

### **Justification for Locating the Project in Forest Land**

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways through the National Highways Division, Kozhikode, intends to take up Capacity Augmentation to Two Lanes with Paved Shoulder Configuration for NH 766 from Km 40/000 (Puthupady) to Km 117/600 (Muthanga) in the state of Kerala.

This corridor is an existing NH road passing through Kozhikode and Wayanad districts of Kerala. The road passes through the Thamarassery Churam/Ghat section. This section of road passes through mountainous terrain having 9 hair-pin bends numbered from 1 to 9, starting from Adivaram. Also the road section has several sharp curves. Proposed development will involve widening of the existing road including sections of the road passing through the Ghat area. As seen from Survey of India toposheet, this Ghat section passes through declared Vested Forest area. The corridor with chainage Km 44/560 to Km 56/400 passes through this Vested Forest area which falls under the Kozhikode Forest Division. There is no alternative route to access this section and widening of the corridor without diversion of forest land will not be possible to carry out the proposed capacity augmentation project.

Hence, diversion of **~3.70 ha** forest area will be need for this proposed development.

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