

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT OF DEVELOPMENT OF MULTI MODAL CORRIDOR FROM BAPANE VILAGE TO NAGLE VILLAGE (6.9 K.M. long), TAL – VASAI, DIST – PALGHAR, MAHARASHTRA OF THE TOTAL PROJECT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF MULTI MODAL CORRIDOR FROM NAVGHAR, TAL-VASAI, DIST - PALGHAR TO CHIRNER, TAL – URAN, DIST – RAIGAD,MAHARASHTRA (80 k.m.long) TO BE DEVELOPED BY PROJECT PROPONENT M/S MAHARASHTRA STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (MSRDC),MUMBAI.

The Environment Public Hearing for the proposed project of Development of Multi Modal Corridor from Bapane Village to Nagle Village (6.9 k.m. long), Tal – Vasai, Dist-Palghar, Maharashtra of the total project of Proposed Development of Multi Modal Corridor from Navghar, Tal – Vasai, Dist – Palghar to Chirner, Tal – Uran, Dist – Raigad, Maharashtra (80 k.m. long) to be developed by Project Proponent M/s Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), Mumbai was conducted on Monday, the 27th December, 2021 at 11.00 a.m. at Royal Garden Resort (Center Hall), Mumbai – Ahmedabad Highway, NH-8, Sasunavghar, Naigaon (East), Tal – Vasai, Dist – Palghar – 401 208, Maharashtra.

After getting approval from Hon'ble District Collector-Palghar for conducting the Environment Public Hearing on Monday, the 27th December, 2021 at 11.00 a.m. and as per the Notification dated 14-09-2006 issued by Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (MoEF & CC, GoI), New Delhi and subsequent amendment on 01-12-2019, Member Secretary, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Mumbai has constituted Public Hearing Panel vide Office Order No.E-119, under letter no.BO/JD/WPC/PH/B-211214-FTS-0164, dated 14-12-2021 as under :-

- 1) District Magistrate, Palghar **-Chairman**
or his representative not below
the rank of an Additional District Magistrate
- 2) Representative of Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, **-Member**
Mumbai -
Regional Officer,
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Thane,
- 3) Sub Regional Officer, Thane-2. **-Convener**
Maharashtra Pollution Control Board,
Thane

Shri Prashant Gaikwad, Sub Regional Officer, MPCB, Tarapur I & II and Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed Shri Dilip Gutte, Additional District Magistrate, Palghar and Chairman of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Dr. Rajendra Rajput, I/c Regional Officer, MPCB, Thane and Member of the Environment Public Hearing Committee; Environmentalists, NGOs, Journalists and Project Officials and local people/participants who were present and

informed that as per the Environment Impact Assessment Notification of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India, (i.e. MoEF & CC, GoI) dated 14th September, 2006 as amended on 1st December, 2009, it is mandatory to conduct prior public consultation to certain projects which are covered in the schedule of the said Notification.

Convener of the Environment Public Hearing Committee welcomed all and informed that the meeting is called in the prevailing situation of Covid-19 and Omicron pandemic. Hence, it is requested all the participants to follow strict guidelines as issued by Govt. of India and Govt. of Maharashtra from time to time. As per the guidelines, only 100 persons/participants are allowed in a session. If the participants are more, then remaining will be allowed in next session. The sessions will continue till all the participants are given opportunity to attend the meeting. The thermal checking and use of sanitizer is kept at the entrance of the pandol and now it is compulsory to wear a mask and follow the social distancing amongst the persons in the meeting hall.

He informed that Maharashtra Pollution Control Board was in receipt of application from Project Proponent M/s Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC), Mumbai for their proposed project of Development of Multi Modal Corridor from Bapane Village to Nagle Village (6.9 k.m. long), Tal – Vasai, Dist- Palghar, Maharashtra of the total project of Proposed Development of Multi Modal Corridor from Navghar, Tal – Vasai, Dist – Palghar to Chirner, Tal – Uran, Dist – Raigad, Maharashtra (80 k.m. long).

The Convener further informed that this existing project and as per EIA Notification, 2006 the category of project falls under Category A 7 (f), which requires to obtain prior Environmental Clearance from the Environment, Forest and Climate Change Department, Govt of India, New Delhi for which prior environmental consultation is mandatory.

Convener informed that the aim of conducting prior public consultation 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 the proposed project. The suggestions, objections raised during the meeting can be considered while preparing Final EIA report.

Project Proponent had submitted online prescribed application alongwith pre-feasibility report to the Environment Appraisal Committee (EAC), MoEF & CC, GoI for Terms of Reference (ToR) for conduct of EIA studies on 3rd June, 2019 and EAC, MoEF & CC considered and given online approval for ToR in its 217 meeting held on 27th June, 2019 and granted it on 18-07-2019.

