

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF VADODARA MUMBAI EXPRESSWAY (PHASE-II) FROM KM.26.320 TO KM. 104.700 (KM 390.864 OF NH-8) OF MAIN EXPRESSWAY 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 Vadodara Mumbai Expressway (Phase-II) from Km. 26.320 to Km. 104.700 (Km 390.864 of NH-8) of main Expressway in the State of Maharashtra by National Highways Authority of India (Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Govt. of India) was conducted on 11th February, 2020 at 12.30 hrs. at Grampanchayat Office, Dahisar Turfe Manor village, Tal. & Dist. Palghar.

Following were the panel members for conducting public hearing as per Maharashtra Pollution Control Board's Office Order No. E08 of 2020 under letter no. BO/JD(WPC)/PH/B-280 dated 28.01.2020:-

- 1) Shri Dilip Gutte - **Chairman,**
Addl. District Magistrate, Palghar
- 2) Shri D. B. Patil, - **Member**
Regional Officer, MPCB, Thane
(representative of the MPCB, Mumbai)
- 3) Shri Amar Durgule - **Convener**
Sub Regional Officer, Tarapur-II,

Shri Amar Durgule, Convener of the said meeting welcomed Hon'ble Chairman and Members of Public Hearing Panel, public representatives and general public who were in large number and informed that, as per EIA Notification of GoI, 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 project proposal has submitted the application to MoEF, Govt. of India, New Delhi for obtained Environmental Clearance. The MoEF has issued TOR and informed to the Project Proponent to go for the public opinion. The Sub Regional Office, Tarapur-II, MPCB was in receipt of application of National Highways

Authority of India for conducting public hearing for proposed Vadodara Mumbai Expressway (Phase-II) from Km. 26.320 to Km. 104.700 (Km 390.864 of NH-8) of main Expressway in the State of Maharashtra.

The Conveyor of the Committee further informed that, as per said Notification, the project falls under Category 7 (f)'. 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 National Highways Authority of India has submitted the application to MPCB, Sion along with the EIA report to conduct Environmental Public Hearing on 13.11.2019. The Sub Regional Officer, Tarapur-II has written the letter to Hon'ble Collector-Palghar for seeking date to conduct the said public hearing on 19.11.2019. The Hon'ble Collector informed that the said public hearing should be conducted on 11.02.2020. The MPC Board has published a public notice one month advance in the local newspapers on 09/01/2020 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 various offices of Govt. of Maharashtra i.e. Environment Department, GoM, District Magistrate Office, Palghar, Sub Divisional Office, Tal-Palghar, Dist-Palghar, Sub Regional Office, MPCB, Tarapur-II, Regional Office, MPCB, Thane and at Head Office of MPCB at Sion, Mumbai, Zilla Parishad, Palghar, Grampanchayat, offices in the vicinity of the project area Tal- Palghar, Dist- Palghar. The public in general were appealed to send any suggestions/comments regarding the above project. Shri Durgule further informed that only one objection in writing are received by the Regional Office, Thane, MPCB. He made it clear that, after detailed presentation of this project by Project Proponent, representatives/villagers present can raise queries/objections/suggestions, which will be noted down and will be communicated to Ministry of Environment & Climate Change (MoEFCC). GoI. This public hearing is not for giving permission or clearance to the said project. He

requested Chairman of the Committee to allow to start the proceedings of public hearing.

Shri Dilip Gutte, 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, DGM (Tech) of National Highways Authority of India, welcomed the Committee and public present for this public hearing. He explained the purpose of this 8 lane Vadodara Mumbai Expressway Project (VME) considering the traffic load on present old NH-8 Highway. He provided details of project and its necessity. He gave presentation on construction of proposed project and Environment Management Plan in detail. He explained the phases of proposed Vadodara Mumbai Expressway (VME) i.e. Phase-I-proposed Chainage 104+700 to 378+722 in the State of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Dadra &

Nagar Haveli (UT) for which EC is already obtained. Phase-II (Main Expressway) proposed chainage 26+320 near Vasai (revised chainage 26+582) to chainage 104+700 on the junction with new NH-48. Phase-II SPUR start point is chainage 26+582 of the main expressway and terminates at chainage 94+390 at km 24+476 of NH-48 near JNPT in the State of Maharashtra. Phase-III is from proposed chainage 0+000 in Thane District to 26+320 in Palghar District of Maharashtra. He also explained, VME Phase-II starts at Koshimb village of Vasai taluka and ends at Talasari village of Talasari taluka. This section is passing through four talukas i.e. Vasai, Palghar, Dahanu & Talasari and 51 villages of Palghar district in the State of Maharashtra. He further clarified, that permissions are required for this project from various departments like Coastal Zone, Forest Deptt., MoEFCC, MPCB and DTEPA etc. This 8 lane project consist of flyovers, parking facilities, food malls, truck terminals etc. and cost of project is about 7101 cr. Detailed EIA is done for this project and explained precautionary measures taken to protect surrounding

environment, greenery and total eco system of this area. For EIA study, they have engaged M/s. Intercontinental Consultants and Technocrats Pvt. Ltd., He further narrated crossing of rivers along the road i.e. Vaitarna, Surya & Suseri. 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 pass 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 Deptt. We are taking care of water usage and recycling for water requirement for the project and care will be taken so that no local water source will be affected by this project. Utmost care will be taken to limit noise level in the surrounding area. He also explained losses and benefits of this project in detail.

