

Minutes of the Review Meeting

Subject: Repair of Gammon Bridge, Alternative Traffic Diversion, and Buffer Stock Maintenance

Date: 27.04.2025

Time: 11:00 AM

Venue: New Conference Hall, Office of the District Commissioner, Cachar, Silchar

Chairperson: Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam

Participants: As per the enclosed list

Agenda

1. Review of the condition of Gammon Bridge and necessary repair measures from 21st May 2025 to 20th July 2025, and issuance of closure notice by NHIDCL.
2. Identification and arrangement of alternative routes for traffic diversion.
3. Maintenance of adequate buffer stock of essential commodities, POL (Petroleum, Oil, and Lubricants), LPG, and food grains under FCI in case of communication disruptions and also due to floods/landslides in the upcoming monsoon.

Discussions and Decisions:

1. **Closure of Gammon Bridge at Badarpurghat on NH-6:**
 - NHIDCL will take up repair of the Gammon Bridge from 21st May, 2025. The repair is likely to take 60 days. NHIDCL will issue statutory notification for closure of the bridge for the time of repair **(Action NHIDCL)**
 - Traffic, particularly from Meghalaya, will be diverted from Kalain Junction via the State Highway to Silchar and then to NH-37. NHIDCL's contractors will carry out maintenance activities for making the State Highway in roadworthy condition till Gammon Bridge is open for traffic. This work will be done under joint supervision of NHIDCL and State PWD. **(Action: NHIDCL & PWRD – Katigorah & Borkhola Roads Division, Silchar & Udharbond Road Division)**
2. **Sinking Zone and Service Road Strengthening:**
 - Ongoing PWRD works at the Sibbari sinking zone will be paused for 60 days. **(Action: PWRD)**
 - NHIDCL and State PWD will jointly finalize technical specifications for temporary strengthening of the service road. NHIDCL's contractor will take up this work under joint supervision of NHIDCL and State PWD **(Action: NHIDCL & State PWD)**
 - District police will make necessary arrangements for regulating night-time traffic for diverted heavy vehicles from Kalain. A dedicated team under a senior police officer may be setup in this regard. **(Action: SP Cachar)**
 - A dedicated team of technical officials for the supervision of the work, would be constituted by State Government. **(Action: State PWRD)**

- **Restoration of Minor Bridge and Approach Roads:** PWD Roads (Katigorah & Borkhola Division) will complete all final works, including approach road restoration, on Silchar–Kalain Road by 20th May 2025. **(Action: State PWRD)**

3. Alternative Traffic Management:

- NH-27 will be used for diverted NH-6 traffic from Jorabat through Haflong to Silchar. NHAI will ensure that the 3.5 km problematic stretch near Haflong does not become a bottleneck. **(Action: NHAI)**
- The Transport Department proposed alternative routes for passenger buses and intra-Barak Valley movement. State PWRD will execute immediate patchwork. **(Action: PWRD)**
- Traffic diversion notifications for Silchar city will be issued jointly by the District Administration and Traffic Police by 30th April 2025. **(Action: DC and SP)**
- State Government of Assam to issue overall traffic diversion notification. NHAI and NHIDCL will take steps to provide for diversion of the traffic on their respective highways, as per approved plan, including signage at key locations such as Jorabat. **(Action: NHAI & NHIDCL)**
- In case NH-27 cannot handle traffic due to the 3.5 km bad stretch, traders will be encouraged to use railway rakes from Guwahati. **(Action: Trader Associations and DCs)**
- NF Railways will arrange additional full and half rakes for quick movement of essential commodities. **(Action: NF Railway)**