After the transfer of the project from MMRDA to MSRDC by the Government of Maharashtra, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, New Delhi approved the change of Project Proponent on February 18, 2021,

As per said Notification, 30 days' advance public notice was published by Sub Regional Office, Thane-2, MPCB, Thane in the Local Newspaper in Daily Sakal for Marathi and in National Newspaper daily The Indian Express for English on 25th November, 2021. The public were appealed to send their suggestions, views, doubts or objections regarding the proposed project.

Also copy of EIA report and executive summary were made available at various notified offices of Government i.e. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Zonal Office, West Central Zone, New Secretariat Building, Ground Floor, East Wing, Civil Line, Nagpur-440 001; District Collector Office, Palghar; Additional District Collector Office, Palghar; Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad Office, Palghar; General Manager, District Industries Centre Office, Palghar; Tahsildar, Tahsil Office – Vasai, Dist - Palghar; Gram Vikas Adhikari, Grampanchayat Office-Kaman; Sarjamori; Mori; Poman; Shilottar and Nagle; Environment & Climate Change Department, Maharashtra Government, New Administrative Building, Mantralaya, Mumbai; Head Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board; Regional Office, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Thane; Sub Regional Office, Thane-II, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board, Thane; and on the website of MPCB. The public in general were appealed to send any suggestion or objection regarding the proposed project. He informed that not a single objection is received by the MPCB office.

The Convenors, the Public Hearing Committee on Environment, told all present that if they have any objections/ suggestions, they can give them in writing or orally. All such suggestions / objections will be recorded in the minutes. Similarly, video recording of the meeting will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate, New Delhi.

With the permission of the Chairperson of the Committee, Shri. D.M. Godbole, Engineer, Louis Berger, Environmental Consultant, MSRDC, Mumbai made a presentation on the project. Explaining the need for the proposed project, Godbole said that the Mumbai metropolitan area is a fast-growing urban area and due to the stress on the existing public transport system and rapid urbanization, facilities like the Virar-Alibag Multipurpose Corridor project are much needed. The work of this proposal is proposed in two phases. Phase-1 Navghar to Balawali approximately 98.500 km, Phase-2 Balawali to Alibag approximately 29.900 km.

The MSRDC has started the process for obtaining environmental clearance and CRZ clearance for Navghar to Chirner in Phase-I. The Government of Maharashtra Public Works Department issued a government decision on 06/09/2021, the project from Navghar to Balawali has been transferred to MSRDC, for which the Corporation has been recognized as a project implementing agency. Also, to provide funds for land acquisition to MSRDC, to provide participation of Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority, JNPT, CIDCO, MIDC, NHAI a high-powered committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra.

The project is 80 km long. It is proposed from a total of 106 villages in Vasai, Bhiwandi, Kalyan, Ambernath, Panvel, Uran, Pen talukas of Paighar, 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 explained that the Virar Alibag Multipurpose Corridor project would help in the overall development of the industrial hubs at Vasai, Bhiwandi, Kalyan, Dombivali, Panvel, Uran and Taloja and improve the inter-city traffic. Also, the project will add benefits like job creation, pollution control, fuel saving, reduced traffic congestion, improved living standards. Facilities offered on the Virar Alibag Multimodal Corridor Project, are on-site telephony, separate vehicle depots for vehicles and trucks, ambulances, passenger convenience centers at regular distances, petrol, diesel, CNG and electrical charging facilities. Toll Collection etc.

The project passes through the lands of forest department, land of railway department, government lands, agricultural lands, bird sanctuaries, wildlife sanctuaries, mangrove areas etc. Necessary permissions are being sought from all concerned government authorities. Also, the conditions of approval will be complied with during the construction period and provision is being made to pay appropriate compensation for land acquisition. A total of 1347 hectares of land will have to be acquired for this project, out of which approximately 700 hectares is agricultural land and out of total 224.24 hectares of forest land, 09.03 hectare of forest land will have to be acquired in Vasai taluka.

The soil, soil, and water quality of the area through which the project is passing has been thoroughly studied. 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. Similar protective measures will be planned. Also ground water and other reservoir water will be inspected regularly and its quality will be maintained. The project proposer has allocated around Rs. 10 crores for environmental monitoring and protection.

After the presentation, the audience was invited by the Environmental Public Hearing Committee to present their suggestions, objections, and comments. Instructed to state individual name and the name of the village while registering the notice or objection.

