

JUSTIFICATION

“CONSTRUCTION OF ROING-HUNLI ROAD (GREEN FIELD ALIGNMENT) SECTIONS FROM CH 24.640 TO CH 47.00 AND FROM CH 62.970 TO CH 74.01 (KM 21.500 OF EXISTING HUNLI-ANINI ROAD) AT LOWER DIBANG VALLEY DISTRICT IN ARUNACHAL PRADESH” under SADRP-NE on EPC basis ::: Change of alignment from KM 70+100 to KM 74+683 due to change of location of Bridge over River Ithun along with the muck disposal areas from 24.640 to 47.00km and from 62.97 to 74.01 KM.

As part of the development of National Highways, MoRTH has decided for improvement or the connecting the Rong with Anini having two sections i.e. Roing Hunli section from KM 16 of Roing Hunli Road to Km 21.5 of Hunli Anini Road (Green Field Alignment) (NH-313) (Total Length = 74.863) in the state of Arunachal Pradesh under SADRP-NE on EPC basis in the district of Upper Dibang Valley and Lower Dibang Valley.

The existing Meka-Roing-Hunli road having length of 89.7 kms is presently has CI-9 (MDR) surfaced specification. The entire road passes through hilly terrain in Lower Dibang Valley district of Arunachal Pradesh. This road originates from NH-52 from Meka (km 632.45), which is near to district HQ of Lower Dibang Valley district of Arunachal Pradesh i.e. Roing and traverses to Hunli and further extends to Anini, which is also a district HQ of Upper Dibang district of Arunachal Pradesh.

The altitude of this road varies from RL 406m at Roing to RL 1257m at Hunli. The road passes through a highest point in the area at an altitude of 2648.5m at Mayodia pass at km 57.500, which receives snow fall during the winter. As such during winter communication gets cut off during heavy snow fall.

A multipurpose hydro electric project is being planned to be constructed across Dibang river in this area.

In order to provide connectivity to the Dam site and also to have an alternative alignment by passing Mayodia pass, a re-alignment of this road is being considered. It will take off from

km 16 of existing Roing-Hunli road and meets near km 21.5 on existing Hunli Anini road which will result in reduction of length of Roing-Hunli-Anini road about by 22.1 KM.

The forest clearance proposal from 24.64 KM TO 47.00 KM AND 62.97 KM TO 74.01 KM has been submitted to MoEF vide proposal No. FP/AR/ROAD/22081/2016. The same was approved by the MoEF.

However, due to the change of location of Bridge at KM 74 , a revised proposal is now being submitted for approval along with the muck disposal areas from 24.640 to 47.00km and from 62.97 to 74.01 KM. The total area now proposed for diversion is 79.83 Ha.

The construction of the road will also ensure development to the otherwise remote areas in this region and district headquarters of Upper Dibang Valley. The proposed project is construction of 2-lane with paved shoulder configuration road. As the road is in the hills, muck shall be generated and additional muck dumping sites has been proposed to accommodate the muck generated.

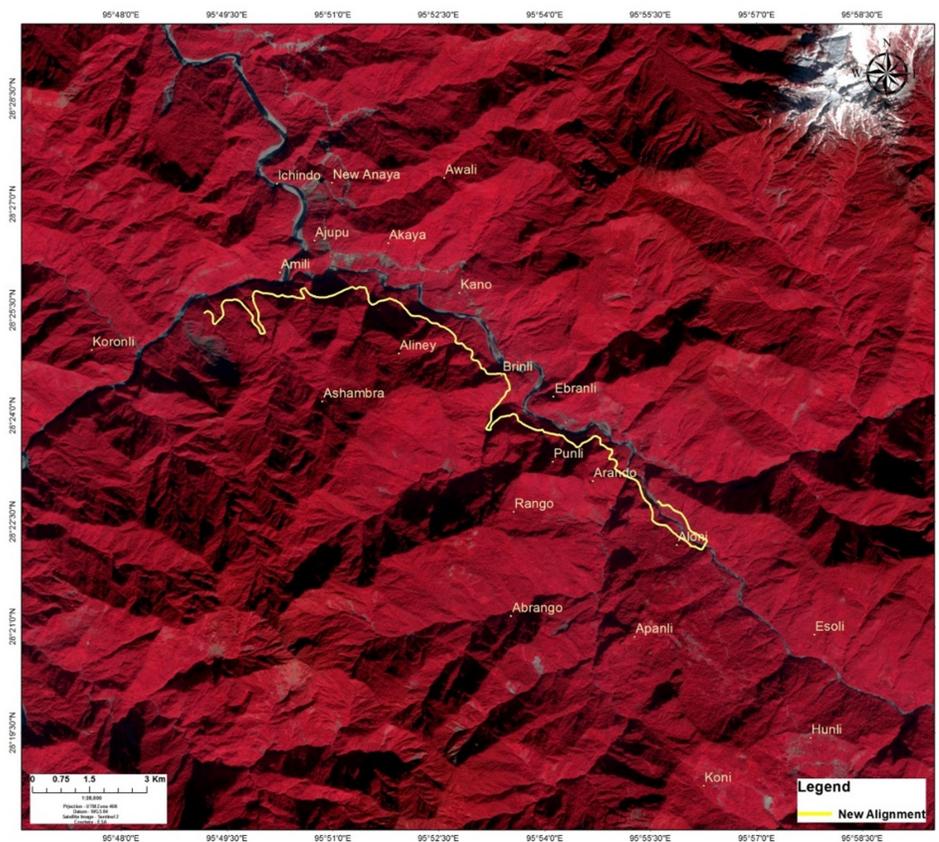


Fig. Map Showing the Location of the Alignment

This proposal has been prepared for the change of location of bridge over the River Ithun and 4 km. connecting section at km 74.178 (km 72.719 as per new proposal). The More specifically, this project will:-

