



## GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

### Abstract

Public Works Department – Recommendations of State Level Task Force on best practices on road construction - Orders issued.

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### PUBLIC WORKS (C) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(MS) No. 18/2011/PWD.

Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 01.3.2011

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Read :- G.O. (Rt) No. 307/2010/PWD dated 23.02.2010.

### ORDER

Various utility organisations like the Kerala Water Authority, Kerala State Electricity Board, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. and other private utility providers etc. often request permission from Public Works Department to cut open the roads for laying their water pipes, cables etc. In many cases, apart from the obstruction caused to traffic during the execution of work for laying the utilities, the dug locations remain as chronic trouble spots long after the works are completed. The digging agencies generally neglect to compact the loose earth while it is filled back into the trenches and as a result earth is left surplus in the form of mounds over the dug spots. This also causes various kinds of hindrances to traffic and accidents.

2. As per the G.O. read above Government constituted a Task Force to study on the best practices on road constructions in other States. The Task Force consisted of Additional Secretary, PWD, the Chief Engineer (Roads and Bridges), PWD, the Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority, the Chief Engineer KSEB, the General Manager BSNL and the General Manager Vodafone. The committee visited states and held discussions with the Secretary/Chief Engineer of PWD and various service providers in some states and submitted the report.

3. Govt. have examined the report in detail and are pleased to accept the recommendations of the Task Force and the conditions to be incorporated in the agreement with utility providers, as detailed in annexure I & II respectively. The Kerala Highway Protection Action 1999 and Kerala Building rules will be modified accordingly.

By Order of the Governor  
**Biswanath Sinha**  
SECRETARY

To

✓ The Chief Engineer, Roads & Bridges/National Highways  
The Project Director, KSTP/COO, KRFB/  
The Managing Director, Kerala Water Authority  
The Chairman, KSEB  
The Chief General Manager, BSNL  
The Secretary, Kerala Road Safety Authority  
Local Self Government Department (Vide U. O. No. 56133/ RD2/10/LSGD dated  
28.10.2010.)  
Transport Department  
General Administration (SC) Department (Vide item No. 6045)  
SF/OC.

Forwarded/By Order

  
Section Officer

## **Annexure I**

### **Recommendations of Task Force**

1. A High level committee chaired by the Chief Secretary with Principal Secretary (PWD) as convener and representatives of all utility providers, including KSEB, KWA, BSNL Chief Engineer (Roads and Bridges), Chief Engineer (National Highways) Director of Municipal Administration, Director of Panchayats and Chief Town Planner as members to plan the digging activities at state level for one year to oversee digging of roads. Present district level co-ordination committee headed by District Collectors will continue as such. Calendar of works/Road map for the next year to be approved by this committee.
2. In all new construction of roads, there shall be provision for separate utility corridors. Consortium of utility providers can meet a share of the cost. When land is acquired for new roads/widening of roads provision should be incorporated for utility ducts/corridor.
3. Transfer of developmental rights to be introduced in the State for widening of existing roads and for construction of new roads as is being done in other states.
4. Cross cutting of PWD roads shall not be permitted. Instead push through system should be resorted to.
5. An agreement should be executed by the utility providers incorporating the conditions specified in 10.3.1 to 10.3.12 of the report with suitable modifications.
6. To ensure quality restoration, the restoration works after digging are to be arranged by PWD in continuation of the project with

least disturbance to the public and transport at the expense of the utility provider. But the service provider shall be responsible for refilling the trenches, in a trafficable manner.