The following persons participated in the discussion and were given feedback by the Project Consultant / Project Promoter / Environmental Public Hearing Committee / Land Acquisition Officer authorized by the Government: -

Sr. No	Name, Address, and suggestion / comments	Response
1.	<p>Atmaram Yashwant Thackeray - Rahanar - Poman, Taluka - Vasai, District: - Palghar: -(A) Many villages, padas and settlements will be affected due to this project. There are forest lands here. That forest land has been encroached by the people here for many years. The government has made that land in their name. If the land is acquired for the project, they will face starvation. However, it should also be considered. Similarly, the land has been registered. The project does not consider these forest lands in any way. The government has given them lands. On this he supports his family. This should be considered by the government.</p>	<p>Mr. Swapnil Tangde, Sub Divisional Officer, Vasai, and Land Acquisition Officer (A) said that a public hearing is being held on the project. Prior to this, for other projects, suggestions and queries were given in the office. In many places, even after working in the field from their forefathers, their names do not come up at 7/12. Every village has been surveyed. Punchnama has been done. Care has been taken to ensure that no one is losing. He further said that the status of the land is always with the Central Government, if anyone does not have a name on 7/12, then necessary action will be taken following the government rules, He also elaborated on the details of land ownership.</p>
	<p>(B) Fifteen houses are affected from one pada in Poman village. Fruit trees planted on that land and houses are affected, these are not mentioned in the presentation. Similarly, your office has not sent any notice to them. This project has not been surveyed. The people of the area have not been considered in any way while planning the project. However, the land should be acquired only after implementing a plan that will satisfy the residents.</p>	<p>(B) The present status of the land in the Pada of Poman village where the objection was lodged is not available with me, however it is assured that care would be taken not to cause any loss to anyone in this regard. He was informed that after scrutinizing the land of one and the construction of the other, compensation of Rs. 14 lakh (fourteen lakh) has already been paid to such cases.</p>
2.	<p>Mr. Ramchandra Krishna Mhatre, Bapane village, Taluka - Vasai, District - Palghar: -(A) He said that in my opinion is that land should be given to social projects for development. However, he did not get his due compensation immediately, he demanded. In return, one should be able to buy land in another location. He asked about the current land price of the Bapane village.</p>	<p>Mr. Swapnil Tangde, Sub Divisional Officer, Vasai, and Land Acquisition Officer (A) replied that this is an environmental meeting. According to the Land Acquisition Act, 2013, the land price of each village is fixed. For this, the initial rate of the village is decided by considering the ready reckoner and the purchase / sale of last three years. In rural areas the rate is four times the market price. Similarly, regarding construction,</p>

		borewells, pades, orchards, various trees, constructed wells, the relevant competent authority of the government decides its valuation according to its rules.
	(B) My 63 Guntha land is blocked for this NH8 Road (Mumbai-Ahmedabad Highway). So, can we develop our land from the project boundaries? Can it be sold?	(B) Shri. Sunil Deshmukh, Superintending Engineer, Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation explained that the government has different development authorities / agencies, and they are allowed to do so according to their rules.
	(C) Despite the instructions of all the departments, the farmer is not getting proper compensation. "If we get good compensation, we will buy land and build houses at another location," he said. Mr Mhatre sought a 45-day deadline to register his objections.	(C) Shri. Swapnil Tangde, Sub Divisional Officer, Vasai, and Land Acquisition Officer. The Land Acquisition Act 2013 is transparent, and he informed the audience about how to fix the rates once again.

The Convenors reiterated that the meeting is about environmental concerns of the project. Please register and more environmental suggestions and objections to the proposed project. As there was no response from the audience, he requested the Chairman, Public Environment Hearing Committee to speak a few words.

Concluding the meeting, the chairman of the public hearing committee on environment said that as per the rules, 30 days prior notice was given in the newspaper to register objections and objections. Similarly, the objections and suggestions presented here have been noted. However, anyone who wants to register a written notice or objection should do so at the Thane office of the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board. He also thanked the locals for attending the meeting and announced a public hearing.

The public hearing was adjourned with thanks to the Hon'ble Chairperson.



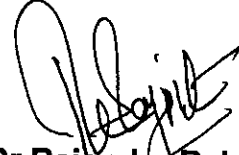
(Prashant Gaikwad)

Convener,

Environment Public Hearing Committee

And

Sub Regional Officer-Tarapur I & II
MPCB, Tarapur



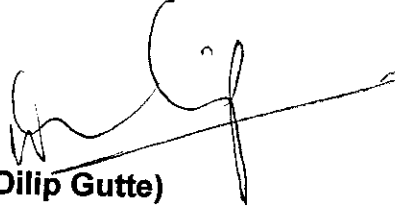
(Dr. Rajendra Rajput)

Member,

Environment Public Hearing Committee

And

I/c Regional Officer,
MPCB, Thane



(Dilip Gutte)

Chairman,

Environment Public Hearing Committee

And

Additional District Magistrate, Palghar
Dist - Palghar