

Minutes of meeting held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Raghav Langer, IAS, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu on 03.07.2021 at 04.30 pm to review progress of work on NH-44/ NH-244 & other adjoining SH/MDR category roads and Road Safety measures adopted to prevent accidents.

Present:-

1. Sh. Pardeep Kumar, Transport Commissioner
2. Sh. Ashok Kumar, CE (PWD) Jammu
3. Col. Ajit Varughese, Dir. (Plg) CE(P) Sampark
4. Sh. Paramvir Singh, Addl. Secy.
5. Sh. Dhananter Singh, RTO Jammu
6. Sh. Sudesh Gupta, GM JKRTC
7. Dr Seema Gupta, Deputy Director. Health
8. Sh. Avinash Prasad, 2 IC, 13 BRTF
9. Sh. Purshotam Kumar, PD, NHAI, PIU, Ramban
10. Sh. John Vali Shaik, DGM, NHIDCL
11. Sh. Zeeshan Firdous, NHIDCL
12. Sh. Sharad Kumar Singh, Manager, NHAI

Through Video Conference:-

1. Dy. Commissioner, Udhampur/ Ramban/ Doda/ Kishtwar.
2. DIG Udhampur Reasi Range.
3. Chief Engineer, Border Roads Organization.
4. SSP Udhampur/ Doda/ Ramban/ Kishtwar.
5. SSP Traffic, NHW, Ramban.

At the outset, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu expressed his concern over condition of roads, safety of passengers and loss of precious human lives in recent road accidents on NH-44 due to various reasons. He pointed out various stretches of NH-44 which are in bad shape having accident prone areas and posing serious threat to the lives of passengers travelling on these roads. He directed concerned Deputy Commissioners, Officers/ representatives of NHAI, PWD, Transport, BRO, Health, NHIDCL, Police/Traffic Police to raise their issues/ comments and suggest actionable points concerning road safety so that remedial measures can be taken well in time to provide safety & good riding quality to the commuters so as to save precious lives being lost in road accidents. The point-wise agenda items were discussed and decisions taken during the meeting are as under:

S. No	Issues raised	Action by
1.	Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur said that there are abrupt openings on various points and four accident prone points viz Sangroor Chowk, Gol Mela, Khoon Nallah Chanunta link	Project Director, NHAI, PIU Ramban

	& Prem Sweet Shop Chowk near DPS School which are vulnerable and require immediate action.	
2.	Four laning at Sky view Patnitop is badly required to make it safe for commuters. Besides installation of Signages at various spots are immediately required.	DC Udhampur CEO PDA/ Transport Commissioner/ CE PW(R&B)
3.	DIG Udhampur-Reasi Range pointed out that Manthal area is very prone to accidents due to excessive road openings and the issue needs to be addressed.	Project Director, NHAI, PIU Ramban
4.	Deputy Commissioner Udhampur pointed out that in Patnitop about 1000 vehicles are plying on road on week days and atleast 2000 vehicles on weekends, and as inputs reveal, most of these vehicles are of local tourists/ visitors rather than inhabitants of the area. As there is no place for parking, these vehicles are parked along road sides thereby causing traffic jamming.	DC Udhampur CEO PDA/ Transport Commissioner/T raffic Police
5.	<u>Traffic jamming at Patnitop</u> ; Divisional Commissioner asked Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur to implement a concrete traffic plan in consultation with Traffic Police and PDA so that jamming can be avoided especially during weekends.	DC Udhampur/ CEO PDA/ SSP Udhampur/SSP Traffic.
6.	It was also informed by DC Udhampur that no agency is ready to own a road stretch of about 500 mtrs that connects Gol-mela and highway which is badly aligned and vulnerable, and if addressed can reduce risk of accidents at that point. Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) was asked to have a joint survey of the road and explore options to address the issue to which CE agreed.	Chief Engineer, PW(R&B)/NHAI
7.	Regarding traffic jam at Samroli, Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur said that the place has always been a bottle neck. But there is a piece of Private land available near the jamming point whose owners are ready to provide the land, which she alongwith ADGP, Jammu have already visited and also talked to NHAI authorities if they could flatten that space so that vehicles could be parked in that space in case of traffic jamming. If that land is made available the problem of jamming can be sorted to some extent.	DC Udhampur/ NHAI/ Traffic Police
8.	Large Number of trucks remain parked on the sides of the whole road stretch; wherein drivers sleep under trucks and cook food on road sides which can lead to accidents. This problem can be sorted out only if some traffic bay is in place at some point, which provides accommodation and other basic facilities to the drivers. A large chunk of land is available at Garnai Lota, which can accommodate about 200-250 trucks, can be utilized for the purpose if NHAI could	Deputy Commissioner / NHAI

