

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

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Dated: 31<sup>st</sup> 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:

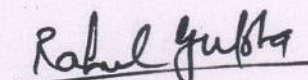
- a) Alignment integration of rail and road within a common ROW
- b) Construction and lifecycle (maintenance) costs
- c) Technical feasibility (tunnel length, alignment, gradient)
- d) Operational safety, access and evacuation requirements
- e) Ancillary tunnel facilities (e.g., shared escape/evacuation 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
4. 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)
5. The Secretary General, Indian Roads Congress
6. The Director, IAHE, Noida, UP

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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. Chairman Railway Board & Chief Executive Officer(CEO), Ministry of Railways, New Delhi
4. Member(Infrastructure), Ministry of Railways, New Delhi
5. General Managers, All Indian Railways.
6. Chief Administrative Officer/Construction, All Indian Railways.
7. All CEs in the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
8. All ROs of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
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