

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MEGHALAYA STATE PLANNING BOARD HELD ON THE 4TH OCTOBER, 2024 IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM II OF THE MEGHALAYA SECRETARIAT BUILDING, SHILLONG TO DISCUSS ON THE MATTER OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN SHILLONG CITY – PART II

Members Present are as per **Annexure-A**

The meeting was presided over by Shri. Metbah Lyngdoh, Chairman of the Meghalaya State Planning Board. At the very outset, the Chairman welcomed all the members present and informed that the purpose of the meeting was to further deliberate on the issue of traffic congestion in Shillong. In this regard, the Transport and Public Works Departments were invited to make detailed presentations on the matter and to present their respective action plans and blueprints in this respect.

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Shri. Sanjay Goyal, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Transport Department informed that while the Department does not have the mandate to undertake any infrastructure interventions, it has been actively collaborating with the Urban Affairs, Home (Police) and Public Works Departments to tackle the menace of traffic congestion. Over the past year and a half, the Department has been carrying out several studies to identify key factors contributing to the traffic problem. Some of the key challenges are the exorbitant increase in the numbers of private vehicles, limited regional mobility that results in most traffic converging in the Shillong city area, coupled with insufficient enforcement of traffic rules and regulations.

He apprised that the Transport Department has held detailed discussions with taxi operators and commuters, whereby, it was suggested to introduce certain technology interventions towards modernization of taxi services. A digital mobility platform is being explored & developed for allowing a pre-booking system, instead of the current rotating and revolving model. Discussions are underway with developers, who have implemented similar solutions in other regions of the country. The taxi operators also raised concerns about the lack of parking spaces and embarkment/dis-embarkment points. The Department had, therefore, suggested to the Urban Affairs Department for identification of decentralized spaces in the city and to allocate these demarcated zones as designated parking lots / taxi hubs for the different taxi associations.

The Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) undertaken by the Urban Affairs Department, revealed alarming figures in respect of the Shillong traffic movement, with 26,700 inbound vehicles and 28,700 outbound vehicles on a daily basis. This issue needs to be accorded high priority and can be tackled only, if there is sufficient road space, parking area and manpower to deal with the traffic movement. Thus, a multi-disciplinary approach with inputs from various departments is urgently required.

It was also noted that there has been a significant increase in two-wheelers registration across the state with roughly 17000 to 20000 average registrations in a year. The number with regard to four wheelers registrations is around 12000 per year. The numbers are highly skewed with the highest registrations recorded in East Khasi Hills district followed by West Garo Hills district. The situation appears highly alarming, given that the current road scenario of the State is not equipped to handle such a huge emerging load. Thus, to alleviate this problem, improvement of the public transport is necessary to encourage people to make a radical shift from private transport to public transport.

The Commissioner & Secretary also noted that all vehicles travelling from the periphery of the State land up in Shillong City. In order to limit the entry of private vehicle to Shillong and to increase the use of public transport, route identification using Network analysis is required to determine optimal routes connecting District HQ to Regional HQ via Block HQ is required. Further,

integration of regional buses with city buses and other modes of transport is also being proposed to minimize the number of vehicles entering Shillong.

The Department is also focussing on establishing Regional Driving Training Centers (RDTCs), which are essential for educating drivers on road safety and efficient driving techniques thereby, leading to reduced congestion and improved traffic flow. One such center is planned at Mawkanu and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) under preparation.

The Chairman then invited the members present in the meeting to share their suggestions / views / queries on the presentation.

