informed that, as per said Notification, the project falls in item 7 (f) of the Schedule to the Notification and is a **Category "A"** project. The purpose of conducting public hearing is to make aware local people who can be participant in the hearing and they should know the developmental activities and environment management plan of proposed

project. The State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC-I) of Ministry of Environment, Govt. of Maharashtra has recommended for grant of ToR. in its 232nd meeting held on 27th Feb.2020. Accordingly, MoEFCC issued the ToR for conducting EIA studies vide letter dated 16th March,2020. Accordingly, National Highways Authority of India, the project proponent prepared draft EIA Report. As per EIA Notification, one month advance public notice was published in the local newspapers on 12/02/2021 in Daily 'Sakal' 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 Office and at various offices of Govt. of Maharashtra i.e. Environment Department, GoM, District Magistrate Office, Thane, Additional District Magistrate, Thane, Sub Divisional Office, Tal-Thane, Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Thane, Regional Office, MPCB, Thane and at Head Office of MPCB at Sion, Mumbai, Zilla Parishad, Thane, Grampanchayat offices in the vicinity of the project area Tal- Bhiwandi, Kalyan & Ambarnath, Dist- Thane. The public in general were appealed to send any suggestions/comments regarding the above project in writing. Shri. Hajare further informed that one objection in writing is received by the Sub Regional Office, Bhiwandi, MPCB. He made it clear that, after detailed presentation of this project by Project Proponent, representatives/villagers present can raised queries/objections/suggestions, which will be noted down and will be communicated to Ministry of Environment & Climate Change (MoEFCC). Govt. This public hearing is not for giving permission or clearance to the said project. He further requested Chairman of the Committee to allow to start the proceedings of public hearing.

Dr. Shivaji Patil, Addl. District Magistrate and Chairman of Committee welcomed all and informed officials of the project proponent to make detailed presentation about proposed project and its environment management plan in local language Marathi. He further appealed general public to give suggestions/comments/opinion if any, about the project after technical presentation of the project.

Shri Shivaji Pawar, DHM (Tech) of National Highways Authority of India, welcome the Committee and public present for this public hearing. He explained the purpose of this 8 lane VME, considering the traffic load on present old NH-8 Expressway. He provided details of SPUR development to cater the needs of safe & quick dispersal of major traffic from JNPT Port & Mumbai-Pune Expressway and benefits of this development to the local residents. He gave presentation of the construction of proposed project and Environment Management Plan in detailed. He explained the proposed Development of 8 lane SPUR starting from Km 26.582 of VADODARA MUMBAI EXPRESSWAY MAIN ALIGNMENT (Design Chainage 0+000) and terminating at proposed junction with the MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR OF MMRDA (Design chainage 79+783) in the State of Maharashtra proposed by NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (Ministry of Road Transport and highways, Govt. of India) in the State of Maharashtra. He also explained, VME Phase-II starts at Koshimb village of Palghar district and terminate at proposed junction with the Multi-Modal Corridor of MMRDA in Morbe village of Raigad district. Total length of SPUR alignment is 79.783 km, out of which 55.260 km. lies in Thane district & 18.900 km lies in Palghar district and remaining 5.623 km lies in Raigad district of Maharashtra. He further clarified, the permissions required for this project from various department like Coastal Zone, Forest Deptt., MoEFCC, MPCB etc. This 8th lane project consist of flyovers, parking facilities, food malls, truck terminals etc. and cost of project is about 5243.0 cr. Detailed EIA is done of this project and explained precautionary measures taken to protect

surrounding environment, greenery and total eco system of this area. He further explained precautionary measures proposed to maintain water quality of water sources, air pollution control, Noise pollution due to traffic noise in detailed and provision of funds of Rs. 48.0 Cr for environment related issues and provision of corpus fund.

He further narrated about crossing of rivers along the road. They conducted noise level study of this area and ground water testing of nearing dams, rivers, lakes like water bodies and wildlife scenario of the area and this project does not enter through any wildlife sanctuary or bird sanctuary. We also have studied tribal life of this area. Some forest land acquisition requires to be done for which we will comply with the terms & conditions of Forest Dept. We are taking care of water usage and recycling for water requirement for the project and care will be taken of no local water source will be harm by this project. Utmost care will be taken to limit noise level in the surrounding area. Arrangements for avoiding road accidents and control centers to provide timely help to the commuters.

He also explained losses and benefits of this project in detailed and compensation for land acquisition to the landlords. Tree plantation along the road and drainage system to avoid any water chock up during rainy reason.

He further explained regarding provisions of passenger way, cattle way, local vehicular way and there will not be any crossing of any expressway in between this project. There would be toll plaza on this road.

Hon. Chairman, again explained the purpose of this public hearing and appeal the present residents to express their suggestions/opinions/grievances etc.

Shri Naresh Sureshi resident of village-Rayta and farmer affected by acquisition of land expressed that, two years before our opinions/objections were taken before Addl. District Collector but no due cognizance of our objections were taken. About 40 acres land of village Rayta is already affected by such developments. Our area is already flood affected area, we experience flood water enters in our farms during rainy season. If this road development project will be implemented in our area our farming land will go below the road height and we will be suffered permanently due to rain water dispersed from the road and who will give compensation of land nearby Rayta village will acquired for this project.

Hon. Chairman instructed NHAI authority to take cognizance of their complaint and clarify on their opinion.

