

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING OF THE PROPOSED MULTI MODAL CORRIDOR FROM NAVGHAR TO CHIRNER PROPOSED BY M/S MAHARASHTRA STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD., PHASE-I FROM NAVGHAR TO CHIRNER NEAR JNPT ABOUT 80.0 KM.

The public hearing for proposed Multi Modal Corridor from Navghar to Chirner (Near JNPT) 80 km for Thane District (Phase-I) was conducted on 15th December 2021 at 12.00 hrs. at Shree Varad Siddhivinayak Seva Bhavan, Siddhivinayak Nagar, Bhopar Road, Manpada Road, Dombivali (E) by M/s Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Ltd.

As per Maharashtra Pollution Control Board's Office Order No. E-117/2021 under letter no.BO/JD(WPC)/PH/B-211209-FTS-0019, dated 09/12/2021 following were the panel members appointed for conducting public hearing.

- 1) Shri Abhijit Bhande Patil - **Chairman,**
 - a. Dy. Divisional Magistrate, Kalyan
- 2) Shri Shankar Waghmare - **Member**
 - a. Regional Officer, MPCB, Kalyan
 - b. (Representative of the MPCB, Mumbai)
- 3) Shri Sanjay Bhosale - **Convener**
 - a. Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Kalyan-I
- 4) Smt. Saujanya Patil, - **Convener**
 - a. Sub Divisional Officer- MPCB, Bhiwandi

Smt. Saujanya Patil, Sub-Regional Officer-Bhiwandi, MPCB has welcome Hon'ble Chairman and Members of Public Hearing Panel, MSRDC officials, Local body representatives and general public present for public hearing. Ms. Patil informed that, as per EIA Notification of MoEFCC, GoI, 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 M/s Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Ltd., for conducting public hearing for proposed project from Navghar to Chirner (Near JNPT) length 80 km passing through Thane District.

Ms. Patil further informed that, as per said Notification, the project falls under Category "A" and attracts the conditions of obtaining prior Environmental Clearance from MoEF&CC. In addition to this there is requirement of Forest diversion for this project and hence the Forest Clearance is also required to be obtained. The aim of conducting public hearing is to make local people who had participated in the public hearing aware about the developmental activities and environment management plan of proposed Multi-Modal Corridor passing through Bhiwandi, Kalyan & Ambernath Tehsil area. MoEFF&CC has granted ToR in its 141st meeting. Accordingly, EIA study was carried

out and Public Hearing is being conducted in districts where the project is aligned. A revised ToR was submitted due to change in alignment and it was considered by EAC in its 217th meeting held on 27th June, 2019. On submissions of details by project proponent the ToR was issued by MoEF&CC on 18th July 2019.

The said project is transferred from MMRDA to MSRDC in the MMRDA Board meeting held on 7th July 2020. Subsequently ToR was amended for change in name of project proponent. ToR transferred from MMRDA to MSRDC vide MoEF&CC letter dtd. 18th Feb. 2021.

Accordingly, MSRDC, the Project Proponent prepared draft EIA Report. As per EIA Notification, one month advance public notice was published in the local newspapers on 13th November 2021 in Marathi Daily "Sakal" and in English Daily "Indian Express". The copies of EIA report and Executive summary in English and Marathi were made available at offices of

1. District Magistrate Office, Thane,
2. Additional District Magistrate, Thane,
3. Chief Executive Officer-Zilla Parishad, Thane,
4. MPCB Sub Divisional Office, Tal-Bhiwandi, Kalyan & Ambernath, Dist.-Thane,
5. MPCB Regional office-Kalyan,
6. MPCB Sub Regional Office, Kalyan-I & II, Bhiwandi, Siddhivinayak Sankul, 3rd floor, Opp. Oak Baug, Station Road, Kalyan (West),
7. Head Office of MPCB at Kalpataru Point, 3rd floor, Opp. Cine Planet, Sion, Circle, Sion, Mumbai-400022.
8. District Industries Centre, Thane,
9. Gram panchayat, offices in the vicinity of the project areas at Bhiwandi Tehsil, Kalyan, & Ambernath, Tehsil areas Dist.- Thane,
10. Environment Department, Govt. of Maharashtra, Mumbai.

The public in general were appealed to submit their suggestions/objections regarding the above project in writing. Ms. Patil requested for permission from Chairman of the Committee to begin with the proceedings of public hearing.

Shri Abhijit Bhande Patil, Dy. Divisional Magistrate and Chairman of Committee welcome all and allowed officials of the project proponent to explain the details 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 D.M. Godbole, Engineer, Louis Berger, Environmental Consultants of MSRDC, presented the details of proposed project and Environment Management Plan. Shri Godbole explained the need & importance of proposed project in MMR region in view of thickly populated area and traffic load in present transport facilities. He has highlighted the need of projects like Multimodal Corridor as the solution of the traffic congestion arising due the exponential growth of the area. The project is proposed to be completed in two stages (1) Navghar to Balavali-98.5km. and Balavali to Alibag-29.9km.