- Shri F. R. Kharkongor, IAS, Principal Secretary, MSPB inquired about the effectiveness of the Inter – State Bus Terminal (ISBT) in decongesting and limiting the inflow of traffic into the city. The Joint Secretary, Transport Department informed that the presence of the ISBT has been able to prevent the entry of approximately 15 to 20 inter-state buses entering the city leading to reduced traffic along Polo, Police Bazar and Mawlai areas. However, at present the ISBT is non-functional due to load restrictions at the Umiam bridge.
- Shri John F. Kharshiing, Co – Chairman, MSPB suggested exploring the possibility of implementing the odd-even number system for vehicles, as a solution to the traffic congestion, extending beyond just Khyndailad and Motphran.
- The Joint Secretary, Transport Department suggested the restriction on the permissibility and registration of second-hand vehicles purchased from outside the city, which is contributing to the increase in vehicle population and pollution. To counter this problem, the Department is conceptualizing the scrappage policy, however it should go hand in hand with the restriction on vehicle registration. Shri Ollan Singh Suin, Co- Chairman, MSPB, suggested the implementation of mileage policy, in-lieu of the scrappage policy.
- The Principal Secretary, MBSB also suggested that perhaps, some out of the box solutions may also be contemplated and explored, such as restriction of traffic for two wheelers only to certain selected routes within the city.

National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL)

NHIDCL representatives reported that the major road project taken up by NHIDCL to help ease congestion in Shillong City is the Shillong Western Bypass (38.256 km). The road starts from Lad Sumer and connects with NH106 at Dombhoi. The start date has been declared on 02.09.2024 and will be completed in two years.

It was also informed that another pipeline project is the Barapani to Shillong(16 km) road which will start from Mawlyngkhung/Barapani and end at KHADC, hence by-passing the Mawlai area. This proposed road will be a 4-lane configuration. A DPR consultancy firm M/s Theme Engineering Pvt. Ltd has been engaged to study feasibility of the project.

NHIDCL also apprised that the Chief Minister, Meghalaya met with the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways in the month of June, to discuss on the construction of flyover from Mahavira Park – Anajali Point – Barik Point. The feasibility study will be conducted by M/s Theme Engineering Pvt Ltd.

NHIDCL has also proposed for a vehicular overpass to be constructed from Mahavira Park, which will touch the existing NH 6 about 30-40 m prior to the Anjali Point.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

The Chief Engineer, NH PWD(Roads), highlighted that the main cause of traffic congestion in Shillong City is the accumulation of vehicles at critical junctions. Another drawback is the narrow

width of major roads in Shillong city which are just about 5.5 to 7 m in width while the internal roads are even narrower with a width of about 3.5 to 5.5 m. The Department has also identified the major choke points as the Laitkor-Madanryting-Nongthymmai road (Old NH-44) and the Mawlai-Mawiong road.

To mitigate these issues, the Department has identified alternative routes, flyovers, by-passes, and link roads, etc. for easing the traffic congestions at major junctions in the city, some of which are ongoing works and some have been proposed to the Government.

The Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads) informed that the Laitkor – Pomlakrai – Laitlyngkot road which starts from Ksehbilat (Laitkor) and proceeds towards Laitlyngkot has been completed. This road is of Intermediate Lane Standard (5.5 m) which needs to be upgraded to a double lane road. Vehicles travelling from Laitkor region towards Sohra, Laitlyngkot and Nongstoin region can now move seamlessly through this road without the need to enter Shillong city.

The Department highlighted a few ongoing road projects which would provide alternative routes and thereby, help in the decongestion.

1. Metalling and blacktopping of a link road behind N.E.F.A. Secretariat, Shillong (L=0.185 Km)
2. Construction including widening, metalling and blacktopping of link road from existing PWD Road via Rilbong Community Hall up to Umshyrpi existing PWD Road Rilbong, Shillong. This is a single lane road of width 3 mtrs.
3. Improvement and beautification of J.N. Complex Junction, Polo. The physical progress stands at 60%. Discussions with the Forest Department are ongoing for land acquisition. The Commissioner & Secretary, Transport Department advised PWD to consult with the District Administration for the removal of shops which have been illegally set up in the area.
4. Construction of a road from Lumshyiap (Bellafonte) to connect New Shillong Township at Umsawli via Mawpat (L = 6.00km). This is a two-lane road and the work is under progress.
5. Improvement including widening to two lane standard of the balance length of Shillong – Diengpasoh Road from 14.00km to 21.20 km up to Shillong By-pass (L = 7.20km)
6. Construction including MBT of a road from Bribah Mawpat to Umsawli (L=3.208km)
7. Construction including MBT of a road from Kynton to Lyngkien (L=1.71 Km)

