

Minutes of Environmental Public Hearing of M/s Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation for construction of the Nagpur-Gondia Access-Controlled Super Communication Expressway (Package-I) Starting at Gavasi in Nagpur District to Lodhitola in Gondia District (Ch. 0.000 to Ch. 144.807), in addition to the main alignment two feeder routes included i.e Gondia Bypass (Ch. 0.000 to Ch. 13.744), & Tiroda Feeder Route (Ch. 0.000 to Ch. 3.826) conducted on 27/05/2025. TIME 12.30 PM, At. District Planning Hall, Collector Office, Gondia.

As per Ministry of Environment and Forest, Govt. of India Notification dated 14.09.2006 amended notification dated 1.12.2009, Environmental public hearing was conducted of M/s Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation for construction of the Nagpur-Gondia Access-Controlled Super Communication Expressway (Package-I) Starting at Gavasi in Nagpur District to Lodhitola in Gondia District (Ch. 0.000 to Ch. 144.807), in addition to the main alignment two feeder routes included i.e Gondia Bypass (Ch. 0.000 to Ch. 13.744), & Tiroda Feeder Route (Ch. 0.000 to Ch. 3.826) under the Chairmanship of Shri Bhaiyasaheb Behre, Resident Deputy Collector, Gondia. Mrs. Hema Deshpande, Regional Officer, Nagpur, attended as a representative of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board and a member of the hearing committee. Mr. Kishor Pusadkar, Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Bhandara, coordinated the hearing. Mr. Chandrabhan Khandait, Sub-Divisional Officer, Gondia was also present. Attendance of the People present during Public Hearing is attached as **(Annexure-I.)**

BACKGROUND:

M/s Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation has requested Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to conduct a public hearing required for Environmental Clearance for their proposed construction of the Nagpur-Gondia Access-Controlled Super Communication Expressway (Package-I) Starting at Gavasi in Nagpur District to Lodhitola in Gondia District (Ch. 0.000 to Ch. 144.807), in addition to the main alignment two feeder routes included i.e Gondia Bypass (Ch. 0.000 to Ch. 13.744), & Tiroda Feeder Route (Ch. 0.000 to Ch. 3.826). Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai Vide letter no. MPCB/JD(WPC)/ENV-PH/B-250106-FTS-0108 dated 06/01/2025 & MPCB/JD(WPC)/ENV-PH/B-250220-FTS-0051 dated 20/02/2025 directed to initiate public hearing process. Hon'ble Collector, Gondia approved office note vide dated 02/04/2025 to conduct Environmental Public Hearing on 27.05.2025 at 12.30 noon at District Planning Hall, Collector Office Gondia.

PURPOSE AND PROCEDURE:

With permission of Chairman of Public Hearing, Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Bhandara & Convenor has started Public Hearing procedure by welcoming Chairman, Member of the public hearing panel, officers & public present during hearing. Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Bhandara, informed that Public Hearing is conducted under provisions of the EIA Notification 2006 and amended thereof for recording views/objections/ suggestions of participants regarding proposed project, and same will be communicated to the Competent Committee. It was also clarified that this panel has no right to take any decision in accordance with any kind of approval of the project and appealed to participants to express their views and suggestions orally or in writing.

Sub-Regional Officer, MPCB, Bhandara further said that notices for public hearing were published in two local widely circulated newspapers i.e. the 'The Hitavada' (English) and 'Lokmat' (Marathi) on 16.04.2025 for thirty days period. Copies of the same are enclosed as **(Annexure-II.)**

Copies of Executive summary both in English and Marathi, with Environment Management Plan and other information/documents submitted by Project proponent were made available to the public by making these documents available in various Govt. offices as well as local Gram Panchayat as per MoEF GOI Notification. Suggestions, comments, and objections of the public were called in writing during the notice period of the publication of notice. The public hearing panel was constituted vide MPC Board Office Order No. E-32/2025 vide letter No. BO/JD/(WPC)/PH/B-250421-FTS-0121 dtd.21/04/2025. Copy enclosed as **(Annexure-III).**

Executive summary in English and Marathi with soft copy along with other documents were kept in the following offices for information and study of concerns and asked to give extensive publicity.

- 1) Collector Office, Gondia.
- 2) Zilla Parishad Office, Gondia.
- 3) District Industries Centre, Gondia.
- 4) Sub-Divisional Officer, Gondia, Tirora, Dist. Gondia.
- 5) Tehsil Office, Gondia, Tirara, Dist. Gondia.
- 6) Regional Office, M.P.C.Board, 5th Floor, Udyog Bhawan, Civil Lines, Nagpur.
- 7) Department of Environment and Climate Change, 15th Floor, New Administrative Building, Madam Cama Marg, Mantralaya, Mumbai-32.
- 8) Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Headquarters, Kalpataru Point, 3rd Mala, Sion Matunga Scheme Road No.8, Opposite Sion Circle, Sion (East), Mumbai-400022.
- 9) Regional Office (West Central Region), Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Ground Floor, East Block, New Secretariat Building, Civil Lines, Nagpur-440001.
- 10) Gram Panchayat Office, Gram Panchayat Office, Dawniwada, Pipartola, Deutola, Sonpuri, Nila Gondi, Ratnara, Lohara, Pandharabodi, Lahitola, Navatola, Hiwari, Lodhi Tola 23, Lodhi Tola 22, Halbitola, Sawari, hiwara, Bhagwattola, Dhakni, Lodhi_Tola 27, Pindkepartola_(N.V), Repewada, Karanja, Tq. Gondia, Dist. Gondia. Gram Panchayat Office, Manora, Kesalwada, Yadamekot, Panjara, Sarandi, Umari, Dhandri, Belati BK., Belati KH., Chirkhani, Kewalewada, Bhuratola, Paldongari, Karti Bk, Berdipar, Dabbetola, Sonegaon, Nahartola, Boda, Jamuniya, Kachewani, Tq. Tiroda, Dist. Gondia.