MSRDC (the project proponent) has started the process for CRZ & Environmental Clearance for stretch from Navghar to Chirner (80km). Public Works Department has handed over development of Navghar to Balavali stretch to MSRDC vide Government resolution dated 6/9/2021 and authorised MSRDC to acquire land and accordingly funds will be made available for this project. A high-level committee under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary is formed and MMRDA, JNPT, CIDCO will support MSRDC for development of this Multimodal Corridor. Central Govt. has also approved and agreed to finance this project construction.

The project is 80 km long. It is proposed from a total of 106 villages in Vasai, Bhiwandi, Kalyan, Ambarnath, Panvel, Uran, Pen talukas of Palghar, Thane and Raigad districts. He further clarified that the proposed route would connect JNPT, Navi Mumbai Airport, Mumbai Trans Harbor link. Interchange is also proposed at nine places to connect various highways, expressways and national highways. This route will be a high-speed expressway.

He further said that the Virar Alibaug Multimodal Corridor project would help in the overall development of the industrial hubs at Vasai, Bhiwandi, Kalyan, Dombivali, Panvel, Uran and Talaja and would improve the inter-city traffic. Also, job creation, pollution control, fuel saving, traffic congestion will help improve living standards. The Virar Alibaug Multimodal Road Project will provide facilities like on-site telephony, separate vehicle depots for vehicles and trucks, ambulances, fixed distance commuter facilities, petrol, diesel, CNG and electrical charging facilities, roadside tree conservation, solar streetlights, CCTV, hassle free toll booths etc. Facilities are offered.

The project traversing through the area which includes land of forest department, railway department, government lands, farmlands, bird sanctuaries, wildlife sanctuaries, thorny areas etc. Necessary permission will be sought from all the concerned government authorities for this. Also, the conditions of approval will be complied with during the construction period and provision will be made to pay appropriate compensation for land acquisition. About 1347 hectares of land will have to be acquired for this project. Out of this approximately 700 hectares of farmland and approximately 224.24 hectares of forest land will have to be acquired.

The air, Noise, soil and water quality of the area through which the project is passing has been thoroughly studied. The project is planned that during construction, standards of CPCB regarding dust and air pollution caused by construction vehicles and equipment, stone wall for noise control, noise control system etc. will be met. Also ground water and other reservoir water will be inspected regularly and its quality will be maintained. The project proponent has allocated amount of around Rs. 10 crores for environmental monitoring and protection.

Smt. Patil, SRO-Bhiwandi, MPCB requested audience to give their opinion/suggestions/complaints, if any.

S. No.	Name of the participant & views expressed	Response of the Project Proponent
1	<p>Mr. Gajanan Patil Mauje Katai welcomed all the participants and informed that he is the head of all party youth organization and also a project affected farmer. Mr. Patil read out his written statement. He said that as per the notification dated September 14, 2006, issued by the Department of Environment and Forests of the Central Government for the Navghar to Chirner i.e., the proposed Virar Alibag Corridor project, an environmental impact assessment should be carried out on the impact on wildlife, plants and dams in the area. He warned that if the environment is harmed in the name of development, global warming will increase. The village of "Mauje Umbarle" is known as the Oxygen Zone. Apart from crows, 113 species of birds and reptiles are found in large numbers in this area. The area has a large forest reserve on 200 acres of forest land. One of the villages in this project is Kushivali at the foot of Shri Malang fort where Kushivali dam is proposed. After the construction of this dam, the farmers here will be able to cultivate 2 crops as well as vegetables etc. throughout the year. It should be ensured that the means of subsistence of local farmers and citizens will not be affected due to this project. Basically, the opposition to the project should be mentioned in the Environmental Impact Assessment while making changes in the design of the project. Instead of acquiring new land for this highway, elevated roads should be constructed on the existing Mumbai-Goa highway so as not to harm the environment. According to the decision of the state government dated October 6, 2021, if the compensation is reduced by 50%, the farmers will not give the land. He also said that there should be development but there should be no degradation of environment. However, the project promoters and the government should consider these issues.</p>	<p>Ms. Patil, Sub-Regional Officer, Bhiwandi suggested the project proponent to reply to the points raised by Mr. Gajanan Patil.</p> <p>Mr. Deshmukh, Superintending Engineer, MSRDC, replied that we have taken note of the points raised by Mr. Patil. He should submit this in writing to MSRDC, so that we will study through our environmental expert consultant and appropriate action will be taken.</p>

