

Land Acquisition for Kochi Metro Rail Project (KMRP) – Vytilla (Kunnara Park)
to Petta stretch- Report of the District Level Expert Committee

1. The District Level Expert Committee as envisaged under Section 7 (1) of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, for the Land acquisition for the Vytilla - Petta stretch was constituted by the District Collector Ernakulam vide proceedings No. C12/1411/16 dated 28.01.2017.
2. The Social Impact Assessment Report (SIA Report) along with the Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) for the above stretch of land under acquisition for the Kochi Metro Rail Project (KMRP) was prepared and submitted by the SIA unit, Rajagiri Outreach, on 14.02.2017.
3. Subsequently, the SIA unit conducted a presentation on the SIA report and the SIMP to the members of the expert committee on 18.02.2017.
4. The expert committee then met on 20.02.2017 to analyse the report and to submit its recommendations. After analysing the report the **expert committee have unanimously decided to approve the project as the project is for a genuine public purpose and the potential benefits accruing from the project far outweighs the social costs involved.** The committee then entrusted the Chairman of the Expert Committee to submit a report to the District Collector in the light of the discussions held by the committee. Copy of the minutes of the Expert Committee meeting is attached.
5. The committee while approving the project also decided to place on record the following recommendations for the consideration of the appropriate Government, in this case, the District Collector, Ernakulam:
 - i. Based on the feedback received through the SIA study, it is recommended that the land acquisition process should be expedited and appropriate

compensation in tune with the existing market value should be provided to the land owners.

- ii. While providing RR package, preferences may be given to displaced families, Women Headed Households, Dependent widows, Person with Disability by speedy disbursement of compensation.
- iii. The Champakkara market is at the epicentre of the livelihood of many a families in its vicinity. Efforts should be made to ensure that the functioning of the market is not affected once the construction of the new Champakkara bridge is started. Also, modernization of the Champakkara market should be given priority.
- iv. Based on the existing alignment, buildings of three title holders should be partly demolished. The committee is of the view that this can be avoided through a slight readjustment of the existing alignment which may be considered.
- v. To ease the traffic congestion in the Champakkara market region, especially during the construction activity, members of the committee have suggested that the possibility of constructing an approach road along the eastern water side of the Champakkara canal connecting the PWD road should be examined.
- vi. The requisition authority should initiate urgent action to restore and beautify the Kunnara Park which was lost due to the construction of the metro rail. Now that the construction work is over, the area should be developed into a theme based park and garden with a walkway along the water front.
- vii. As per the existing plan, road widening is being implemented only from Kunnara Park to Petta Junction. The stretch from Vytilla junction to Kunnara Park is not included for road widening. The committee strongly feels that road widening excluding Vytilla to Kunnara Park stretch will lead to a bottle neck type scenario leading to heavy traffic congestion at Vytilla. It is therefore recommended that utmost priority should be given for the widening of the stretch from Vytilla to Kunnara Park and the project should be completed at the earliest.

viii. As per the SIA report, around 15 big trees in the project area need to be cut for implementing the project. To compensate for the loss of green cover, the committee recommends that the requisition authority should plant suitable trees along the two sides of the roads and along the median to increase the green cover in the area.

ix. The committee also recommends that the work of the drainage system along the project stretch should be completed before the rainy season to prevent water logging in the area.

The committee is pleased to submit this report before the District Collector, Eranakulam for approval and necessary action.



Chairman
Expert Committee

Eranakulam
25.02.2017