- a. Enhance the road condition and uses ability of the Trans Arunachal Highway. Increase travel speeds, and reduce travel time, accidents, and vehicle emissions.
- b. Will ensure more efficient road asset development and management, and higher quality of construction and maintenance, resulting in decreased recurrent costs over the medium and long term.
- c. Will accelerate the social and economic development in the state through improving access to socioeconomic services, increase employment opportunities through nature tourism as the area near to the Anini has been full of high altitude natural beauties and close to the Dihang-Dibang Biosphere reserve.
- d. Shall provide proper connectivity for defense vehicles to border which has been considered strategic for border protection.
- e. Better connectivity through this project road will ensure access to Medical & Educational services available at Roing towns or inside Assam fulfilling the UN's SDG.
- f. The project road passes along the river sides of the river Ithun through hilly, mountainous terrain thick forest growth. The vegetation in the area has been as follows-

Forest vegetation of the Area:

The project road from *Km 16.00 of Roing Hunli section to Km 21.5 of Hunli Anini Road (Green Field Alignment) (NH-313) (Total Length = 74.863) in the state of Arunachal Pradesh under SADRP-NE on EPC basis* falls under the Lower Dibang Valley district generally covers all the representative forest types of Eastern Himalaya, viz., tropical semi-evergreen forests, subtropical wet hill forests, wet temperate forests, mixed coniferous forests, sub-alpine birch/fir forests and alpine scrubs and pastures (Champion and Seth 1968). However, the lowland areas of study sites cover tropical semi-evergreen forest comprising of Assam alluvial plains and Sub-

Himalayan light alluvial semi-evergreen forest. The areas close to this road section there is the Mehao wildlife sanctuary comprises tropical plains and riverine semi-evergreen plant species. In the mid hills sub-tropical wet hill forest occurs, while towards higher elevations wet hill temperate, dense mixed coniferous and subalpine and alpine forest are prevalent. In the entire two districts, the area is either covered by dense forest along the ridges or degraded open forests interspersed with agricultural fields in lower reaches. The forests present in the catchment area have been grouped into different forest types following the classification of Champion and Seth (1968), Negi (1989, 1996), Chowdhery (1996) and Mudgal and Hajra (1999). The major forest types are described below-

2B/C1a Assam alluvial plains semi evergreen forest:

This is an evergreen, closed high forest community with varying proportions of deciduous trees in the top storey. Middle storey is dense evergreen with luxuriant growth of canes and shrubs in the understorey. These forests are growth of canes and shrubs in the understorey. These forests are 21 seen in the heavy rainfall tract of Lesser Himalaya and soil is usually light and alluvial. Important associates of the top storey include *Terminalia myriocarpa*, *Ailanthus integrifolia*, *Canarium strictum*, *Castanopsis indica*, *Dillenia indica*, *Dysoxylum procerum*, *Garuga gamblei*, *Michelia champaca*, *Phoebe cooperiana*, *Pterospermum acerifolium* and *Syzygium cumini*. Second storey is represented by trees like *Albizia lucida*, *Cinnamomum pauciflorum*, *Dalbergia sissoo*, *Gynocardia odorata*, *Magnolia hodgsonii*, *Meliosma simplicifolia* etc. Understorey is represented by bamboos, Canes, and many woody shrubs and climbers.

2B/1S1 Sub-Himalayan light alluvial semi-evergreen forest:

This is a mixed high forest community which occurs in the lower foot hills and all along the river banks. The top canopy in these forests consists of many deciduous trees, while the second storey is dense mixed and consists of both evergreen and deciduous tree species. The top canopy comprises *Ailanthus integrifolia*, *Albizia lucida*, *Bischofia javanica*, *Duabanga grandiflora*, *Garuga gamblei*, *Phoebe hainesiana*, *Artocarpus lokoocha*, *Spondias pinnata* and *Terminalia myriocarpa*. The second storey is represented by *Callicarpa arborea*, *Glochidion lanceolarium*,

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India

Office of General Manager(Projects): - Roing

Midland Village, PO & PS Roing: Pin:792110

Email: gmproing@gmail.com



A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING

Gynocardia odorata, Macranga denticulata Mallotus roxburghii, Ficus elmerii, Endospermum chinensis, etc. This type of forest is found in and around new bridge location.

As the new alignment of this section of the road has been passing through the forest where no previous roads were there along with the along with the muck disposal areas from 24.640 to 47.00km and from 62.97 to 74.01 KM falling in the forest areas and hence altogether area covering 79.83 Ha including the muck disposal site will be required. The area covering 79.83 Ha has been under the USF area of forest department which needs forest clearance for diversion. The musk disposal area has been shown below along with the road alignment.

Considering the reason narrated above diversion of forest area of 79.83 Ha may be approved.

(Sunil Kumar)

GM(Projects),

NHIDCL, BO- ROING

- Copy to:
- 1) ED(P), NHIDCL, Ro- Ghy ----- for kind information please.
 - 2) GM(T), NHIDCL HQ, New Delhi-----for kind information please.
 - 3) M/s DRA-ITL (JV) - for compliance of the Article 20.1.6 of the CA.