Shri Amar Durgule, Convener made an appeal to the present people to give their environment related problems, suggestions/objections.

1) Shri Santosh Pawade resident from village-Kirat expressed that, already existing road connects with railway stations, industrial areas and because of plying of vehicles and industries, we are suffering from pollution problems. If additional road is developed, this will deteriorate the greenery of this area. Farmers of this area are cultivating their land twice in a year and gets double yield from their cultivated land. Because of this development, forest and livelihood of residents will be damaged. How project proponent will save seasonal fruits giving trees that would be cut down. This loss cannot be made out. These trees are important from environmental natural greenery point of view. He said that they are going to oppose the project and requested not give any sort of permission which will damage total eco system of our area.

2) Shri Kamalakar Adhikari resident of village Nagzari- He said that, the environmental report prepared by project proponent is not true and correct. Their report says, this

area is lacking of water availability area. If project report itself clarifies that, this area is not suitable for development then why this development plan is implemented in this area. Farmers in our areas are dependent on the natural resources available here. As per study report of project proponent maximum temperature of this area is 46⁰C which may rise due to this development. Hence, we oppose this project.

3) Raju Pandhara- resident of Vandivali village- Pointed out that, noise level of this area will be increased considerably due to vehicular traffic. Project proponent has not estimated expected vehicular traffic by this development. It is expected that about 25000 vehicles will be plying on this road and fuel consumption would be more than 2.0 lakh litres and this will increase the carbon percentage in the atmosphere, resulted into increase in temperature. If such a condition, this will harm the forest and cultivated soil. Due to present National Highway (NH-48), residents and nearby area environment is affected badly. Tree

plantation planning of the project proponent will not give any positive results in improving natural conditions of the area. He further gave example of global warming alarming situation arised in the present world. This will badly damage the environment and will raise alarming situation in this area. Hence, we oppose to the project.

4) Shri Mahendra Adhikari- resident of Nagzari, he criticised the survey made on the point of water availability, existing trees in this area. Project proponent claims for sufficient tree plantation in this area, how project proponent will make arrangement for water when his report says water quality in the area is not suitable. How such quality water is used for drinking or tree plantation purpose. He further said that, because of this road project, land under cultivation will be damaged badly and hence we oppose this project.

5) Shri Mohan Patil- residents of Nihe village - Expressed his displeasure as he said, Govt. has not taken cognizance of opinions in such public hearing. Whatever

soil survey presented by project proponent of this area is not to the fact and we are facing problem due to higher noise levels. If hillocks and forest area is destructed at the east of this area, there are hillock, from where rain water flows at the down direction which make water percolation in the downward cultivated land. For road widening if this hilly area is destructed, rain water from this hilly area will be saturated in the farms cultivated by local farmers and destroy the rice fields. This fact has not taken into consideration while preparing the EIA.

6) Ramakant Jogle –resident of Navje village expressed that, Govt. has not considered the environmental and adverse impact of such projects. Even after Dahanu Notification, Thermal Power project is implemented which has made adverse impact on the local environment. Hence, we oppose this project.

7) Shri Ashok Pawade- resident of village Kirat- He raised that, to whom remuneration will be given to the land owner or project affected people?

- 8) Shri Keshav Patil – resident of Khamloli village – According to project proponent, our land is not suitable for farming, I am having 1.5 acre land, I am cultivating my land and earning Rs. 1-1.5 Lakh per acre. How Govt. will make up our losses if land is acquired for this project.
- 9) Shri Ganpat Kadu- resident of village Kirat pointed that, there is already highway is in existence in this area, why additional project of Expressway shall be implemented in this area. If this project is undertaken in the nearby vicinity of existing highway, there would not be a need to acquire additional fertile land.
- 10) Shri Krishna Vaidya- local farmers Said that, I am having 5.5 acre land, we cultivate this land. I am earning from this land for our livelihood. This is not correct to say that this land is not suitable for cultivation. As per project proponent, forest can be developed by planting trees but we are loosing our land forever though we are cultivating.
- Shri Shivaji Pawar- DGM (Tech)-NHAI- He explained that, all your suggestion/objections will be noted by

MPCB officials. We already have explained that, some sort of damages will be caused by this project but some benefits are also there. After taking into consideration the damages we are proposing mitigation measures to cover up such damages. There is no scope to accommodate additional lanes /facilities in the existing National Highway.

