

Justification for locating NH-168A Package- IV in Protected Forest Area

Sub: 2/4 laning of Dhanera-Zerda Section from km 0+000 to km 11+000 of Dhanera Bypass and from km 42+300 to km 55+030 **of NH-168A in the State of Gujarat - Package IV**

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 IV has two sections, (a) Proposed Dhanera Bypass and (b) existing NH-168A from Dhanera to Jherda junction. To avoid congestion and major bottleneck near existing RoB and non-availability of sufficient land, a Bypass is proposed on the South side of Dhanera town (start at Km 33+600 of NH-168A and ends at Km 43+250 of NH-168). Thereafter, the alignment follows the existing NH-168A and traverses through Samalwada, Ramuna, Chora and Tetda and meets SH-7 near Zerda with T Junction. Total length of the project road is 23.73 km and it falls entirely in the Banaskantha 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 2/4 lane standard configuration with paved 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 being notified as Protected Forests, diversion of Protected Forest Land is unavoidable.**



(R B Damor)

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