

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 23/05/2025. TIME 12.00 noon, At. District Planning Hall, Collector Office, Bhandara.

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 Hon'ble Dr. Sanjay Kolte IAS, District Magistrate & Collector, Bhandara. 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. Janardan Londhe, Additional District Collector, and Mrs. Smita Belpatre, Resident Deputy Collector, Bhandara were 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, Bhandara approved office note vide dated 02/04/2025 to conduct Environmental Public Hearing on 23.05.2025 at 12.00 noon at District Planning Hall, Collector Office Bhandara.

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-30/2025 vide letter No. BO/JD/(WPC)/PH/B-250421-FTS-0100 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, Bhandara.
- 2) Zilla Parishad Office, Bhandara.
- 3) District Industries Centre, Bhandara.
- 4) Sub-Divisional Officer, Tumsar, Bhandara, Sakoli, Dist. Bhandara.
- 5) Tehsil Office , Bhandara, Mohadi, Pauni, Lakhandur, Dist. Bhandara.
- 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, Kondhi, Rajedhegaon, Parsodi, Nandora, Thana, Shahapur, Gopiwada, Nawegaon, Jakh, Gunjepar, Khurshipar, Tawepar, Raini, Pandrabodi, Shirsi, Dabha, Sawargaon, Laweshwar, Kothurna, Khairi, Rohana Khurd, Tq Bhandara, Dist. Bhandara, Panjara (Bothali), Betala, Roha, Ghatkuroda, Mundhari (BK), Mundhari (Kh), Kardi, Usaripar, Jambhalapani, Navegaon (Bk), Tal. Mohadi, Dist. Bhandara.

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. Narendra Pawankar, Korthuna, District Bhandara

Sr.No	Objection / Suggestion / Question	Response from Project Proponent
1	The village Korthuna is already affected due to the Gosekhurd Project. Even a small flood blocks the road for 2–3 km, this is known to the administration. The village is only 500–600 meters from the expressway, and floodwater will reach the village. Priority should be given to rehabilitating the village. Though the revenue department has allotted land for the new village site, people are unable to build homes due to flooding. Compensation should be given to those who have paid for land. Also, the expressway will restrict farmers' access to their fields — an alternate route must be provided	Mr. Bhushan Malkhandale (Executive Engineer) 1. The expressway will be constructed elevated and straight. All existing roads, streams, and minor watercourses will be rebuilt at the required height with approval from the relevant departments. Irrigation canals will not be affected. 2. The Gosekhurd-affected village is not part of this project section. 3. Issues related to land acquisition can be submitted to the relevant dedicated authority. 4. Compensation will be given as per the prevailing rates set by the Government of Maharashtra.

2) Mr. Purushottam Kamble, Sarpanch, Grampanchayat Thana, District Bhandara

Sr.No	Objection / Suggestion / Question	Response from Project Proponent
1	A municipal solid waste processing center is operational in the village. Since it will be affected by the expressway, the land should be acquired, and the project should be relocated and made functional again.	Compensation for acquired land, structures, and related assets will be provided as per government rates.

3) Mr. Vinayak Tangle, Sarpanch, Grampanchayat Gopiwada, District Bhandara

Sr.No	Objection / Suggestion / Question	Response from Project Proponent
1	Since farmers' lands are being acquired for the expressway, they should be informed about the compensation they will receive.	Relevant information has already been provided.

4) Mr. Naresh Ishwarkar, Khairi (Member, Grampanchayat Betala), District Bhandara

Sr.No	Objection / Suggestion / Question	Response from Project Proponent
1	Since the road cuts through the middle of some farms, it will be difficult to cultivate both sides. The remaining part of the farm should also be included in the project and compensated. For farms with wells, pumps, or cattle sheds, what compensation will be given? What measures will be taken for farmers who become completely landless? A memorandum has been submitted to the Sub-Divisional Officer, Bhandara.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compensation will be given proportional to the area of land acquired. - Only the land falling within the project boundary will be compensated. - Service roads and underpasses are planned on both sides of the expressway, ensuring access to the remaining farmland.

5) Mr. Padmakar Chakole, Pandhrabodi, District Bhandara.

Sr.No	Objection / Suggestion / Question	Response from Project Proponent
1	The village Pandhrabodi falls under the irrigation zone of the Pench Project. How will irrigation be maintained with the new expressway? A connecting road for farmers to	Irrigation canals will not be affected and will remain as they are.

	<p>access their fields should be constructed. Since the village is adjacent to the municipal area, the valuation for compensation should be clarified.</p> <p>A memorandum has been submitted to the Sub-Divisional Officer, Bhandara.</p>	
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Closing Remarks by the Chairperson of the Public Hearing Committee:

Today, the environmental public hearing for Package-I of the expressway was conducted. Appreciation was expressed for everyone's participation. It was emphasized that land acquisition is essential for such infrastructure and that dialogue with all stakeholders is important. The concerns expressed are noted and will be forwarded to the appropriate committee. These issues will be reviewed during the process to ensure proper consideration. The Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) has already provided detailed information about the land acquisition process. Landowners will be involved at every stage of the acquisition process. MSRDC is positive and proactive in addressing acquisition concerns. This expressway will benefit future generations, improve connectivity in East Vidarbha, and support industrial development. All suggestions have been recorded and will be included in the final report 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



Dr. Sanjay Kolte, IAS
District Collector,
& Chairperson, Public Hearing Committee