(11.) Hon. Chairman of the Committee, instructed project proponent to give explanation on the bypass, underpass for cattles and over bridges as asked by one of the residents.

- Shri Shivaji Pawar – explained that we are proposing to build, flyover, Vehicular underpass, Pedestrian Underpass, wherever needed. To cross river, we will build bridge over the river. We are also proposing provision of under-pass for cattles.

12) Sh. Mohan Madhav Patil, Resident of Nihe raised query that, when road height is 3.5 m, there would be a

water logging and how truck & cattle can pass out in the rainy season?

- Shri Shivaji Pawar, DGM (T), NHAI explained that the precautions will be taken to avoid water stagnation and traffic congestion during rainy season.

13) Sh. Santosh Pavade resident of Kirat raised that, when no permission is given by Dahanu Taluka Environmental Protection Authority (DTEPA) and if Environmental Clearance is not issued to this project, how Public Hearing is being conducted and how land acquisition is being undertaken.

-Shri Durgule-Convener – explained that, this Public Hearing conducted as per the TOR issued to the project proponent by MoEFCC, Gol.

14) Shri Durgule-Convener- further enquire to the Project Proponent that, what arrangement is proposed for disposal of food wastes, plastic wastes and Sewage

generated due to food mall and other facilities during the operation phase.

- Shri Shivaji Pawar explained that proper arrangements for recycling /reuse of plastic waste will be provided and also proper scientific arrangements for disposal of food waste shall be done, also sewage treatment plan will be provided at such locations as per prevalent rules and regulations.

15) Shri Manohar Patil- resident of Khambholi- He informed that, we have submitted our complaints, our says on this project by Morchas of local residents. Our lives and land is more valuable than this project. Why our lush green area is destroyed for this project. This development has created frustration in the minds of our residents of this area. Actually this area does not have need of such type of development.

- Shri D. B. Patil, Regional Officer, MPCB Thane, Member asked project proponent to explain on the ambient air quality report prepared by them.

- Shri Shivaji Pawar explained that, the value of particulate matter is on higher side as samples were collected during dry season at one location.

16) Shri D. B. Patil – enquired that the PM 2.5 & PM 10 values of particular matter are higher side, what is the reason? What precautionary measures will be taken during the Construction and at the time of operational phase? And what are the predicted values of PM 2.5 & PM 10.

-Shri Shivaji Pawar, DGM (T), NHAI expressed that the air quality is monitored during the summer season and it's a sample survey therefore the values are higher sides.

- The local residents enquired the places where AAQM is monitored?

- Shri Shivaji Pawar read out the names of villages where AAQM is conducted at Village Khardi, Paragon, Kirat, Dabhane & Bramhanwadi. Also hotmix plant, RMC, Stone Crusher installed during the construction phase with necessary permissions from Pollution Control Board and other authorities.

17) Sh. Manohar Patil, residents of Khambloli enquired that, at what speed vehicular traffic will move on this road and what will be noise level increase due to the speed of the vehicle? What impact this noise on the health of local people?. Already 73% local population is depended on farming business, what is the use of this road to the local residents for their livelihood which is more valuable and essential than such type of road development. Project proponent has not given correct information on the noise pollution and water quality of this area. Though under-passes are made available no farmers are interested for giving their land to this road development.

18) Sh. Pramod Kudu, Resident of Khambloli enquired Hon. Chairman to give us information of likely coming project in future in this area, so that we can prepare ourselves mentally to face adverse impact on our life.

Hon. Chairman of the Committee – instructed gathering to give your opinions/objections/suggestions in writing to the MPCB

officials. Accordingly Shri Durgule gave MPCB email ids and website address to the public present at the time of public hearing.

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 Vadodara Mumbai Expressway (Phase-II) by FROM KM.26.320 TO KM. 104.700 (KM 390.864 OF NH-8) OF MAIN EXPRESSWAY 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, Palghar.

Public representatives & social workers 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.

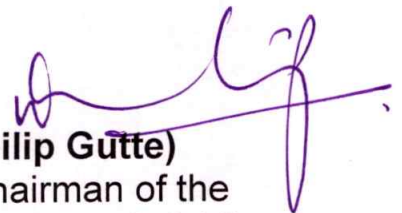
Chairman and Public Hearing Committee members noted the objections and suggestions of public representatives and social workers. Chairman instructed MPCB and NHA officials to prepare minutes and circulate the same to all concerned authorities and informed that the public hearing is completed successfully in cordial manner and ended meeting with vote of thanks to all.



(Amar Durgule)
Convener of
the Committee,
Member and
Sub Regional Officer,
MPCB, Tarapur-II



(D. B. Patil)
Member,
Regional Officer,
MPCB, Thane



(Dilip Gutte)
Chairman of the
Committee and Addl.
District Magistrate
Palghar

