



भारतीय राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग प्राधिकरण

(सड़क परिवहन और राजमार्ग मंत्रालय)

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA

(Ministry of Road Transport and Highways)

उप महाप्रबंधक (तकनीकी) सह परियोजना निदेशक के कार्यालय
परियोजना कार्यान्वयन इकाई

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JUSTIFICATION FOR PROJECT DIVERTING FOREST LAND

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been entrusted with the assignment of Development / Improvement of 4/6 laning of Paramakudi - Ramanathapuram - Rameshwaram - Dhanushkodi section of NH 49 in the State of Tamil Nadu

The proposed road serves as a main connecting corridor between the Madurai and Rameshwaram where Rameshwaram, is a town in the Ramanathapuram district, considered to be one of the holiest places in India to Hindus, and part of the Char Dham pilgrimage.

The project section starts from near Paramakudi at Design Chainage Km.80/350 and ends near Dhanushkodi at Design Chainage Km.191/595. The project road passes through Ramanathapuram District in the state of Tamil Nadu.

The proposed alignment follows the existing alignment to the maximum extent possible without compromising safety and technical aspects. The expansion of roads in Rameshwaram through the town is a cumbersome task since it is an island. However, NHAI had acquired enough land for the expansion upto Rameshwaram Bus stand (Ex.km.169.000), beyond that heavy built-up towards the core of the town with more traffic towards the temple and imposed restriction on expansion of National Highway. This lead to the identification of bypass proposals for Rameshwaram town derived from the preliminary survey.

The two built ups are very nearby and separate bypass for both the built-up is not economical and socially feasible. Hence, a combined bypass for both Thangachimadam and Rameswaram is proposed passing through the Reserve Forests of Pamban and Rameswaram.

Any other alternative chosen for the project shall increase the length of the project road by greater margin and also affect the local biodiversity, involves acquisition of more private, government lands.

(M.S.Pandian)

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