

NH-14012/27/2014-P&M (Vol-IV)
Government of India
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
(Highways Division)
Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 20.09.2024

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Guidelines for approval of route alignment of all National Highway/ Expressway projects - reg.

The alignments of the project included under various schemes are generally approved by the concerned executing agencies at their level and brought to the SFC/EFC for appraisal by the Competent Authority before approval.

2. Alignment selection depends upon engineering, socio-economic, environmental, cost and safety factors. There is a provision in IRC:SP:19-2020 "Manual for Survey, Investigation & Preparation of Road Projects" to assign score to different attributes of each factor mentioned above and then rank the options based on aggregate score. Nonetheless, some amount of subjectivity cannot be ruled out in scoring the attributes and the overall rank. Therefore, decisions on Greenfield alignments and brownfield bypasses/ realignments require a detailed examination of different options.

3. It has been observed that in many cases, bypasses/re-alignments/greenfield corridors have been adopted involving substantial land acquisition and other related pre-construction activities. The argument in favour of adoption of such a bypass/re-alignment/greenfield corridor is that it results in saving of expenditure on account of shifting of utilities and optimization of land acquisition cost in built-up areas.

4. It is important to align development of network with the overall vision, strategy and objectives of the Ministry. Further, a balanced decision is required to be arrived at after all options have been thoroughly explored before the final adoption of the brownfield/greenfield route alignment.

5. Accordingly, the following Committee is constituted for the purpose of examining alignments before the approval by the Ministry:

i	Secretary, RT&H	Chairman
ii	DG(RD&SS)	Member
iii	Chairman, NHAI/MD(NHIDCL) as concerned	Member
iv	JS(Highways)	Member
v	CE (Planning)	Member
vi	CE (BP&SP)	Member
vii	Concerned ADG/Member/Director/CE* (Zone)	Invitee

* CE (Zone) MORT&H to attend all meetings of assigned States including proposals of NHAI/ NHIDCL to avoid overlaps in planning

6. The procedure for deciding the alignment will be as under:

	Project	Procedure
(a)	Greenfield Corridor / Project	The recommendation of the Committee in para 5 shall be obtained before finalizing the alignment.
(b)	Combination of Greenfield plus Brownfield or Brownfield Expansion	For corridor, wherein the corridor <i>re-alignment is up to 10 km or 20% of the project length (whichever is lower)</i> , the alignment shall be approved as per the extant guidelines, by the agency concerned. For all other corridors recommendation of the Committee shall be obtained before finalizing the alignment at the level of the Ministry.

7. It is also brought out that the approval of alignment would be taken up for the entire corridor at a time and piecemeal approach would not be entertained. However, project implementation can be prioritized and be taken up in phases as per requirement. Further, the limit provided in table in para 6 above shall be for entire corridor and not for sub-projects of the same.

8. BP&SP Cell in the Ministry would function as the secretariat for this Committee and would be responsible for compilation of approved alignments and issue of minutes.

9. This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority and will be applicable to all agencies of the Ministry with immediate effect.


(Mayank Tyagi)

Deputy Secretary (Highways)

To,

1. The Director General (RD) and Special Secretary , Government of India,
2. The Director General (Border Roads), Seema Sadak Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. The Chairman, National Highway Authority of India
4. The Managing Director, NHIDCL

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- The Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments/UTs
- The Principal Secretaries / Secretaries of all states /UTs Public Works Department
- All the Engineering Chief and Chief Engineer of Public Works Department of state/UTs dealing with the National Highways and other centrally sponsored schemes
- All Technical Officers of the Roads Wing, MoRT&H.
- All Directors/Deputy Secretaries, MoRT&H.
- PS to Hon'ble Minister (RT&H).
- PS to Hon'ble Minister of State (RT&H).
- PPS to Secretary (RT&H)/PPS to DG(RD) & SS/PPS to AS&FA
- PS to ADG-I/1I//III/IV, Chief Engineers/Joint Secretaries, MoRT&H.