

PROJECT NOTE

Name of Project: Diversion of 18.1824 ha. Forest land for Construction of link road between Thane Belapur Road to National Highway No. 4 Pune Road including Tunnel through Parsik Hill in Taluka Thane Dist. Thane .

Project Authority: Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA)

The proposal envisages construction of link road between Thane Belapur Road to National Highway No .4 (Mumbra Pune Road). The project consists of tunnel across Parsik Hill and interchanges at important cross roads on main land side.

India is a developing country with vast resources. The country is witnessing rapid economic growth due to liberalization of its market and rise in socio economic parameters. This has led to rapid urbanization. Mumbai Metropolitan region (MMR) , the commercial capital of India has seen similar growth in its urban area and population. MMRDA came out to identify road transport network required for the planned development.

This corridor would provide direct transport connectivity to the existing built up areas of the Thane Belapur Road to NH-4 (Mumbra Pune Road) at present and can be developed in future for multi Model Corridor. This project holds an important strategy for the future development of Mumbai Metropolis.

The alignment will cross Parsik Hill with a tunnel and reach the National Highway No. 4 with an interchange of Mumbra Bypass.

Details of Forest and Non Forest land required for link road between Thane Belapur Road to National Highway No. 4 Pune Road including Tunnel through Parsik Hill are as under

Taluka and District- THANE

Sr. No .	Village	Reserved Forest (ha.)	Protected Forest (ha.)	Acquired Private Forest (ha.)	Total required Forest (ha.)	Non Forest Area ha.	Total Area (ha.)
1	Chinchavali	-	1.6055	1.5684	3.1739	2.6126	5.7865
2	Rabale	3.588	1.2980	-	4.8860	-	4.8860
3	Kausa	9.3340	-	0.7885	10.1225	1.9582	12.0807
		12.922	2.9035	2.3569	18.1824	4.5708	22.7532

Component wise break up of total land required for the project is as under.

Sr.No.	Component	Forest Area (ha.)	Non Forest Area	Total
1	Tunnel	11.3685	-	11.3685
2	Flyover	2.1708	4.2480	6.4188
3	At grade	4.4631	0.3228	4.9659
Total		18.1824	4.5708	22.7532

It will be seen from the details of area required that portion of Tunnel is under ground and no surface of forest will be disturbed.

At present there is heavy traffic load on Thane Belapur Road. The vehicles being routed through Mumbai Washi road from Belapur and they have to take about 18 K.m round to reach Pune road i.e. National High way No.4 . The proposed link road will save time energy and fuel.

The alignment of proposed link road crosses the Thane Belapur Railway Line and Thane Belapur Road. The interchange is proposed at the junction of Thane Belapur Road. The alignment will then pass through land owned by M/s Bharat Bijalee in MIDC area at the elevated corridor. It is anticipated that the alignment will not require rehabilitation of any existing major facility of the company. After crossing MIDC central road alignment passes through Hilly terrain of Parsik Hill. The Parsik Hill section is a protected Forest and Reserved Forest. In order to reduce the length of alignment and also to improve geometric standard of the alignment, 1.75 k.m. flat tunnel is proposed to cross the Parsik Hill area. The tunnel is planned considering twin tubes each with 3 lane carriageway.

At the end of Parsik Hill alignment takes a left turn on Mumbra side and crosses the built up area till it reaches the existing Mumbra bypass on N.H.4. An interchange is proposed at this junction to exchange traffic with National Highway No. 4.

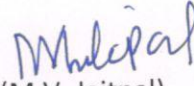
Estimated construction cost of this link road is approx. Rs.462 Crores.

Project authority is ready to pay the Net Present Value as well bear the cost of Compensatory Afforestation as directed by Forest Department.

There is negligible felling of trees as the link road is passing through private forest and protected forest as FLYOVER which is under use for industry purpose. Major portion is for tunnel which is passing without disturbing surface and there will be no cutting of trees in this tunnel portion. The project authority is also ready to pay the cost of exploitation if directed by the Forest Department.

The excavated material from tunnel will be partly used for construction of link road by MMRDA. The cost of material will be paid by MMRDA if applicable for Govt. Department.

Considering the necessity of Mumbai Metropolitan Region to provide direct connectivity to the existing built up areas of the Thane Belapur Road to N.H. 4 (Mumbra Pune Road) which will save time, fuel and energy. It is earnestly requested to accord approval under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 for the diversion of required Forest area for proposed construction of link road between Thane Belapur Road to N.H. No. 4 Pune Road.



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