2	<p>Shri Jagannath Patil - Resident of Kole village explained that they have 7 acres of land, and we are in the process of acquiring this land without any notice or prior notice. We are ready to give land for development, but we should be asked why we were not given prior notice. False charges were brought against us, and we were punished. We do not refuse to give land for development work, but when the issue of our accommodation is going to arise after the acquisition of land, it should be clarified how much we will be paid after the acquisition of our land and how to solve our rehabilitation issue.</p>	<p>Shri. Deshmukh, S.E. of MSRDC - Replied that, clarified that today's public hearing is on environment related issues. This issue does not come under the purview of public hearing on environment.</p>
3	<p>Shri Hanuman Chaudhary - Resident of Katai village He explained that while designing the road project in 2012, reservations were made on farmers' land without considering open spaces. If the land of Premier Company had been reserved at that time when the land was vacant, the farmers would not have become landless, and the environment would have been protected. Now, instead of acquiring the lands of the farmers, if they had thought of constructing a road parallel to the old Mumbai-Pune highway, the lands of these farmers would have been saved. If this public hearing is about the environment, then it should be noted that farmlands are also a part of the environment.</p>	<p>Shri Deshmukh, S.E. of MSRDC - clarified that today's public hearing is on environment related issues. This issue does not come under the purview of public hearing on environment.</p>

Smt. Patil, SRO Bhiwandi, MPCB - requested the attendees joined video conferencing to ask environment related question in respect of this project. There was no response on video conference.

Subsequently following questions were raised.

S. No.	Name of the participant & views expressed	Response of the Project Proponent
4	<p>Shri Sagar Madhavi- resident of Usatne-Ambernath- Expressed that, due to this project my land including my house will be acquired and I will not have land under cultivation, and I will be homeless. Hence, it may be cleared that, how I will be rehabilitated, what compensation I will get and how I will be accommodate otherwise I will have to face very grave situation.</p>	<p>Shri Deshmukh, S.E. of MSRDC - Replied that, clarified that today's public hearing is on environment related issues. This issue does not come under the purview of public hearing on environment.</p>

5	<p>Shri Ramdas Choudhari-resident of Katai village – He complaint that, if this is environment related public hearing, how dumping ground is sanctioned near Malang Gudh, which is a religious place. Govt. acquires farmers land for proposed projects, why lands of private builders are not acquired? Builders are discharging their domestic wastewater into the river and polluting rivers. Why actions are taken against these developers. etc. He mentioned his displeasure on loading reservations on farmers land for road development etc. and at the same time private developers land are excluded from the reservations for development plan. Land cost of farmers land shall be fixed first and then take the action for acquisition of our land. He also expresses displeasure on tree cutting in the periphery.</p>	<p>Shri Deshmukh, S.E. of MSRDC - replied that we respect your sentiments, but this public hearing is only about the environmental impact of the Virar Alibag Multimodal Corridor Project. Other topics cannot be commented on. In terms of trees, we have proposed to plant trees in different places We have also outlined the measures we have taken to prevent dust pollution in our presentation. The Pollution Control Board has to be informed about the measures taken for the environmental impact of the project. We will take appropriate measures for pollution control while the project is in construction phase and after completion of the project and it will be brought to the notice of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board from time to time.</p>
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Shri Abhijit Bhande Patil - Dy. Divisional Magistrate-

Shri Abhijeet Bhande Patil (Deputy Divisional Magistrate, Welfare and Chairman, Public Hearing Committee) while concluding the public hearing explained that we have understood your suggestions regarding land acquisition for this project and also this project is not new but old project which is formerly Mumbai metropolitan. It was handed over to the State Development Authority but now it has been handed over to the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation. The main objective of this project is to facilitate the commuters on the existing Mumbai-Pune highway and to ease the traffic congestion. If you have any problem regarding land acquisition, you should meet me in my office and submit your problem, I will help you in any way you can regarding your problem. He gave an example of how Mr. Gajanan Patil had to change the land acquisition due to his follow-up on Kalyan-Shil Road. He pointed out that the problem can be solved if you present your case properly and follow it properly. He further asked if there were any other issues related to the environmental project, but no suggestions were received.

Conclusion: -

The public hearing was attended by people's, villagers, project affected farmers, businessmen and they expressed their objections regarding the project. The chairman and members of the public hearing committee and the project promoter mentioned that they were taking note of the objections, suggestions of the people's and the villagers regarding the environmental issues. Concluding the public hearing, The Chairman of the committee suggested that the Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board should record the suggestions made during today's public hearing. The Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee directed the officials of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to prepare the minutes of the public hearing and asked all the concerned officials to provide it. The Chairman of the Public Hearing Committee thanked all those present and announced that the process of public hearing has been completed.

(Smt. Saujanya Patil)
Convener of the
Committee &
Sub Regional Officer
MPCB, Bhiwandi

(Shri. Sanjay Bhosale)
Convener of the
Committee &
Sub Regional Officer
MPCB, Kalyan-1

(Shri S.L. Waghmare)
Member of the
Committee &
Regional Officer,
MPCB, Kalyan

(Shri Abhijit Bhande Patil)
Chairman of the
Committee and
Dy. Divisional Magistrate-
Kalyan