Documents were also hosted on the Board's website www.mpcb.gov.in.

Thereafter, Sub-Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Bhandara and convenor of public hearing requested project proponent i.e M/s. Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation to give detailed technical presentation on their proposed project.

Technical Consultant for M/s Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation has given technical presentation for their proposed construction of the Nagpur-Gondia Access-Controlled Super Communication Expressway (Package-I) Starting at Gavasi in Nagpur District to Lodhitola in Gondia District (Ch. 0.000 to Ch. 144.807), in addition to the main alignment two feeder routes included i.e Gondia Bypass (Ch. 0.000 to Ch. 13.744), & Tiroda Feeder Route (Ch. 0.000 to Ch. 3.826) w.r.t environmental aspects of proposed expressway construction, environmental management plan, green belt development plan, made a presentation on project benefits, etc.

After the presentation, Sub-Regional Officer, M.P.C. Board, Bhandara appealed to the people present during hearing to raise any questions, suggestions, comments, objections regarding the said project by stating their name and village or can submit in writing as well.

Objections received before, during & after Environment Public hearing are attached herewith. (Annexure-V).

Questions, criticisms, comments, objections, suggestions and answers/assurances given by the project holder during the public hearing are as follows:

1) Mr. Chandrakumar Gopichand Patale, Paldongri, Gondia.

Sr.No	Objection / Suggestion / Question	Response from Project Proponent
1	<p>1. The highway will not benefit the farmers of Gondia district; only industrialists and vested interests will gain.</p> <p>2. About 1000 to 1500 acres of farmland from Gondia district will be affected. Previously, land in the district was acquired in large amounts under Forest Law, Bhodan, scrub forest, Wildlife Act, etc., which have all proven harmful to farmers. This highway project is also threatening their livelihood.</p> <p>3. The government compensation is very low and not sufficient to buy new land.</p> <p>4. Farmers will suffer massive losses due to this project. The government should reconsider it.</p> <p>5. The project will harm the environment. Malgajari lakes and small water bodies will be</p>	<p>Mr. Nishikant Suke, Additional District Collector, MSRDC -</p> <p>1. GAIL only takes permission for laying pipelines and doesn't acquire land. Construction is restricted only over pipeline routes. GAIL's compensation is different from land acquisition compensation.</p> <p>2. After land measurement, a notification will be issued and individuals will receive notices. At that time, one can present their case and supporting documents for fair compensation.</p> <p>3. The rate is determined village-wise, not individually.</p> <p>4. The higher of ready reckoner or actual sale rate is considered for compensation.</p>

destroyed, impacting farmers' lives. Hence, the project should be postponed.	<p>5. Compensation is determined based on irrigation category.</p> <p>6. Submit all relevant documents to the Sub-Divisional Officer, Land Acquisition. We are striving to offer maximum compensation.</p> <p>7. Compensation will be paid as a lump sum.</p>
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2) Mr. Tilokchand Jagdish Patale, Paldongri, Gondia.

Sr.No	Objection / Suggestion / Question	Response from Project Proponent
1	<p>1. The most land is being acquired from Paldongri village.</p> <p>2. GAIL project also passed through our village, where farmers received very low compensation. If justice is not served, farmers will approach the court. Compensation of ₹1.5 crore per acre is demanded.</p> <p>3. Gondia district has more trees in farmland than other districts. Massive tree cutting for the highway will harm the environment.</p> <p>4. Gondia receives heavy rainfall. Elevated roads may cause flooding, so proper drainage should be arranged.</p> <p>5. Service roads should be provided on both sides of the highway for farmers.</p> <p>6. Farmers' demands should be considered sympathetically to ensure justice.</p>	<p>Mr. Bhushan Malkhandale, Executive Engineer, MSRDC -</p> <p>1. The objections are mainly related to land acquisition, which is not under the purview of this environmental hearing. The District Collector chairs the compensation committee, and farmers are involved at every stage. Final compensation is determined by the committee.</p> <p>2. The total project length in Gondia district is 68 km, requiring felling of 5,000 trees. However, 427,000 trees will be planted along the full Nagpur-Gondia stretch.</p> <p>3. Despite elevation, drainage will be provided on both sides to manage rainwater.</p> <p>4. A 3.5-meter-wide strip will be left on both sides for local access. Underpasses will be constructed every 500 meters.</p> <p>5. Necessary measures will be taken for soil, water, and air pollution. For every tree cut, multiple trees will be planted.</p>

3) Mr. Kapse, Gondia.

