

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NORTH EASTERN COUNCIL SECRETARIAT
NONGRIM HILLS, SHILLONG – 793003**

No: NEC/T/MP/2007

Dated Shillong the 13th September/2007

To

Shri Tomi Ete,
Chief Engineer,
Pubic Works Department,
Government of Arunachal Pradesh,
Itanagar.

Sub: Minutes of meeting.

A meeting of the Mater Plan Committee was held on 10th September/2007 for finalizing the bid document for preparation of Master Plan or roads. A copy of Minutes of the Meeting is forwarded herewith for your record and further reference.

Encl: As stated above.



**(M.S. Sodhi)
Adviser (T&C)**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING CUM SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS
ARRIVED AT THE MEETING HELD ON 10/09/2007 ON
PREPARATION OF MASTER PLAN OF ROADS FOR NORTH
EASTERN REGION**

1. The list of participants who attended the meeting is enclosed.
2. Chairman initiated the deliberations and emphasized that Master Plan of Roads would not only be limited to making of plan for development of roads alone, it must integrate all the modes of transport including airways, railways and inland waterways. The Master Plan will have to dovetail the East-West Corridor, proposed Asian Highway and the proposed multi-modal transport system which would link up to the sea port of Antwe and Chittagong in the future. He further emphasized that the waterways of Brahmaputra and Barak need to be developed and integrated into the road network for efficient transportation of goods and passengers from the mainland to the North Eastern Region and to the adjoining countries. He also brought out that while efforts should be made to acquire land for future widening of roads to four/six lanes, at least land for four laning of roads must be demarcated now. The 'Look East Policy' for connecting the countries on the east side of India in order to enhance the trade must be taken into account while making the Master Plan. The Special Economic Zone industrial towns likely to come up as per state future plans must also find a place in the overall integrated Master Plan.
3. Adviser (T&C) gave a brief background of the Master Plan Committee which was constituted by the order issued by the Ministry of DoNER on 29/03/2007 as follow-up of the summit on Road Programmes held on 8 – 9 February 2007 at Shillong. The Committee was constituted by the Ministry of DoNER under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, NEC for preparation of Master Plan of North Eastern Region and for suggesting measures to enhance capacity building of construction agencies in the North Eastern Region. In its last meeting held on 8th May 2007, the Committee decided to hire Consultants for formulating the Master Plan and suggesting the measures to enhance the capacity of construction agencies. Expression of interest for preparation of Master Plan were invited in leading dailies on 15th July 2007 with last date of receipt as 14th August 2007. Eighteen applications had been received till the last date, out of which sixteen have been found suitable for issue of bid document. The draft bid document prepared at NEC had been got vetted by the Central Govt. Standing Counsel. A copy of the bid document had been circulated to the States on 29th July 2007 for their comments and suggestion for improvements. No comments from the States have been received so far except very brief suggestions from the PWD, Mizoram. Adviser (T&C) gave a broad details of the terms of reference incorporated in the bid document and requested the participants to give their comments, if any.
4. Shri Tomi Ete, Chief Engineer, Arunachal Pradesh PWD brought out the copies of the draft bid document were probably sent to the Chief Secretary and hence not percolated to them till recently. Therefore, they have not been able to give their comments. However, he has suggested the following amendments to be incorporated in the Terms of Reference.
 - (a) A Report of the Task Force on Connectivity and Promotion of Trade and Investment in the North Eastern Region has been made by the Planning

Commission. The Consultant should incorporate the recommendation of the report in the Consultancy Report.

- (b) Asian Development Bank is planning to take up quite a few projects in the North Eastern Region. All such projects should be made part of the Master Plan.
- (c) A report is being made by the RITES on connectivity in some of the States that should also be incorporated by the Consultant.

5. The suggestions given by the Chief Engineer, Arunachal Pradesh were accepted by the Committee and it was decided that all these will be incorporated in the bid documents suitably. He has also brought out that there are few syntax and grammatical errors in the bid documents. He will take about 10 days for thorough checking of the document. He would come back to NEC with his suggestions/corrections.

6. Shri Mumtaj Uddin Ahmed, Chief Engineer, Assam PWD brought out some specific projects to be done by Railways.

7. Shri Mohan Gorong, the representative Sikkim brought out that the National Highway 31 which connects the capital of Sikkim with the mainland is highly vulnerable to landslides. He intimated that a PM's package for development of the road has already been announced. However, no work has been done this road so far. He was advised that a case may be made out by the State PWD so that the matter may be taken up with the Ministry of Surface Transport & Highways for taking up the work under PM's package.