The Department has also proposed the following new road projects: -

1. Construction of road from Galleria Anjali Cinema Point to connect with Butcher Road (L = 112 metres). The road will pass through defence land.
2. Construction of bridges including approaches to connect Evelyne Ride Road to Umpling (Dong Sharum). This project has been proposed to the World Bank. This will help decongest traffic in Rynjah Market and Demseiniong.
3. Construction including MBT of a double lane road from Laitkor (near Woodland Nursing School) with three destination points Lumpyngngad, Cleve Colony and Malki. The DPR has been prepared and submitted to the Government. The land belongs to the Forest Department and talks have been initiated. This will decongest the busy National Highway-44 (Old) along Laitkor, Madanryting, Nongthymmai, Jingkieng and Fire Brigade.
4. Construction of a road from Shillong Peak (Airforce Gate), 5th Mile side to Lawsohtun. The detailed survey is yet to be carried out.
5. Construction of a flyover from Polo Junction (Polo owners taxi Stand) to Golfink Road (SRGT Parking Lot). The Department was advised to accord top priority to this proposal and to stretch the flyover upto the Shillong Golf Club.

6. Construction of a road from Lumshyiap (Belfonte) to connect fuller ride road (Sanker Road) at Mawkynroh. The DPR for this proposal has been prepared. A joint inspection with the office of Syiem Myllem will be conducted and the proposal will be placed before the Dorbar.
7. Construction of a pedestrian walk way at Khyndailad Point (Police Bazaar). This walkway will deter people from walking on the road and hence avoid clashing with the vehicles.
8. Construction of a road from 4th Mile, Upper Shillong to Lawsohtun (Forest Land) (L= 3.10 Km). This road will connect Lawsohtun directly to Upper Shillong decongesting traffic at Anjali and Rilbong Junction.
9. Construction of a two lane road from West Corridor New Shillong Township Mawpat to connect Shillong Airport via Nongkohlew (L=25.00 Km).
10. Construction of Road from Mawkasiang to Mawlyngngad (L=15.59 Km) with 3 (Three) packages (i) Construction of road from Mawlynrei to Mawkasiang (L=6.100Km) (ii) Construction of road from Mawshabuit to Mawlynrei (L=3.140Km) (iii) Construction including metalling and blacktopping of a 2 – lane road from Mawlyngngad (Old NH – 44) to Mawshabuit village. Part – I (Length = 6.350km).
11. Construction of outer ring road around Shillong City connecting Laitlyngkot, Laitdiengsai, Thangsning, Thadan, Pepbah and Mawlyngad. The estimate has not been submitted.

In conclusion, the Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads) , recommended regulating Vehicle speed and implementing a “ No Right Turn” policy across Shillong City to meet the objectives of reduction in traffic halts at junctions. Strict enforcement of traffic rules was also advised.

The Chairman then invited the members to share their suggestions / recommendations on the presentation.

- The Commissioner & Secretary, Transport Department suggested that a comprehensive study of Shillong traffic should be undertaken.
- Shri Hopeful Bamon, Co-Chairman, MSPB suggested the construction of flyover along the Wahumkhrah river.
- The Principal Secretary, MSPB recommended engaging domain experts from NIT Meghalaya and with IIT Guwahati for further detailed consultation in the construction of flyovers.
- The Principal Secretary, MBSB also suggested that

The Chairman exhorted the Departments to identify the critical junctions and explore the possibility of constructing flyovers at these junctions.



