

## **JUSTIFICATION**

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

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), Government of India has proposed "Backward/Religious/Tourist places and border areas under Bharat Mala Scheme" an Umbrella scheme of road development project through National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), National Highway, Industrial Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL) and State Public Works Departments (PWD). This project aims to improve connectivity particularly on religious, backward and to remote areas with an aim of rapid and safe movement of to boost economy.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been entrusted with the work of Preparation of Detailed Project Report for Preparation of Feasibility Study/Detailed Project Report of selected road stretches for NH connectivity to Backward/Religious/Tourist places and border areas under Bharat Mala Scheme "Umagaon - Basopatti - Benipatti- Rahika- Madubani – Rampatti – Awam – Loufa – Bheja – Supaul - Saharsa".

Project stretch falls in the state of Bihar. Bihar is in eastern India. It is contiguous with Uttar Pradesh to its west, Nepal to the north, the northern part of West Bengal to the east, and with Jharkhand to the south. Bihar covers a total area of 94,163 Km<sup>2</sup>, with an average elevation above sea level of 53 m. It is dominated by a vast stretch of fertile plain which is divided unevenly by the Ganges River. Central parts of Bihar have some small hills, such as the Rajgir hills. Bihar has reserved Forest area of 6,845 Km<sup>2</sup> which is 7.27% of its geographical area. The State has 26 nos. of National Highways with aggregate length 5301 Kms.

NH-227L, Umagaom to Kaluahi Ch. 0.000 to 21.609. NH-227J, Saharghat to Rahika Ch. 0.000 to 26.130. Part of NH-527A, Bideshwarsthan to Bheja Ch. 0.000 to 25.915. This is a part of existing road Bypasses and New Alignment, passes through Plain terrain and shall be constructed as 2-Lane with Paved shoulder configuration. The Proposed ROW of this section is taken as 20-30m min which all the configurations shall be fitted with.

The proposed road would act as the prime artery for the economic flow to this region. It will enhance economic development, provide employment opportunities to locals, strengthen tourist development, ensure road safety, provide better transportation facilities and other facilities such as way side amenities etc. Vehicles operating cost will also be reduced due to improved road quality.

Sufficient care has been taken during the design stage to avoid acquisition of forest land located along the project road. No Forest land identified along the proposed alignment, however the proposed project falls in notified protected forest land declared for management purposes and diversion of protected forest land is unavoidable and barest minimum i.e., **39.1096 Ha.**

*Handwritten signature and date: 22/04/2022*  
Project Director, NHAI, Bihar  
NHAI, Bihar  
Signature of User Agency