8. Shri Khupi Natso, the representative Nagaland stated that a road was proposed in the foothills of Assam Arunachal Pradesh and Assam. However, the project is yet to be completed. It was brought out by the Superintending Engineer (T&C) that foothill road was sanctioned in the 6th Plan period. A part of the alignment passes through Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and through the disputed territory. Therefore, the project could not be completed.

9. Shri Sukamal Bhattacharya, the representative Tripura brought out that the only lifeline to Tripura National Highway 44. This road is vulnerable to frequent closure due to landslides and monsoon. Therefore, there is a need to have better air connectivity. Efforts should be made to connect sea ports like Chittagong. Secretary, NEC desired that the Consultant should be asked to workout the roadways, railways, airways and waterways plan between Bangladesh and India. The representative from Tripura also suggested that the Consultant should be asked to make separate teams for different States and compile the report thereafter. It was agreed that this should be incorporated in the bid document.

10. Shri R. Bhattacharjee, Chief Engineer, Meghalaya PWD brought out that inter-district corridor in the State should be given priority.

11. Shri M.U.M. Vara Prasada Rao, the representative Railways gave a status of the works undertaken by them in the North Eastern Region. He intimated that Badarur-Kumarghat-Agartala line is targeted to be completed by April 2008. DPR for railway line from Agartala to Sabroom has been prepared. However, the work is yet to be sanctioned due to negative rate of return of the proposal. Superintending Engineer (T&C) brought out

that a number of surveys have been conducted earlier by the Railways out of funds provided by NEC for development of rail projects. Secretary, NEC therefore, desired that the Consultant must be asked to look into the surveys already been conducted by the Railways and incorporate those in the Master Plan.

12. The issue of construction of roads through BOT (TOLL) and BOT (ANNUITY) was discussed. The Chief Engineer, Assam informed that several efforts have been made by the PWD to get projects done through BOT. However, they have not received adequate response. It was also brought out that MORTH has also attempted to execute the stretch from Jorabat to Barapani (62 km. length) through BOT approach. However, they have not received any response for such projects is longer stretches being offered. It would be appropriate to identify high density corridors of smaller lengths. Such smaller stretches should be attempted under BOT (TOLL) or PPP mode, since these would be financially more viable than the longer ones. The State Governments must identify such stretches and try this approach.

13. Chief Engineer, Arunachal Pradesh PWD stated that all the States must be invited to review the draft report to be submitted by the Consultant and their views must be taken into account before finalization of the report. This was agreed to for incorporation in the bid document. He also expressed the view that the timeframe for preparation of Master Plan is too small. After deliberation, it was decided that a time of one year should be given to the Consultant for preparation of the Master Plan.

14. The representative of States and Central Organizations were requested to provide all possible information to the Consultant in order to complete the work at the earliest. The requirements of the State Governments must be projects to the Consultants when they interact with them.

The meeting ended with Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE MEETING FOR PREPARATION
OF MASTER PLAN OF ROADS FOR NORTH EASTERN REGION**

| NEC OFFICIAL | STATE/OTHER OFFICIALS |
|---|--|
| 1. Shri Palguni Raj Kumar Secretary, NEC | 1. Shri Tomi Ete, Chief Engineer, Arunachal Pradesh, PWD |
| 2. Shri H. Vanlalhluta, Financial Adviser, NEC | 2. Shri Mumtaz Uddin Ahmed, Chief Engineer (NEC Works) Assam, PWD |
| 3. Shri M.S. Sodhi, Adviser (T&C), NEC | 3. Shri R. Bhattacharjee, Chief Engineer, PWD Meghalaya |
| 4. Shri P.K. Deb, Superintending Engineer (T&C) NEC | 4. Kuldeep Kumar Razdan, Director (Works), HQ Chief Engineer Project Setuk |
| 5. Shri K. Haridoss, Executive Engineer (T&C), NEC | 5. Shri M.U.M Vara Prasada Rao, Add. General Manager, N.F. Railway, Guwahati |
| 6. Shri M. Kalita, Executive Engineer (T&C), NEC | 6. Shri Khupi Natso, Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B), Office of the Chief Engineer, Nagaland |
| | 7. Shri Sukamal Bhattacharya, Superintending Engineer, Planning Circle, PWD (R&B), Tripura |
| | 8. Shri Mohan Gorong, Divisional Engineer, Sikkim, PWD |