

SITE INSPECTION REPORT

The NABARD and Rural Roads Department, Theni (hereinafter "User Agency") has submitted a proposal for "Upgradation of Varusanadu to Vaaliparai via Thummakundu (0/0 to 09/720 Km) section in Kadamalaikundu-Myladumparai Panchayat Union, Aundipatti Taluk in Theni district. The user agency has proposed for the upgradation of road in Megamalai RF for a width of 8metres and a length of 2352.2metres.

The undersigned inspected the road on 06.01.2023, 20.02.2023, 24.02.2023, 16.10.2023 and 07.12.2023. A survey was conducted with the help of Forest Settlement Officer, Bodi on 20.02.2023, 24.02.2023 in the presence of Forest Range Officers, Gandamanur and Varusanadu Ranges. The survey revealed the following details on the existing alignment of the road;

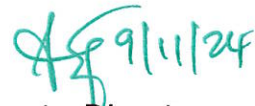
1. The road is an existing bitumen road in the forest and non forest land.
2. The road is located in Thummakundu Village Panchayat of Kadamalai-Myladumparai Panchayat Union and falls partly in Megamalai Revenue village and partly in Myladumparai Revenue Village of Aundipatti Taluk in Theni district, TamilNadu.
3. The said passes first through Myladumparai Bit 39 Reserved land (RL) for a length of 487.6metres; then through some non forest land; further, through Myladumparai Bit 47 Reserved Land (RL) for a length of 491metres; continued in Megamalai Reserved Forests (RF) for 2781metres; thus, totaling 3759.6metres in length in the forest land.
4. Thus, the road is in three patches viz., Patch 1 (Myladumparai Bit 39 RL), Patch 2 (Myladumparai Bit 47 RL) and Patch 3 (Megamalai RF).
5. The Patch 1 road starts at S.F.No.1432 of Myladumparai Bit 39 RL when it leaves S.F.No.552 of Myladumparai village and exits at S.F.No.556 of Myladumparai village; Patch 2 starts at the junction of

S.F.No.926 of Myladumparai Bit 47 RL (Myladumparai village) with S.F.No.558 of Myladumparai village and exits at S.F.No.280 of Megamalai RF (Megamalai village); Patch 3 starts at S.F.No.280 of Megamalai RF (Megamalai village) when it leaves S.F.No.926 of Myladumparai village and traverses through the survey field to meet S.F.No.978 of Megamalai village.

6. The road connects Varusanadu to Valiparai via Thummakundu and is a termination at Valiparai.
7. As per the Megamalai RF notification, in **Right No.16**—*Pathway leading to Varushanadu – Valiparai road width 8.00 metres. This pathway starting from Survey Field Number 978 of 'F' line measuring 10.00 metres at the cutting point of 2.00 runs through the proposed Reserved Forest and end in Survey Field Number 1412 of No.22 Mayiladumparai village boundary and its 'F' line measuring 99.6 metres at the cutting point of 6 metres. Length 2352.2 metres.*
8. Myladumparai Bit 39 RL and Myladumparai Nit 47 RL are declared as Buffer Zone of the Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve.
9. The other part of the road falls in Megamalai RF which is declared as Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve. Though Megamalai RF is spread over the core and buffer zone of the tiger reserve, this part of the RF where the road falls is in core zone of the tiger reserve.
10. This road falls in Varusanadu beat of Gandamanur Range and Thummakundu North beat of Varusanadu Range which is part of the buffer and core zones of Tiger Reserve respectively.
11. The road is an access to people of Manalathukudisai, Komalikudisai, Thummakundu, Valiparai and Thandiankulam hamlets.
12. This road is the means of communication and transport to the Thummakundu Village Panchayat.

