

**National Highway Division**

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मार्गचर्याया अमृतं महोत्सव

No. NHDN/PB-2 / 3434/2022

Date : 24/5/2022

Justification Letter for Forest Land Diversion

Present project road i.e. **Jamkhed to Sautada (From Design Km. 195/375 to Km. 208/774)** is passing through forest area (Sautada Ghat) which is coming under the Divisional Forest Officer/ Deputy Conservator of Forest Ahmednagar. This is an important route connecting Districts in Marathwada to Metro city Pune & State capital Mumbai the State capital. Also along it's way it has connectivity to industrial area of Chakan , Pimpri Chinchwad & Talegaon & thereon to Mumbai and JNPT harbour. With the development of this corridor there will be distance reduction for connecting Jamkhed to Shikrapur also it will reduce the traffic congestion on Pune Ahmednagar Highway which will result in saving in traffic time of road users & will provide safe route to users. It also connects local Taluka headquarters Jamkhed , Shrigonda , Patoda . Along this route there are Sugar Factories for whom this route would facilitate Sugarcane transport vehicles & avoid traffic congestion.

The traffic intensity on NH-548D is 8397 PCU in year - 2017. Heavy loaded traffic plies on this road round the clock and the traffic intensity is increasing day by day. In this road Nhavara (km 83.550) to Adhalgaon (km 132.600) EPC work is 90 % Completed and Adhalgaon (km 132.600) to Jamkhed (km 195.375) EPC work is in progress. As the work of earlier section of this road is in progress this succeeding section needs to be tackled so that the traffic should be smooth on this route. At present this stretch is having varying BT width from 5.50 m to 7.00 m and the structures needs to be made of National Highway standard. At some places the vertical and horizontal curve needs to be modified along with junctions of this road to ensure smooth flow of traffic & safety of road users .

As per standard of National Highway the rehabilitation and Up gradation of the road is required in the forest area for curve improvements (realignments) and widening. For Curve improvement and widening in the forest area, DPR consultant has considered minimum forest land. There is no suitable alternative non forest land is available for the proposed project. Hence, the diversion of the forest land is only option for widening of the above subjected project.

(N.S. Palwe)

**Executive Engineer
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