

**Justification for Locating the Project in the forest land**

The project of widening of National Highway – 47 from Vadakkenchery to Mannuthy including 0.9984 Hectares of forest land of Peechi Wild Life Division, comprised in Survey No.1534/5 (0.1127 Ha), No.1534/6 (0.6214Ha), No.1534/7 (0.0895 Ha), No.3346/3 (0.0896 Ha), Survey No.3323/p (0.0436 Ha), Survey No.1623/4 – (0.0360 Ha) Peechi Village and Survey No.1/2p (0.0056Ha) in Pananchery Village and 0.3826Ha of forest land in Thrissur Forest Division comprised in Survey No.3385/1 (0.2418Ha) and Survey No.1077/2 (0.1408Ha) of Peechi Village of Thrissur Taluk in Thrissur District is compulsorily required for fulfilling the widening project. There is no other alternate land for executing and completing the widening work of the existing National Highway at present.

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Widening of National Highway-47(New NH-544) from Vadakkanchery to Mannuthy

Justification for Locating the project in the Forest Land

- a) Ministry of Road Transport & Highways(MoRTH), Government of India has decided to take up various National Highway Corridors for augmentation capacity for safe and efficient movement of traffic by strengthening and upgrading to required width. National Highways Authority of India has been entrusted to implement the development of stretch from Vadakkancherry to Mannuthy Section of NH-47(New NH-544) in the State of Kerala as part of NHDP Phase-III programme.
- b) The proposed project activities include up-gradation of existing 2-lane road to 6-lane divided carriageway configuration based on relevant IRC norms/guidelines.
- c) The project stretch is one of the most important National Corridor connecting Salem and Cochin and the number of heavy vehicle such as trucks, buses etc., is very high thereby leading to traffic congestion at many locations. Further, the stretch eases the connectivity to various important ports such as Cochin Port, Vizhinham Port etc. Hence, the project stretch is required to be developed to 6-lane configuration considering both current traffic and future traffic.
- d) Currently, the project road is bi-furcating the reserved forest area at Kuthiran Hill and Peechi-Vazhani Wildlife Sanctuary area. A tunnel (6-lane) is proposed at this location so that the reserved forest and sanctuary will get continuity and highway will meet the required geometric standards.
- e) Six-lane Highway through forest area is proposed due to poor geometry of existing hill road in terms of steep gradient and restricted lane (2 lane road) thereby increasing the travel time and at times creating a traffic block which causes inconvenience to the road users.
- f) The project requires 0.9984 Hectares of forest land of Peechi Wild Life Division, comprised in Survey No.1534/5 (0.1127 Ha), No.1534/6 (0.6214Ha), No.1534/7(0.0895 Ha), No.3346/3 (0.0896 Ha), Survey No.3323/p (0.0436 Ha), Survey No.1623/4 (0.0360 Ha) Peechi Village and Survey No.1/2p (0.0056Ha) in Pananchery Village and 0.4334 Ha of forest land in Thrissur Forest Division comprised in Survey No.3385/1 (0.2926 Ha) and Survey No.1077/2 (0.1408Ha) of Peechi Village of Thrissur Taluk in Thrissur District.



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- g) Widening of Existing Highway (RoW-10m) of about 3 Km requires more forest land compared to that of the proposed tunnel construction.
- h) Introduction of Tunnel for 1 Km length in forest area has reduced the length of existing road by 2 Km and thus saving the travel time.
- i) Safer vehicular traffic movement is ensured due to enhancement in safety features.
- j) Further, there is no other alternate land for completing the widening work of the existing highway.
- k) Also, after the construction of the proposed tunnel, the existing highway stretch of about 3 Km(10 m wide) will be handed over to Forest Department.
- l) Hence, the said forest land is required for the construction of tunnel as part of Widening of National Highway-47 from Vadakkanchery to Mannuthy

  
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