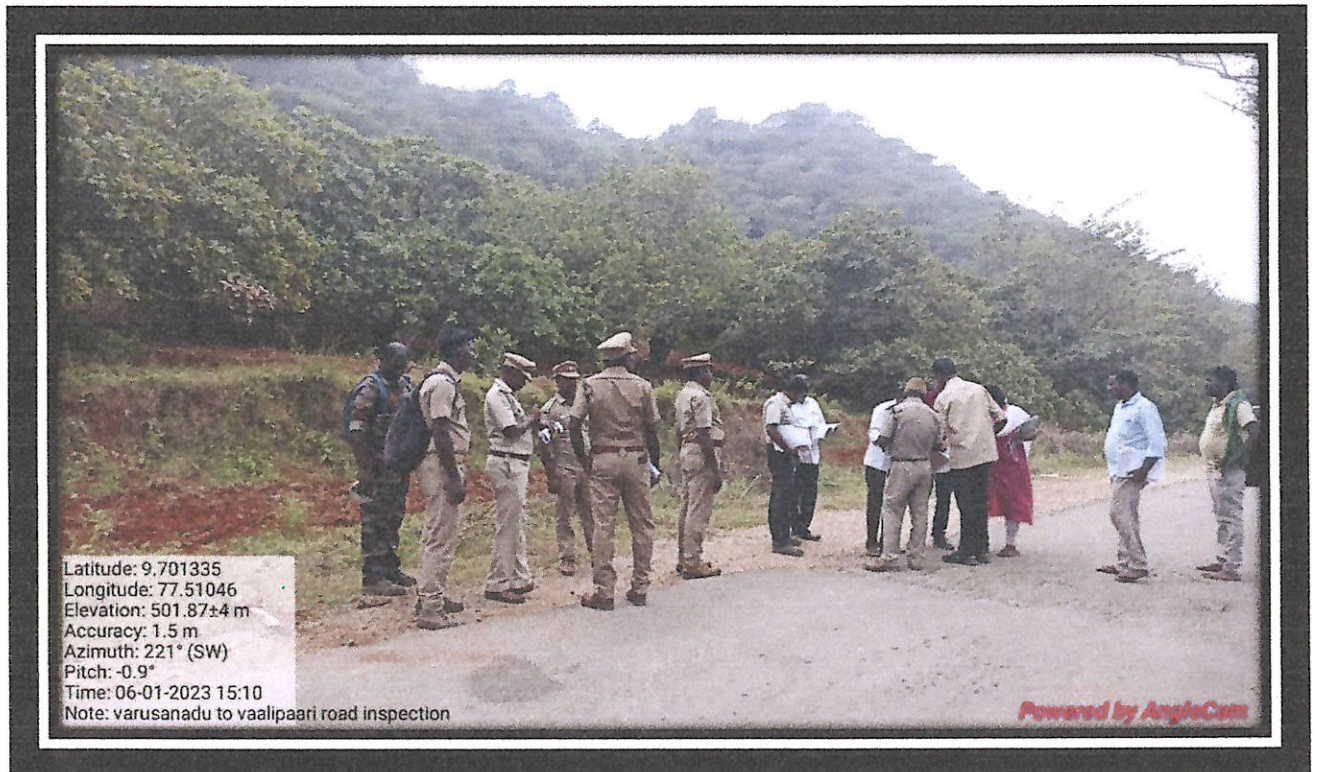
13. As it is an existing road, no tree falls in the existing alignment. Thus, there are no trees of natural or spontaneous origin in the proposed area.
14. Though the user agency had proposed for widening the road upto 8 metres, the existing formation in the non-forest land is only 4 m and hence, it is agreed upto this limit only.
15. The user agency had applied for the upgradation of the road as per the right of way in Megamalai RF Notification for a length of 2352.2 metres and width of 8 metres; thus, totaling to 1.88 hectares *i.e.*, $2352.2 \times 8 = 18817.6$ Sqmetres or 1.8818 hectares. But, the road falls in Myladumparai Bit 39 and Bit 47 RLs as mentioned in Sl.No.3 to 5 which was confirmed in the survey conducted by Forest Settlement Officer, Bodi. Hence, the proposal is dealt by including all the three forest blocks.
16. The forest type in these three forest blocks is Southern Tropical Dry Deciduous Forests (Eco Class III).
17. The user agency has not proposed any culverts or bridges or retaining walls or any other work in the proposed diversion except the road upgradation.
18. The proposed upgradation is a bitumen road and no other work is proposed by the user agency. The existing ghat cutting on the road side in Myladumparai Bit 39 RL and the first 428 m of the road in Megamalai RF is minimally susceptible to erosion.
19. There are valuable teak plantation raised in Myladumparai Bit 39 RL along the proposed roadside and this need to be protected from being illegally felled and smuggled.
20. The road is to be considered for the welfare of the bona-fide inhabitants only.

Hence, the proposal for upgradation of the Varusanadu – Valiparai Road via Thummakundu in Myladumparai Bit 39 RL, Myladumparai Bit 47 RL and Megamalai RF of Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve was inspected and the total length and width is identified as 3759.6metres and 5 metres respectively including 50 cm berm on both sides (*i.e.*, bitumen width of 4 metres only thus, totally 1.8798 hectares or 18,798 Sqm. The above identified length and width may be considered in this proposal based on the facts which already discussed above.

 9/11/24

Deputy Director
Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve
Megamalai Division, Theni district
TamilNadu

SITE INSPECTION PHOTOS



GPS Readings: N 9.701335 E 77.51046



GPS Readings: N 9.677463 E 77.473589



GPS Readings: N 9.676125 E 77.487365

4/5/24

Deputy Director
Srivilliputhur Megamalai Tiger Reserve
Megamalai Division, Theni district
TamilNadu.