Government of India
National Monuments Authority
Ministry of Culture

24, Tilak Marg,
New Delhi -110001

MINUTES OF 354TH (SPECIAL) MEETING OF NMA

Venue - Conference Hall, NMA Hqs, 24, Tilak Marg, New Delhi -110001

Time & Date – 7.00 PM on 17th July, 2022

A special meeting was convened under the provisions of Rule 11 of NMA Rules, 2011 to discuss the online NOC application of Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (UPMRCL) for the elevated Agra Metro Rail Corridor between ISBT & Sikandara (approximately 3.00 KM), duly forwarded by Competent Authority, Agra and the letter dated 13.07.2022 of Managing Director (UPMRCL) on the subject. The meeting was attended by the following:

1. Shri Hemraj R. Kamdar, PTM, NMA
2. Prof. (Dr.) M. Kailasa Rao, PTM, NMA
3. Shri Bhaskar Verma, Member Secretary, NMA

2. At the outset the Authority noted that this proposed alignment of Agra Metro Rail Project consists of elevated viaduct and metro stations running close to the Centrally Protected Monuments (CPMs) namely Guru Ka Taal, Patthar Ka Ghoda, Tomb of Salabat Khan, Tomb of Sadiq Khan and Sikandara. The Authority considered the Heritage Impact Assessment (HIA) report by an interdisciplinary team of experts and noted that the HIA report has brought out that there is no impact of soil settlement and vibrations due to construction work near CPMs in question clearly stating that the proposed alignment of the Agra Metro Corridor does not pose any threat to the protected structures. The Authority took cognizance of the recommendation of the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) dated 10.02.2020 (Report no. 12 of 2020) that it may be advantageous to consider permitting the Agra metro line along the proposed Corridors, considering that the overall environmental benefits of metro rail project will have a positive impact on the conservation of monuments in the city of Agra and that the facility is being developed for the public and is in public interest.

3. After consideration of the above CEC recommendations, Hon'ble Supreme Court vide it order dated 22.07.2020 in Writ Petition (C) no. 13381 of 1984 (M. C. Mehta Vs Union of India & Ors) permitted UPMRCL to proceed with the implementation of Agra Metro Rail project in Agra as proposed duly complying with the conditions mentioned in the report of the CEC.

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4. Considering the above facts, the Authority conducted a site visit on 17.07.2022 and after the site visit the Authority is of the opinion that the proposed construction of the elevated Metro Rail Corridor between ISBT & Sikandara is not likely to have any adverse impact on the preservation, safety, security of, or access to the protected monuments or their immediate surroundings.

5. After detailed discussions and in view of the past precedents approvals given by the Authority to Chennai Metro Rail Corporation in 2012, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited in 2013 and Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation Limited in 2017, the National Monuments Authority decided to recommend grant of NOC for the proposed construction of elevated Agra Metro Rail Corridor between ISBT to Sikandara (approximately 3.00 KM) passing close to the CPMs namely Guru Ka Taal, Patthar Ka Ghoda, Tomb of Salabat Khan, Tomb of Sadiq Khan and Sikandara in public interest.

6. This recommendation is subject to the following terms and conditions:

(i) Compliance of the conditions mentioned by the Central Empowered Committee (CEC) in its report dated 10.02.2020 (Report no. 12 of 2020)

(ii) A Joint Committee shall be set up under the Chairmanship of the Competent Authority, Agra which will include Regional Director (North) of ASI, technical experts and officers of Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation Limited (UPMRCL). This Committee shall monitor the proposed works and shall ensure all possible measures which are required to be taken for the safety of the 5 protected monuments in question.

(iii) It is suggested to the applicant that in the interest of safety & security of the protected monuments, the proposed pillars of the elevated structure should be positioned as far away from the protected monuments.

(iv) It is further advised that adequate care should be taken during the construction of structure, scaffolding, shuttering and the construction equipment to prevent any spoilage/disfigurement/damage of the protected monuments.

(v) Threats to the historic monuments during various stages of construction/post construction is a concern expressed repeatedly, as also the need to monitor this effectively on real time basis. For this purpose UPMRCL shall install monitoring equipment's on all protected monuments along the proposed route capable of measuring vibrations, structural impacts when the construction activities are on and during the metro operations. This should be done in association with the proposed joint committee.

(vi) UPMRCL should set up a separate fund for the purpose of heritage promotion and campaigning for the cause of Agra Heritage; this should be used for facilitation centres, establishing small museums of display units, to display the archaeological remains found, if any, during the construction

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activities, developing facilities or amenities around the protected monuments concerned and so on. The size and nature of such a fund may be suggested by a Committee consisting of officers from NMA, ASI, UPMRCL and other stakeholders, and such a Committee may also suggest the works to be taken up and monitor the same. This Committee will be formed immediately, headed by Competent Authority Agra, ASI and the officers to be nominated shall be senior officers of appropriate seniority. This Committee can also examine the best practices followed at other places for drawing up their plans.

(vii) The area around the proposed entry and exit gates of the metro stations near the protected monuments shall be designed and developed to create a planned and pleasant environment. For this purpose, advice may be taken from local eminent architects.

(viii) The facades of entry and exit gates shall be in consonance with the art and architecture of the respective nearest protected monuments.

(ix) The interior of the metro stations near the protected monuments shall reflect the art and architecture of their periods.

(x) The metro stations falling on the proposed route should have special photo galleries/maps and information kiosks promoting the heritage and history of Agra.

(xi) Necessary sanction prior to carrying out the proposed construction, may be obtained as per the local laws from the local authorities.

(xii) A certificate will be submitted to the Competent Authority on completion of proposed construction that all the conditions of the permission have been complied with.

(xiii) UPMRCL shall support, cooperate and participate in all activities and programmes of ASI, which are helpful in preservation, conservation, security, up-keep and maintenance of the proposed monuments of the locality.

(xiv) The Heritage Bye –Laws of the protected monuments of the locality shall be complied with once they are approved.

(xv) This recommendation is only with reference to the present proposal of UPMRCL.

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