

## **JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN FOREST AREA**

Infrastructure development particularly faster movement and transportation of goods in a country like India is a guiding factor for economic development. Proper transportation of goods requires comprehensive transport systems and increasing road traffic requires better roads. Hence it becomes necessary to create a new road network or upgrade the existing road network. With a view to upgrade and rehabilitate the existing highway where necessary, Public Works Department (National Highway) of Maharashtra State has envisioned up gradation of existing highway to two lane/four lane with paved shoulders.

The project alignment is an amalgamation of New SH-212 (Old SH-282) & New SH-213 (Old SH- 257) passing through Digras, Darwha & Karanja town forming an important artery for movement of goods from Chandrapur & Yavatmal District to Mumbai. Goods transported are cement from different factories located in Chandrapur District to Akola, Amravati & Mumbai & seasonal crops and agricultural products throughout the year from different places located in Yavatmal & Chandrapur.

It is appreciated that over a horizon of next 20-30 years, this road will serve a critical purpose of linking Yavatmal & Chandrapur to Mumbai & contributes substantially to the development of the local economy. Further a number of remote villages are also being provided connectivity under the PMGSY and the take-off points emanate from this highway.

Since this is an up-gradation project of Existing highway to two lane/four lane with paved shoulders, so no alternative has been examined. Wherever possible non forest land has been used for the alignment. In view of above reason, alignment passes through 1.011 Kms of forest land in three patches which cannot be located on non-forest land. Hence the proposed diversion of total 2.427 ha in the final alignment is fully justified.

**Date : 25.11.2021**

**Place : Akola**

**(R.B.Zalte)**

**Executive Engineer**

**National Highway Division, Akola**