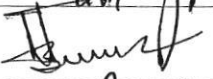
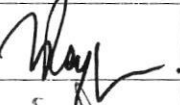
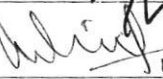

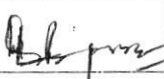

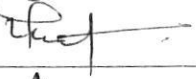




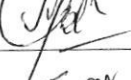


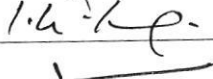
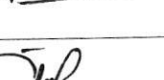

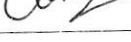
The meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.

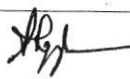


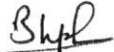


(Shri Metbah Lyngdoh)
Chairman
Meghalaya State Planning Board

ANNEXURE -A

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE MEGHALAYA STATE PLANNING BOARD
PRESENT IN THE MEETING ON THE MATTERS OF TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN
SHILLONG CITY HELD ON THE 4TH OCTOBER, 2024 AT 3:00 PM IN THE
COMMITTEE ROOM II, MEGHALAYA MAIN SECRETARIAT BUILDING.

Sl. No	Name & Designation	Signature	Contact No.
1.	Shri Metbah Lyngdoh, MLA, Chairman of the Meghalaya State Planning Board		
2.	O. Sun		9863093572
3.	M. B. Kurbachy		8782580967
4.	F. R. Kharshing, Member MSB		
5.	JOHN F. KHARSHING - CO-CHAIRMAN		9436102663
6.	Don Kumpor Wan - Co-Chairman		9436303196
7.	Hopefne Bamon		9436115264
8.	D. Langtang, C.E. PWD (Roads)		9774006215
9.	Nihim D. Shing - Co-Chairman MSB		8787726755
10.	K. L. Nongkhu, JS, Transport		
11.	S. Lyteb - E.E. PWD (R) N.H. By-Pass Div ⁿ Shillong		9436163775
12.	R. Hing, DTO Shillong		8787561589
13.	A.M. Kharmanphlang, CE (NH) PWD (R)		
14.	H.S. Basakwoment, Asstt. CE, PWD (R)		9615915085
15.	J.S. Tariang, EE PWD (Rd) NH Div Shillong		9863062658
16.	D. Lazo, AEE PWD (Rd) Bye-Pass		9862891107
17.	W. R. Lyngdoh, Vice Chairman SPB		9366001425
18.	W.R. Lyngdoh, SE (NH) PWD		9436322235
19.	J.P. Marbaniang, EE, Shy Central		9436311176
20.	C. Majan, AE, PWD (R), CES office		8774902979

21.	Shri. A. D. Tyghkan Assistant Commissioner of Transport		7627968217
22.	Shri. G. G. May Grewal Dy Commr		8787542922
23.	SANJAY GOHIL, CES Transport Deptt.		
24.	B. W. PHIRA Secy PWD (R&B)		9774031758
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Memo No.PB.27/2018/43-A,

Dated Shillong, the 28th October, 2024.

Copy to:-

1. The Private Secretary to the Chairman, Meghalaya State Planning Board for kind information of the Chairman.
2. The Principal Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya and Member Secretary, Meghalaya State Planning Board for kind information.
3. The Commissioner & Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya Transport / Public Works Department for kind information.
4. The Chief Engineer, PWD (Roads) / CE (NH) PWD (R) Shillong for kind information.
5. The Commissioner of Transport, Shillong for kind information.
6. Shri _____, Co-Chairman, State Planning Board for kind information.
7. Shri _____, Deputy Chairman, State Planning Board for kind information.
8. Shri _____, Vice Chairman, State Planning Board for kind information.
9. Shri _____, Member, State Planning Board for kind information.
10. The Under Secretary to the Government of Meghalaya, Planning (A) Department for kind information. Vice Chairman, State Planning Board for kind information.
11. The Assistant Superintendent, Meghalaya State Planning Board for kind information.

By order etc.,



Special Officer & Ex-Officio Under Secretary
Meghalaya State Planning Board.