

**Kerala Public Works Department**

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

The Malabar region comprises of Palakkad, Malappuram, Kozhikode, Wayanad, Kannur and Kasargod districts. The Arabian Sea is on the western border of Kozhikode district whereas the adjoining district of Wayanad is towards its east. The NH 766 that connects Kozhikode to Kollegal in Karnataka State is the primary road link between these two districts. Topographically, after a narrow, flat coastal strip, the ground rises by around 900 m in reaching the Deccan Plateau. The 11.5 km long stretch on the two-lane NH 766 between Adivaram in Kozhikode district and Lakkidi in Wayanad district is the Thamarassery Churam of steep gradient with nine hair pin bends and through forest land. Each year, as the monsoon gathers strength, earth slips from the fragile slopes cause traffic snarls to blockages and also accidents. Extensive studies have revealed that it is not feasible to improve the width or geometry of this Ghat Section of the NH 766 to cater to the ever-increasing traffic on the already saturated route. Hence, the Government of Kerala (GoK) has decided to construct a four-lane tunnel road at connecting Anakkampoyil, Kalladi and Meppadi to ease the congestion of the Thamarassery Ghat road and also to provide a reliable, safe all-weather road connectivity between Kozhikode and Wayanad districts.

The proposed project is formed by connecting existing MDR (Anakkampoyil-Muthappanpuzha - Marippuzha road) to SH 59 (Meppadi- Kalladi- Chooramala road) with a 4 lane tunnel road. The new connectivity is expected to bring development opportunities in industrial, agricultural and tourism sectors not only to the region, but also to the entire Malabar region, contributing the social and economic growth of the State.

An area 17.263 ha of forest land is to be utilised for the project. Out of this, 0.994 Ha of forest land is utilised for overground usage and 16.269 Ha of forest land is to be utilised for tunneling (under ground usage).



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