


**Justification for locating NH-341 Package- II in Protected Forest Area**

**Sub: 2/4 laning of Bhuj – Khavda – Dharmshala section NH-341 from km 65+475 to km 162+185 in the State of Gujarat - Package II**

The captioned project is being developed by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Govt. of India under facilitation of Indian Academy of Highway Engineers (IAHE), Noida through the office of the Executive Engineer, National Highways Division, Adipur, District Kutch – 370 205, Gujarat as Project Implementing Unit (PIU).

Package-II of the project road starts at Km 65+478 near Bhuj Air Force Station and passes through Kunriya and Khavda up to India Bridge. Thereafter, the project road passes through designated defense area and ends at km 162+185 near Dharamshala BSF Camp. Total length of the project road is **96.707 km** and it falls entirely in the Kutch district of Gujarat State.

The existing road is a 2 Lane carriageway facility with earthen shoulder on both sides and it is proposed to improve into 2-lane standard configuration with paved/granular shoulder. The **development proposal involves widening of existing road** on both sides with curve improvement at few places to improve the existing sub-standard road geometry. Sufficient care has been taken during the design stage to avoid acquisition of forest areas located along the project road. **However, roadside plantations along the existing road up to village Khavda (km 133+145) being notified as Protected Forests, diversion of Protected Forest Land is unavoidable.**

  
(R B Damor)

**Executive Engineer  
National Highways Division  
Gandhidham**