	construct some toilet facilities for drivers there.	
9.	DC informed that there is need of crash barriers at some places on Mantalai road, which if installed, will reduce risk of accidents, which was also endorsed by DIG Udhampur.	CE PW (R&B)
10.	SSP Udhampur also emphasised on stationing of Critical Care Ambulance in Chenani area where frequent accidents occur due to excessive openings and good mobility speed.	Director Health/ NHAI
11.	<u>Installation of Crash barriers at identified black spots;</u> Chief Engineer and Traffic Police shall identify the black spots and shall take immediate remedial measures like installation of Crash Barriers, Signages and construction of Parapets on Ram Nagar and Mansar roads.	DC Udhampur/ Chief Engineer PW(R&B)/Traffic Police
12.	Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur informed about presence of Ambulance at Tikri, Chenani but there is black spot from Jakhani to Chenani where ambulance is not stationed. Besides it was also informed that there is Trauma Centre in District Hospital where there are sufficient equipments but are not used at their maximum due to shortage of medical staff. Strengthening of Trauma Centre and PHCs on National Highway from Udhampur to Banihal is urgently required.	Director Health Services Jammu / NHAI
13.	Project Director, NHAI informed that on road stretch from Udhampur to Chenani, one ambulance of NHAI is available at Nashri Tunnel which caters to the staff at Nashri Tunnel and adjoining areas, <u>however, both the Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur and Ramban remarked in the meeting that this ambulance being claimed by NHAI has not been seen most of the time in the designated stretch.</u> Divisional Commissioner accordingly directed that NHAI will ensure availability of Ambulances at designated places on Udhampur-Chenani & Nashri-Banihal road stretches.	PD, NHAI, Ramban.
14.	Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur requested for allotment of funds for installation of Signages at identified Black spots. Transport Commissioner J&K present in the meeting informed that 50 lac for each district has been approved out of Road Safety fund and file is lying with Finance Department. As soon as approval is accorded by the Finance Deptt. funds will be provided, which can be used for installation of signages or any road safety measures.	Transport Commissioner, J&K
15.	<u>Upgradation of Internal roads at patnitop:</u> Upgradation of 08 Kms of internal roads at Patnitop which are in dilapidated condition and have not been upgraded for last five years.	CE PW(R&B)/ CEO PDA
16.	Repairing of potholes in road stretch from Chenani to Patnitop .	PD, NHAI PIU Ramban

17.	Divisional Commissioner desired Deputy Commissioner Udhampur to talk to Floriculture and Horticulture Departments so that some plantation is done on sides of road approaching to Patnitop for beautification; and same can be done by Deputy Commissioner, Ramban on his side of road stretch. PD, NHAI said in the meeting that plantation will be done after completion of work; however they can provide funds to DCs for the purpose if they undertake the plantation work.	DC Udhampur/ Ramban/ PD, NHAI Ramban
18.	Speaking on the condition of road stretch from Nashri to Ramban, Deputy Commissioner, Ramban informed that the most dangerous stretch is from Kunfer to Chanderkot (Km 150 to Km 180). There are about 10-12 black spots on this stretch. Also, at least 03 Major accidents have occurred in past one month on Ramban-Banihal stretch of Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) that has left 14 people dead and at least 08 others injured. Accordingly, there is requirement of immediate installation of Crash Barriers, Signages & other rectification measures.	PD NHAI Ramban
19.	30 Km road stretch from Seri to Banihal has been recently blacktopped which has given drivers, especially of passenger vehicles, a false sense of adventure, resulting in rash driving and over speeding leading to head on collisions and vehicles rolling down. Divisional Commissioner directed NHAI to install crash barriers, parapets and signages simultaneously.	PD NHAI Ramban
20.	Deputy Commissioner, Ramban projected the requirement for reinforcement of at least 100 traffic police personnel who shall be deployed at critical / black spots identified by MoRTH between Nashri to Banihal section of NH-44.	SSP Traffic NHW Ramban
21.	Deputy Commissioner and SSP Ramban reiterated the requirement for immediate installation of crash barriers/ parapets by NHAI at critical spots so that vehicles are prevented from rolling down which shall go a long way in saving precious lives. Warning Signages at Sharp turns will also help in prevention of accidents/ mishaps.	PD NHAI Ramban
22.	SSP Ramban projected the requirement for surface improvement at some spots where earth cutting/ excavation is currently on. Narrow road portions lead to traffic jamming and abrupt restoration of traffic leads to road rage/ over speeding that may lead to accidents.	PD, NHAI/ Traffic Police
23.	Night reflectors on NH-44 will also go a long way in regulating speed of vehicles travelling on the road. SSP Traffic, NHW Ramban also emphasised on installation of signages and reflectors for convenience of drivers during	PD, NHAI/ Traffic Police

