

NH-12037/141/2025/TUNNEL/ZONE-I
Government of India
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
 (Tunnel Zone)

No.1, Parliament Street, Transport Bhawan, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 11th August, 2025

To:

1. The Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments/UTs
2. The Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries of all States/ UTs Public Works Department/ Road Construction Department/ Highways Department (dealing with National Highways and other centrally sponsored schemes)
3. The Director General (Border Roads), Seema Sadak Bhawan, Ring Road, New Delhi- 110 010.
4. The Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, G-5 & 6, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110 075.
5. The Managing Director, National Highway infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., 2nd Floor, Tower A, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi - 110029
6. All Engineers-in-Chief and Chief Engineers of Public Works Department of States/ UTs/Road Construction Department/ Highways Departments (dealing with National Highways and other Centrally Sponsored Schemes).
7. The Secretary General, Indian Roads Congress
8. The Director, IAHE, Noida, UP

Subject: Constitution of a Joint Working Group for Feasibility Assessment of Rail-and-Road Tunnel Projects at Alignment-Finalization/DPR Stage.

Sir,

Constructing combined rail-and-road tunnels as shared infrastructure can significantly optimize investment, reduce environmental impact, and enhance connectivity. By harmonizing planning, design, construction, and operational strategies for both transport modes within a shared corridor, the Government can reduce land acquisition costs, streamline construction timelines, and avoid redundant excavation efforts. This approach also allows for better utilization of underground space, especially in densely populated or geographically constrained areas.

2. In order to promote integrated planning and cost-effective implementation of tunnel projects with overlapping or adjacent road and rail alignments, a Joint Working Group (JWG) comprising officials from MoRTH, Ministry of Railways and the Concerned Executing Agency has

been constituted vide Ministry's Office Order of even number dated 31.07.2025 (Copy enclosed).

3. The recommendations of the Joint Working Group shall be applicable to all tunnel projects for which the alignments are yet to be approved by the Competent Authority.

4. Accordingly, henceforth, the Recommendation Report of the Joint Working Group, as stipulated in the Office Order dated 31.07.2025, shall be invariably submitted by the concerned Executing Agency alongside the Alignment Report for due consideration by the Competent Authority.

5. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours Sincerely,

Encl: As above


11/08/25

(Bharat Kumar Sharma)

Assistant Executing Engineer

For Director General (Road Development) & Special Secretary

E-mail: tunnelzonemorth@gmail.com

Copy to:

1. All CEs in the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
2. All ROs of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
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1. Chairman Railway Board & Chief Executive Officer(CEO), Ministry of Railways, New Delhi

Copy also for information to:

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5. Sr. PPS/PPS to ADGs/AS&FA/AS(NHIDCL Cell)/AS(Highways)

NH-12037/141/2025/TUNNEL/ZONE-I
Government of India
Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
(Tunnel Zone)
Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 31st July, 2025

OFFICE ORDER

Subject: Constitution of a Joint Working Group for Feasibility Assessment of Rail-and-Road Tunnel Projects at Alignment-Finalization/DPR Stage-reg.

In order to promote integrated planning and cost-effective implementation of tunnel projects with overlapping or adjacent road and rail alignments, a Joint Working Group (JWG) is hereby constituted at the project-initiation stage. The JWG will get through the integration aspect of the road and rail alignments with the view to construct both rail and road in common ROW. It will also explore the technical and economic feasibility of constructing combined rail-and-road tunnels, including reciprocal evacuation arrangements, wherever practicable.

2. Composition of the Joint Working Group (JWG)

The composition of the JWG shall comprise following officers:

- (i) A Chief Engineer-level representative nominated by Indian Railways.
- (ii) A Regional Officer from MoRTH / NHAI / NHIDCL.

(If the highway project falls under BRO jurisdiction, the Chief Engineer, BRO, will also be part of JWG as special invitee.)

- (iii) The concerned Divisional Engineer, Indian Railways.
- (iv) The concerned Project Director of NHAI / NHIDCL / Executive Engineer of BRO/State PWD

The Project Director or Divisional Engineer, depending on tunnel jurisdiction, will serve as Member-Secretary of the JWG.

3. Scope and Terms of Reference

The JWG shall be responsible for the following tasks:

3.1 Coordination Mechanism

- (i) For primarily road (NH) projects involving tunnel construction, the road authority shall lead coordination with Indian Railways.

- (ii) For primarily rail projects with tunnel construction, Indian Railways shall lead coordination with concerned RO of MoRTH/NHAI/NHIDCL/BRO.
- (iii) The coordination shall define the scope of each Detailed Project Report (DPR), including:
 - a) Railway requirements within MoRTH tunnel projects.
 - b) MoRTH requirements within Railway tunnel projects.
 - c) Opportunities for an integrated Rail-cum-Road tunnel configuration.

3.2 Technical and Financial Assessment

The JWG shall carry out a comparative analysis of standalone versus combined tunnel options, evaluating:

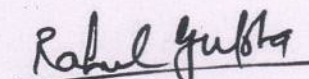
- a) Alignment integration of rail and road within a common ROW
- b) Construction and lifecycle (maintenance) costs
- c) Technical feasibility (tunnel length, alignment, gradient)
- d) Operational safety, access and evacuation requirements
- e) Ancillary tunnel facilities (e.g., shared escape/evacuation passages)

3.3 Recommendation Report: - The JWG will submit a recommendation to MoRTH and Railways Headquarter with following details:

- (i) Recommendation on pursuing an integrated Rail-and-Road tunnel or reciprocal evacuation scheme.
 - **If feasible:** joint proposal framework, cost-sharing arrangements and implementation roadmap.
 - **If not feasible:** detailed techno-economic justification and identified constraints for each mode.

4. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.


(Rajesh Kumar Garg)
Executive Director /Gatishakti-Civil-I
Railway Board


(Rahul Gupta)
Chief Engineer (Tunnel)
MoRTH

To:

1. The Director General (Border Roads), Seema Sadak Bhawan, Ring Road, New Delhi-110010.
2. The Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, G-5 & 6, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110075.
3. The Managing Director, National Highway infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., 2nd Floor, Tower A, World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi - 110029
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4. Member(Infrastructure), Ministry of Railways, New Delhi
5. General Managers, All Indian Railways.
6. Chief Administrative Officer/Construction, All Indian Railways.
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