NH-12037/8/2024/Tunnel/Misc/North-I

Government of India

Ministry of Road Transport & Highways

(Tunnel Zone)

No.1, Parliament Street, Transport Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 27th October 2025

To:

1. The Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments/UTs
2. The Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries of all States/ UTs Public Works Department/ Road Construction Department/ Highways Department (dealing with National Highways and other centrally sponsored schemes)
3. The Director General (Border Roads), Seema Sadak Bhawan, Ring Road, New Delhi- 110 010.
4. The Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, G-5 & 6, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110 075.
5. The Managing Director, National Highway infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd.,2nd Floor, Tower A, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi - 110029
6. All Engineers-in-Chief and Chief Engineers of Public Works Department of States/ UTs/Road Construction Department/ Highways Departments (dealing with National Highways and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes.
7. The Secretary General, Indian Roads Congress
8. The Director, IAHE, Noida, UP

Subject: Technical review of long tunnels projects on National Highways -reg.

Ref:

i. Ministry's circular No. NH-12037/8/2024/Tunnel/Misc/North-I dated 06.09.2024
ii. Ministry's circular No. NH-12037/8/2024/Tunnel/Misc/North-I dated 24.10.2024
iii. Ministry's circular No. NH-12037/3/2025/Tunnel/Zone-I dated 02.09.2025

Sir,

Please refer to Ministry's letters under reference above, wherein guidelines and a checklist were issued for submission of proposals related to long tunnel projects (length > 1.5 km) on National Highways for technical review and alignment approval.

2. It has been observed that alignments of tunnels are being finalized and Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) are being submitted for review to Tunnel Zone of the Ministry without conducting the requisite investigations and indicating relevant details as prescribed in the checklist. As a result, expeditious review of the DPR is being hindered. This in turn result in delay in appraisal and approval of the project. It is not out of place to mention that successful

implementation of tunnel projects depends upon proper Geo-technical investigation to reduce geological risk and uncertainties during implementation.

3. In view of the above, and to expedite review of tunnel proposals received in the Ministry, it is requested that once a tunnel (length > 1.5 km) is contemplated during feasibility/ DPR preparation stage the same must be immediately informed to Tunnel Zone for prior - consultation, before finalising alignment and feasibility studies so that requirements of investigations and assessments in accordance with the prescribed guidelines be intimated to the executing agency in advance in order to save time.

4. Further, all executing agencies are requested to include requirement of investigation as per IRC: SP 91-2019 in RFP of DPR for tunnel and strictly implement during preparation of DPR.

Yours sincerely,

27/10/25

(Bharat Kumar Sharma)
Assistant Executive Engineer
For Director General (Road Development) & Special Secretary
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Copy To:

1. All CEs in the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
2. All ROs of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
3. NIC-for uploading on the Ministry's website under 'What's New'.

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5. PSO to DG (RD) & SS
6. Sr. PPS/PPS to ADGs/AS&FA/AS(Highways)