

**Upgradation of Abhanpur-Rajim-Gariaband-Bardula-Deobhog-Odisha/Chhattisgarh
Border section of NH-130C Package II - Km 40+000 to Km 99+800 in the state of
Chhattisgarh to 2/4 lane with paved shoulder configuration**

Justification for Locating the Project in Forest Land.

The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH), Government of India, has decided to take up the development of Abhanpur to Odisha/Chhattisgarh Border Section of NH 130C Package II - Km 40+000 to Km 99+800 in the State of Chhattisgarh to Two/Four Lane with Paved Shoulder Configuration for augmentation of capacity for safe and efficient movement of traffic by upgrading to 2-lane/4-lane with paved shoulder configuration based on the traffic demand.

The project road starts at Pond Village and passes through Gariaband and ends after Dhawalpur village.

The existing project road predominantly has a carriageway width ranging from intermediate to two lane configuration with earthen shoulder 0.5 to 1.5 m on both sides with exception at a few locations. Paved shoulders are observed at all minor and major built ups along the project stretch. The existing width is incapable to cope up with the increasing traffic. Being a National Highway, the project road requires minimum two-lane with paved shoulder configuration.

This stretch passes through plain terrain for entire length of highway. Horizontal geometry is straight for major portion of the highway. Vertical geometry needs substantial improvement to meet highway standards. Inadequate carriageway width and lack of adequate safety appurtenances and markings are major causes for accident along the stretch. Absence of proper highway lighting at built-up areas is another cause of concern.

The junctions present along the built-ups are lacking channelization, signs, place identification boards, markings and maintenance. The pedestrian crossing facilities such as zebra crossings and signs are nowhere observed.

The total length of the project stretch is 59.4 km of which 36.75 km is abutting forest area. The proposed widening requires diversion of 108.95 ha of forest land in Panduka, Gariaband, Nawagarh, Dhawalpur forest range of Gariaband Division. Therefore, the widening of this stretch requires forest clearance from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

The diversion of forest area has been limited to the minimum that satisfies the National Highway standards. Alternatives have been examined and found that no better option is available. The widening has been limited to bare minimum on forest land, only on one side of the existing road, to reduce the requirement of forest land diversion.