

Justification for locating the project in forest area

The project road, namely Harangajo- Balacherra section of extension NH-54 is one of the stretches of the East West Corridor. The project road covers Harangajo- Balachera section of NH-54 in Cachar and North Cachar Districts of Assam State and is a part of road section from Silchar to Daboka, which has been declared as extension of NH-54 by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways , Govt. of India. The project road passes entirely through hilly terrain. Hills are on left hand side (eastern side) whereas river Jatinga flows in the valley on the other side (western side). The existing alignment at many places, there are number of sharp horizontal cuves and steep gradients and these are required to be improved as per IRC SP:48-1998 Hill raod Manual” to the NH standards. The formation width from Harangajo to Balachera is varying from 5.0m to 7.5m with carriageway width varying from 3.0m to 4.5m.

The sharp horizontal curves and steep gradients exist in the project stretch and these are required to be improved as per NH standards. The existing lane configuration of the project road is single to intermediate lane. The project road is the missing link between two construction packages of the East West Corridor and there are no other alternative other than passing through forest area. The area required for the project is the barest minimum.

JUSTIFICATION

The proposal for diversion of Borail Reserve Forest under Dima Hasao West Division on the 4- Lanning of Balachera to Harangajao section of NH-54 E in the State of Assam under East -West Corridor project was initially uploaded for 12.00 Ha. of Forest land. But later on after resurvey of alignment and straightening of the exiting alignment the proposed land for diversion has come out to be 10.583 Ha. on ground.

Therefore, the present diversion proposal on 4- Lanning of Balachera to Harangajao section of NH-54 E in the State of Assam under East -West Corridor project has been initiated for 10.583 Ha. instead of 12.00 Ha. of forest land.

