

<u>Name of the Project:</u>	Construction of New Six Lane Tunnel in Khambatki Ghat Section Including Approaches from Km. 772.080 to Km.781.200 in Satara - Pune Section of NH-4 in the State of Maharashtra.
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JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN FOREST AREA

In the Kambhati Ghat section, the existing two lane road on LHS is passing through 2 lane tunnel constructed during four laning of Pune - Satara section and the two lane road on the RHS is passing through ghat portion.

The existing NH-4 from Pune Satara already widened to 6 lane Highway to meet traffic demand, except existing two lane tunnel in Khambatki ghat. This existing two lane tunnel is going to become a bottleneck in near future as the traffic on the Highway is about 46000 PCU. Widening of existing two lane tunnel is not feasible

Further, the improvements proposed as part of six laning for the RHS carriageway is not completely eliminating all the geometric deficiencies in the alignment, as it is following the existing ghat road. Also, it is not possible to improve the right carriageway to desired geometric standards due to existing ghat.

Considering these difficulties for improvement of existing alignment of Left and Right carriageway, NHAI desired to construct separate 6 lane tunnel with improved geometry on west side of the existing left carriageway alignment. The approaches of tunnel will smoothly merge with existing 6 lane on Satara side at Km 772.080 and on Pune side at Km 781.200. As the forest area/Khambatki ghat spread across the existing alignment, it is inevitable to cross the forest area in this section.

Hence, there is no suitable alternate land is possible other than locating the 6 lane tunnel in the village Vele of Taluka Wai and villages Wanyachiwadi and Khandal of Taluka Khandala in Satara district of Maharashtra.

Suhas D. Chitnis

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Date:-06-03-2017

Place:- Pune