**Project Name:** Improvement to two lane with Paved shoulder of Saraigarh (on NH-327A) - Lalganj - Ganpatganj upto NH 106 in the state of Bihar.

## JUSTIFICATION FOR LOCATING THE PROJECT IN PROTECTED FOREST AREA

The Government of India has decided to take up the development of various road stretches/Corridors in the Northern part of the country to upgrade the road network to meet the growing traffic requirement in this part of the country by augmenting the road capacity for safe and efficient movement of the traffic.

The project road starts from NH-327A at Saraigarh and ends at NH-106 (near Ganpatganj). The project starts at a Major T Junction of NH - 327A (KM-25) and Saraigarh-Lalganj-Ganpatganj Road at Saraigarh Village located in Supaul District in the state of Bihar. The coordinates of start of the project is 26.288380°N & 86.733280E.

The project road is a proposed for two lane with paved shoulder Highway. The existing road is an intermediate lane having flexible pavement, Proposal is to reconstruct the stretch with flexible pavement. Some realignment has been done to meet the IRC code stipulations. In some built up locations realignments have been proposed and in Ganpatganj portion Bypass is proposed.

As such project does not traverse through the forest area but, plantation at crossing points of roads/ canal/drain/river bund etc.) is notified as Protected Forest (PF) by the state government for management purpose. Accordingly, provisions of FCA are applicable for using such land for non-forestry purpose. Thus, Forest Clearance is required to be taken by the User Agency for construction of the projects through notified Protected Forest.

Sufficient care has been taken during the design stage to avoid diversion of protected forest at road/ canal crossing points. To construct the road meeting traffic requirement, diversion of forest on crossing points at canal/ NH/SH is unavoidable.

Signature of User Agency Executive Engineer National Highway Division

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Madhepura