Sr.No	Objection / Suggestion / Question	Response from Project Proponent
1	1. Farmers face several issues. There are problems regarding land ownership, and hence rightful owners do not receive compensation. The administration should resolve ownership issues.	-

4) Mr. Kushal Chetaram Sahare, Kesalwada, Gondia.

Sr.No	Objection / Suggestion / Question	Response from Project Proponent
1	1. Support for the highway. 2. Affected farmers should be declared project-affected, and a family member should be offered a job. 3. Lump sum compensation should be provided so that new land can be purchased easily. 4. Ensure farmers are not exploited.	-

5) Mr. Gendalaal Eknath Thakre, Nilagondi, Gondia.

Sr.No	Objection / Suggestion / Question	Response from Project Proponent
1	1. Happy about the highway, but worried about the plight of farmers. 2. Our inherited farmland is being affected, and we worry about future generations. 3. Sufficient lump sum compensation should be given to buy new land.	-

6) Mr. Rajendra Hiranman Rahangdale.

Sr.No	Objection / Suggestion / Question	Response from Project Proponent
1	1. Farmers who lose land will become landless and their condition will worsen. Their children may face social stigma. Farmers feed the nation and must be compensated appropriately.	-

	Monthly pensions and compensation at five times market value should be given.	
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7) Mr. Ramdas Harichandra Harinkhede, Bijutola, Gondia.

Sr.No	Objection / Suggestion / Question	Response from Project Proponent
1	1. Marginal farmers will become landless, and the highway does not benefit them. Pollution from the project will affect their health. 2. Farmers will fall below the poverty line. Compensation should be five times the market rate, and a government job should be given to a family member.	-

8) Mr. Rahul Rahangdale, Jamunia, Gondia.

Sr.No	Objection / Suggestion / Question	Response from Project Proponent
1	Jamunia's farmland has already been acquired for a reservoir, which did not benefit the village but helped others. This project will again cause loss to already marginal farmers.	-

9) Mr. Jindal Harichand Katale, Jibutola, Tirora, Gondia.

Sr.No	Objection / Suggestion / Question	Response from Project Proponent
1	1. There is an Adani Power Plant near our village, but the village did not benefit. 2. I will be left with only 1 acre after 7 acres are acquired. What should I do? The government compensation is inadequate. Appropriate compensation and a government job should be given. 3. Sufficient lump sum compensation should be given to buy new land.	-

10) Mr. Ravindra Ghanshyam Sonbawane, Manora, Gondia.

Sr.No	Objection / Suggestion / Question	Response from Project Proponent
1	<p>1. Farmers do not benefit from this highway; only big traders do.</p> <p>2. Upon learning of the project, traders bought agricultural lands and developed them for plantations to claim higher compensation.</p> <p>3. How did traders get early information? Government should answer.</p> <p>4. Land should not be acquired below market value.</p> <p>5. The figure of 5,000 trees being cut is false. From Gondia to Manora, 125,000 to 150,000 trees will be cut, as many are not recorded in land documents.</p>	-

11) Mr. Ramesh Umaji Gajbhiye, Jiutola, Gondia.

Sr.No	Objection / Suggestion / Question	Response from Project Proponent
1	<p>1. The highway plan was made without consulting farmers.</p> <p>2. Conditions for land acquisition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ₹2 crore per acre compensation. • Government jobs for landless farmers' family members. • Provide alternative irrigated land. • Benefits and rights under Land Acquisition Act 2013. • Revenue share from toll should be 18% to affected farmers. • Inclusion in PM and CM farmer welfare schemes. • Special benefits for SC/ST farmers. • No land acquisition without farmers' and gram sabha consent. 	-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ₹2 crore blanket compensation for affected farmers. 	
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12) Mr. Rahul Koche, Gondia.

Sr.No	Objection / Suggestion / Question	Response from Project Proponent
1	One tree absorbs 30 kg of carbon in its lifetime; one vehicle emits 4.6 tons. How will this be balanced?	-

Closing Remarks by the Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee:

All objections and suggestions raised during the hearing were addressed by MSRDC officers with assurances that environmental measures will be implemented, including planting trees in large numbers to compensate for deforestation. Land acquisition concerns were explained by the Additional District Collector under the framework of the Land Acquisition Act. Ownership-related issues should be addressed through the Land Records and Acquisition Office. Compensation will be paid in a lump sum, and all benefits under the law will be granted to farmers. All inputs and concerns have been recorded and will be submitted to the committee.

The public hearing was then formally concluded with a vote of thanks.



(Kishor Pusadkar)

Sub- Regional Officer, MPCB Bhandara
& Coordinator, Public Hearing Committee



(Hema Deshpande)

Regional Officer, MPCB Nagpur
& Member, Public Hearing Committee



(Bhaiyyasaheb Behere)

Additional District Magistrate
Chairman, Public Hearing Committee