- Shri Shivaji Pawar-of NHAI – explained that, the proposed expressway will be on the height of existing agricultural fields, for rain water dispersal we have proposed to provide proper drainage system so care is taken to disperse rain water through drains and will not enter into the nearby farming lands. He further explained, acquisition of nearby land and its compensation is not yet proposed.

- Shri Avish Juwari- Advocate & Up Sarpanch of Wahuli – First of all he appreciated for arranging Public Hearing for this project because local residents/farmers get an opportunity to give their opinion. Had this hearing would have been taken before 5 years farmers of this area would get due benefit of their land. Now also farmers are not given information in time of this public hearing. Those farmers had given their land & now giving

their agricultural land do not get proper remuneration of their land. Govt. is not taking due care to give reasonable remuneration of farmer's land. Even this hearing will attend our grievance properly and will give us justice? Hon. Chairman convinced that, this public hearing is regarding environmental issues only and regarding compensation of land acquisition.

Shri Avish Juwari – Raised question that, to whom we shall give our complaint regarding environment related issues.

Hon. Chairman- explained that, you can give your suggestion on environmental issues to the MPCB officials who are present here now.

Shri. Avish Juwari – raised that, farmer shall be taken into consideration in process of land acquisition and also explain the advantages farmers will get by this project.

Hon. Chairman – Instructed NHA authority to explain on this issue.

Shri. Shivaji Pawar of NHA explained that, this project is of National Interest Development project and Govt. acquires land for development of National Interest project. We have considered to provide proper access for local residents by providing vehicular under-pass, cattle under-pass and as per Expressway Manual, after every 500 mtr. crossing pass out is also given. He further explained to give your suggestions/complaints in writing, NHA will get proper information/reply from NHA.

Avish Juwari – asked whether crossing after 500 mtrs. is provision in the NHA Act?

Hon. Chairman – instructed NHA authority to consider suggestions of local residents and make provision to give maximum facility/infrastructure for pass out ways for the convenience of local residents.

Shri. Naresh Sureshe, resident of Rayta village asked about noise level survey of the area during day & night hours.

Shri. Waghmare, RO, MPCB instructed NHA representative to explain the Noise survey you carried and mentioned in your project summary.

Hon. Chairman- instructed NHA authority to take cognizance on the query raised by local residents, give any solution on the land which will go under flood water and also give information on noise level.

Shri Shivaji Pawar-NHA authority explained that, noise level monitoring was conducted at six location. Day & night time noise level show are within limit. Maximum noise level during day time observed 54.3 dB and during night 43.9dB is within permissible limit. He further explained that, during work in progress and after completion of project, noise barriers will provided to maintain noise level.

Regarding flood water, he explained that, proper drainage will be provided along the road side so as not to drain water from expressway into the surrounding agricultural land.

Shri Avish Juwari – asked about the height of the pass outs on the express way.

Hon. Chairman – instructed NHA representative to take a note of this suggestion and also instructed to make tree plantation sufficiently along the expressway.

Hon. Chairman briefed about the purpose of this public hearing and gave thanks to villagers of Rayata & other villagers. He instructed MPCB, NHA authorities to take note on the issues raised by the public representatives and residents of this area. He especially point out the issues of flood affected farmers of Rayata village, tree plantation, noise level barriers which shall be attended by concerned authorities.

Hon. Chairman – instructed gathering to give your opinions/objections /suggestions in writing to the MPCB officials. At the time of hearing one complaint from Group Gram Panchayat, Ambeshiv was received.

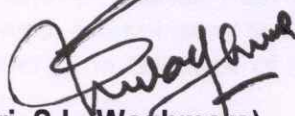
Hon. Chairman of the Committee- gave thanks to all present for this public hearing and announce end of this public hearing

Conclusion :-

Public hearing for proposed Development of 8 lane SPUR starting from Km 26.582 of VADODARA MUMBAI EXPRESSWAY MAIN ALIGNMENT (Design Chainage 0+000) and terminating at proposed junction with the MULTI-MODAL CORRIDOR OF MMRDA (Design chainage 79+783) in the State of Maharashtra proposed by NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA (Ministry of Road Transport and highways, Govt. of India) under the Chairmanship of Addl. District Magistrate, Thane.

Public representatives & residents participated in the hearing process and expressed their expectations and objections in respect of land acquisition, environmental impact in the periphery, coastal life in CRZ areas, bird sanctuaries, means of livelihood of farmers after land acquisitions, benefits to local residents of this development and future benefits for stable life of farmers/villagers. As well to clear doubts in the minds of land owners and villagers by the project proponent.

Chairman and Public Hearing Committee members noted the objections and suggestions of public representatives and residents. Chairman instructed MPCB and NHA officials to prepare minutes and circulate the same to all concerned authorities and ended meeting with vote of thanks to all.



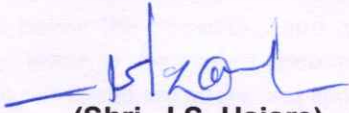
(Shri. S.L. Waghmare)

Regional Officer, MPCB, Kalyan &
Member, Environmental Public Hearings



(Dr. Shivaji Patil)

Addl. District Magistrate, Thane &
Chairman, Environmental Public Hearings



(Shri. J.S. Hajare)

Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Kalyan &
Convener, Environmental Public Hearings