7. For the restoration works and damaged system due to digging, a single agency in each division, may be engaged, so as to attend minor patch works then and there. Contractors to be empanelled for the next 2-3 years to undertake petty repairs works. 5% excess amount to be granted based on availability of labour and rates of materials.
8. Debris to be removed from the site within 24 hours by the service provider, else, penalty clause of Rs. 500/- per day from the salary of Executive Officer/Nodal Officer should be realized. The maximum fine is Rs. 25,000/-.
9. Consortium of utility providers shall be formed headed by Executive Engineer, PWD Roads and thereby multiple cutting of roads can be avoided, through effective co-ordination.
10. For shifting of existing utilities in roads, the PWD should meet the expenditure.
11. Digging in carriageway not to be permitted, except in emergency situations with the concurrence of the high level committee.
12. Horizontal laying of cables through Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) system may be used, for laying cables/pipelines of smaller diameter on the edges of the roads in State Highways & National Highways.
13. All utility providers shall nominate a Nodal Officer for a particular stretch of work and his name & contact number shall be intimated to the Executive Engineer (R&B) of the Division. The

Nodal Officer will ensure that caution boards are displayed and that no accident took place.

14. PWD shall prepare a road map of all PWD roads in the state with the help of Kerala State Remote Sensing Agency/CESS to make development plans of roads taking into account the traffic flow on these roads.

15. Kerala has a ribbon development. Residential/ Commercial & Public buildings are built near or on the edges of roads, which hampers the development of roads in future. Hence a building line as given below will be enforced for new constructions. Necessary amendments to be made in the Kerala Building Rules.

Sl. No.	Category of roads	Building line (distance from center of road)
1	N.H. 17,47, 213	35 meters
2	N.H. 47A &C, 49,208,212,220	25.50 meters
3	State Highways	18 meters
4	MDR	10.5 meters

16. No road cutting shall be permitted during rainy seasons starting from May 25th to Aug 5th, and October 16th to November 15th in every year.

17. Compaction of earth before surface laying should be made compulsory and that the Assistant Engineer concerned will be personally held liable for restoration of the roads if digging is done violating the guidelines

## **Annexure II**

### **Conditions to be incorporated in the agreement with utility providers**

1. The portion of the road side land may be dug up for the purpose of constructing an access or carrying out repairs thereto and shall be restored to its original condition at the expense of the licensee.

2. The licensee shall provide acceleration bay/ deceleration bay in the approach, so that the traffic on the main road is not affected and the required drawing shall be submitted to the Executive Engineer, PWD (Roads Division) for approval.

3. The licensee shall ensure that the over all drainage system of the highway is not affected and due care shall be taken in this regard.

4. The licensee shall submit the ask-built drawings to the Executive Engineer, PWD (Roads Division) on completion of the work.

5. On completion of the said work, that part of the approach road which is lying within the limits of ROW together with culvert or drain thereon constructed shall become the absolute property of PWD subject to the rights of the licensee to use the same.

6. The licensee shall be responsible to ascertain from the respective agency in co-ordination with the Executive Engineer, PWD (Roads Division), regarding the location of other cables, under ground installations/utilities/ facilities etc.

7. The licensee shall ensure the safety and security of already existing cables/under ground installations/utilities/facilities etc before commencement of the work.

8. The licensee shall be solely responsible/liable for full compensation indemnification of concerned agency/aggrieved owners for any direct, indirect or consequential damage cost to them or claims or replacement sought for, at the cost and risk of the licensee. The concerned agency in co-ordination with PWD shall also have a right to make good such damages or recover the claims.

9. The licensee shall procure insurance from reputed insurance company against damages to already existing cables/under ground installations/utilities/facilities

etc during construction of the approach road including the culvert and drainage system.

10. The licensee shall not without prior permission in writing of the Executive Engineer undertake any work of repairs or alterations to the said access/approach and other civil work within the ROW.

11. The licensee shall be solely liable for any loss or injury which any person may sustain by reason of any defect or want of repairs in the said construction of the access to or as a result of any carelessness or negligence or misconduct of his or its employee while executing the work and the licensee shall indemnify and keep indemnified the Executive Engineer against all claims, demands and liabilities and expenses which PWD may be put to on account of any claim made in this behalf.

12. The licensee shall, at his own expense maintain access or approach in a proper condition of repairs and make good immediately any damage which might be caused to the surface of the road/road side land or to other Government property through leakage, improper drainage or any other cost whatsoever to the entire satisfaction of the PWD.

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