	night time as most of heavy traffic ply during night hours.	
24.	SSP NHW Ramban said that checking of vehicles on NH-44 is required to ascertain whether Speed Limiting Devices have been installed or plug removed. This shall also create deterrence and prevent accidents.	Transport Commissioner/ RTO Jammu/ Traffic Police
25.	Project Director, NHAI informed that the work of construction of parapets, where installation of crash barriers is not possible, is being done. Divisional Commissioner directed PD, NHAI to get the works expedited and the white lining/ painting done on road sides till installation of crash barriers, reflectors and parapets which could be quite helpful to the drivers during night time.	DC Ramban/ PD, NHAI/ Traffic Police
26.	The Divisional Commissioner directed for immediate identification & rectification of accident prone / vulnerable road stretches and black spots on Batote-Doda-Kishtwar-Padder road, by the executing agencies. The executing agencies shall conduct a joint survey and shall identify the accident prone/ vulnerable sites and take preventive measures like installation of crash barriers, Signages and construction of parapets and enforcement of MV Act/ Rules and Regulations.	DC Doda/ Kishtwar/ Transport Commissioner/ RTO Jammu/SSP Traffic/ PWD (R&B)/ NHIDCL/ PMGSY/ BRO.
27.	It was discussed in the meeting to install Crash barriers on road from Thathri to Gundoo Road parts of which falls in Tehsil Drabshalla of District Kishtwar.	DC Doda/ CE, PW(R&B)
28.	It was discussed for immediate maintenance of Pul Doda-Bhaderwah Road which is in bad shape.	DC Doda/ CE, BRO
29.	The Divisional Commissioner directed for removal of encroachment by the concerned executing agencies from the road under their Division / Area of responsibility.	DC concerned/ PWD (R&B)/ NHIDCL/ PMGSY/ BRO.
30.	Discussion was held regarding the installation of Crash barriers on Kishtwar to Galhar Sansari road ahead of Paddar.	DC Kishtwar/ CE, PW(R&B)
31.	Need for Crash barriers on NH-244 at the remaining identified places (Black spots).	CE, PW(R&B)
32.	The Divisional Commissioner directed that all the Executing agencies/ construction companies who have been executing the widening/ up gradation work of National Highway shall follow all SOPs / Protocol, safety norms for free movement of traffic during the construction work.	PWD (R&B)/ NHIDCL/ PMGSY/ BRO.
33.	<u>Enforcement of MV Act/Rules & regulations:</u> Divisional Commissioner said that besides other factors responsible for mishaps/ fatalities, lack of enforcement of traffic rules cannot be ruled out. This issue needs to be looked into whether sufficient traffic rules & regulations enforcement is	Action by: Deputy Commissioner & SSPs concerned/ Transport

	<p>being done. Enforcement on the ground has to be ensured collectively by Deputy Commissioners with the help of Traffic Police & Transport Department. Joint checking teams comprising of SDMs, ARTOs, Police/Traffic Police Officers should be constituted in order to enhance enforcement of traffic rules & regulation as per guidelines of MV Act, to avoid overloading, over speeding, ensure fitness of vehicle etc. A proforma may be devised for reporting of enforcement on weekly/ fortnightly basis to the office of Divisional Commissioner, depicting imposition of fine, compounding, seizure of vehicle etc.</p>	<p>Commissioner/S SP Traffic NHW</p>
<p>34.</p>	<p><u>Sharing of data regarding overloading of vehicles:</u> Transport Commissioner informed that they have no vehicle weighing mechanism on the National Highway due to which it is not possible for the MV Department to identify the overloading to impose fine on the violators. He said that matter was taken up with NHAI many times to share real time data of overloaded vehicles, which cross from weigh bridge at Ban Toll Plaza, but no positive reply received from the agency. It was decided that NHAI will share the requisite data regarding overloading by freight carriers on daily basis with Transport Commissioner, J&K so that proper enforcement of Rules & Regulations of MV Act is ensured.</p>	<p>Action by: PD, NHAI concerned</p>

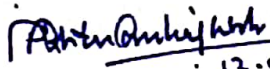
The meeting ended with a vote of thanks with directions to all concerned to ensure compliance of the issues highlighted in the meeting pertaining to their department/ jurisdiction.

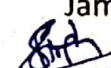
Sd/-
Divisional Commissioner
Jammu

No: 402/46-Road Safety/ 1014-41
Dated:- 13.07.2021

Copy for information and necessary action to:-

1. Pr. Secretary (R&B, Government of UT of J&K for kind inf.
2. ADGP, Jammu Zone for information.
3. ADGP, Traffic, J&K for information.
4. Deputy Commissioner, Udhampur, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar
5. DIG, Udhampur Reasi Range, Udhampur.
6. DIG, Doda-Ramban-Kishtwar Range, Batote.
7. Transport Commissioner, J&K.
8. Director, Health Services, Jammu.


13.07.2021
Additional Commissioner,
Jammu


13.07.21

9. Addl. Secretary to the Chief Secretary, J&K for favour of information of worthy Chief Secretary.
10. Addl. Secretary to the Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K for kind information of Principal Secretary.
11. Chief Engineer, PW(R&B).
12. Chief Engineer, BRO SAMPARK & BEACON Projects.
13. SSP Udhampur, Ramban, Doda, Kishtwar.
14. SSP Traffic, NHW Ramban.
15. RTO Jammu.
16. CEO, Patnitop Development Authority, Udhampur
17. DGM NHIDCL, Jammu.
18. General Manager, JKRTC.
19. PD, NHAI, Jammu/ Ramban.
20. I/C Website for necessary action.

Rhetols