4. Buffer Stock of Essential Commodities:

- DCs of Barak Valley will assess stock levels and coordinate with NF Railway (Badarpur) for special rakes. **(Action: All DCs)**
- The Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Department will ensure buffer stock, especially of rice, pulses, and edible oil. **(Action: DCs concerned)**
- FCI confirmed adequate food grain stock but was directed to increase it by 25%. **(Action: FCI)**
- IOCL currently holds 7–12 days' stock of POL. They, along with LPG suppliers, must maintain a 21-day minimum stock. **(Action: IOCL, HPCL, and LPG suppliers)**
- Coordination with merchant and transport associations to ensure uninterrupted supplies. **(Action: DCs and Associations)**
- Merchant Associations suggested MNC godowns (e.g., Emami, Patanjali) stock up in anticipation of long-term disruptions. DCs shall direct the concerned agencies after obtaining the list from the Merchant Associations and coordinate with Railways. Goods may be moved by rail. NF Railway agreed to provide support. **(Action: DC & Area Manager, NF Railway)**
- Major goods terminals: Bhanga, Salchapra, and Lalabazar; minor terminals: Sribar and Mainarband.
 - **Salchapra:** One line newly commissioned in May 2024. Approach road on railway land to be completed by 31st May 2025. **(Action: NF Railway)**
 - **Bhanga:** In poor condition. Railway Board sanctioned 10 crore for its development. Feasibility study underway for a new approach road via LC Gate LK7. **(Action: NF Railway)**

- **PWD will repair the existing road** connecting Bhanga rail siding with NH on a priority basis.
(Action: PWRD)
- **Lalabazar:** In good condition and open for parcel traffic. Bhanga currently not open for parcel traffic.
(Action: NF Railway)
- Associations unanimously supported the bridge repair, requesting only timely completion.
(Action: NHIDCL)
- **Ferry services** at Badarpur Ghat may be restored to aid pedestrian movement across the river during bridge closure. **(Action: IWT and DC concerned)**

5. Coordination with Neighboring States:

MoRTH and its agencies will inform Manipur, Mizoram, and Tripura governments about the bridge closure and traffic/commodity movement plans.
(Action: NHAI and NHIDCL)

6. Priority Action Points:

Sl. No.	Action	Responsibility	Timeline
A	Issue statutory notification for closure of the gammon bridge	NHIDCL	Immediate
B	Issuance of Traffic Diversion Plan	State Government	Immediate
C	Improve State Highway for heavy traffic	NHIDCL and PWRD	By 20th May 2025
D	Pause PWRD work at sinking zone; to maintain sinking zone as per requirements.	NHIDCL	21 May – 20 July 2025
E	Complete minor bridge & approach road works	PWRD	By 20th May 2025
F	Assess and manage NH-27 Traffic Load	NHAI	Immediate
G	Traffic Diversion Plan for Tripura bound vehicles	State Government	Immediate
H	Assess essential commodity stock and plan railway rakes	DCs & NF Railway	Immediate
I	Notify Manipur, Mizoram & Tripura State Governments	MoRTH & Home Dept. Assam	Immediate
J	Manage night heavy traffic in Silchar	DC Cachar & SP Cachar	From 21st May 2025

7. Miscellaneous Issues:

- Traders across Barak Valley confirmed having 45 days' stock of essentials.
- Wheat bran is available enough to meet rainy season requirements for cattle-feed in the region as they have enough mills while rice bran is the challenge. DCs will coordinate this to ensure there is enough cattle feed.
- Silchar Food Grains Merchant Association requested that vehicles carrying essentials be allowed on NH-27 even during blockades.

8. **Monitoring and Coordination:**

- DCs of Barak Valley will coordinate with NHIDCL and NHA for regular progress updates.
- Executive Engineers of PWD Roads will conduct weekly site visits.
- DC Cachar may constitute a Monitoring Committee under ADC to review weekly progress and report to the Chief Secretary.

The **Chief Secretary** emphasized that these minutes be treated as SOP for all concerned and proactive planning and coordination among all departments and stakeholders to prevent any disruption of essential services during the bridge closure.

The meeting concluded with a **vote of thanks** from the Chair.

Sd/-

(Dr. Ravi Kota, IAS)
Chief Secretary to the Govt. of
Assam.

Memo No: DDMA.803 (NHIDCL)/CHR/2024-25/127 - A

Dated: 27/04/2025

Copy to:

1. The Additional Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Home & Political Department, Assam Secretariat for information.
2. The Principal Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Chief Minister's Secretariat, Loksewa Bhawan, Dispur, Guwahati - 6 for information
3. The Principal Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Revenue & DM Department, Assam Secretariat, Dispur, Guwahati - 6 for information.
4. All Members Present.


District Commissioner,
Cachar, Silchar

