

**Proceedings of the meeting dated 18/07/08 of the Empowered Technical Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development chaired by Shri Yellapa Reddy**

Members present:

1.	Shri S.Yellapa Reddy,IAS	Chairman	9880198549
2.	Shri S.Shekhar	Member	9980822315
3.	Shri Krishna Reddy,Chief Engineer(Main Roads)	Member	-
4.	Shri M.R.Suresh, A.C.F	Convenor	9845174447
5.	Dr.Subbarayan Prasanna	Memembr	28602228
6.	Dr. Carol Upadhyaya	Member	9341311453 or 22185141
7.	Dr. H. Para,mesh	Mem ber	9845022689 or 225566738
8.	Prof. M. Shekhar Madhu	Member	22932245
9.	Dr. D.C.Sharma	Member	9845691706 or 23322009
10.	Shri S.L . Linga shettur, Chief Executive Engineer ( Main Roads)	“	9845222224
11.	Shri s.s. Topagi, J.D.T.P-1, BBMP	-	22975590
12.	Shri P. Narayana Reddy Asst. Executive Engineer, KMRP, BBMP	-	9739044603
13.	Shri P.Jayaram, A.E.E, KMRP, BBMP	-	9739044610
14.	Shri Chidanandaiah,Executive Engineer, Road Widening	-	9448316756
15.	Shri R. Sevy Naik , Executive Engineer, Road Widening	-	9448237176
16.	Shri B.T.Mohan Krishna, Executive Engineer, Road Widening	-	9739042930
17.	Shri Jayaprasad, Technical Advisor, BBMP	-	-
18.	Nagendra Prasad , AEE (Road Widening)	-	-
19	Shri Vishwas I.K . AEE, Road Widening	-	-
20	Shri c.Jayaram,BMRCL	-	9900214158
21	Shivanna,AEE	-	9739042391
22.	K.V.Nagabhushan,AEE, Road Widening	-	9448417919
23.	Shri H.K.Jagadish,	ACF,Subdivision-2, P.I.O	9448113664
24.	Shri M.S. Ravikumar	RFO, PIO	9480017818

Absentees:

Note: not official translation

1.	Dr. Shirdi Prasad Thekur	Member	9448079790 22453655 26710740
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The Chairman welcomed all present, and then started the discussion. Shri Chidanand, AEE said that as decided on the 14/07/08 meeting, he had met Dr. Subbarayan Prasanna for a discussion on road widening.

The Chief Engineer, Road Widening said that the public had been informed about road widening and other development works through issue of pamphlets, and other steps. He said that there had been a discussion with WIPRO officials on the developmental works to be undertaken. He said that in addition to this, there had been discussions with the public and with citizens' groups and the works had been undertaken in conformance with law. Bellary Road was also discussed, and work has been undertaken after examining all legal provisions. With respect to Bellary Road, there was a discussion with the students of the Agricultural University. The BBMP has been implementing these works, along with informing and securing approval of the public. Hence, the Committee should give permission to carry on these works.

Responding to this, the Chairman said that the Committee had been directed to examine the developmental works keeping in mind the concerns raised by the Petitioners in their PIL and the larger public interest. He said that each developmental work had to be separately examined on the basis of the directions to the Committee, and it would be appropriate to implement the works only after such examination. He also said that information about this had to be circulated among the general public.

Dr. Subbarayan Prasanna commented that the road widening works were giving greater importance to vehicles and not to the wider public interest. He said that in future, there needs to be discussion with owners of houses and hospitals that are likely to be affected by road widening works.

Responding to this, the Chairman said that the High Court directions clearly stated that the public interest, especially that of pedestrians should be given due consideration. He emphasized that in the implementation of any developmental works, it was absolutely necessary to examine the larger public interest and this had to be conveyed even to the officials at the lower level.

The Chief Engineer said that the works were being undertaken keeping in mind the interests of the pedestrians, and that, underpasses would be constructed. In those cases where construction of underpasses was not possible, all possible steps would be taken to protect pedestrian movements. He said that he would ensure that implementation of works would be taken, as per the directions of the Committee.

Shri Jayaprasad, Technical Advisor explained that considering the slow moving traffic and the unnecessary delays in commuting within the city, the proposal has to be implemented by the BBMP in accordance to legal provisions, in the larger public interest.

Dr. Subbarayan Prassana said that the details of the road widening schemes, like the proposed road

width and other aspects, have to be spelt out and there has to be a discussion with members of the public before implementation of any works. He said that with the schools, residences and other people who would be affected by the road widening works, information about the extent of road widening, road maps etc have to be shared.

Shri Yellapa Reddy said that it was necessary to see how the road widening works could be carried out in conformance with law, and the directions of the High Court.

Dr. Sharma said that it was necessary to permit the carrying out of the present works, and that future works should be undertaken as per the High Court directions.

Prof Shekhar said that the micro plan, site specific plan etc should be examined at the earliest and a decision had to arrived at without much delay. He also said that it was important not to obstruct developmental works.

The Chairman said that a decision with regard to furthering the current works had to be reached at, by the Committee.

Dr. Sharma said that there could be a power point presentation on the aspects of the road widening schemes, and then the Committee could discuss and arrive at a decision.

Jayaprasad, Technical advisor said that the developmental works were time bound, and that legal provisions had been followed so far, and hence their furtherance should be permitted.

Chief Engineer ( Main Road) put forward a power point presentation on all the developmental works proposed in the BBMP limits.

Shri C.,Jayaram, CF and Environmental Officer, BMRCL said that transplanting of trees after taking expert opinion should be undertaken. He said that the BMRCL had undertaken replanting of trees in accordance to law, when trees were felled for metro works.

Shri Yellapa Reddy asked the members of the Committee to arrive at a decision with regard to proceeding with the developmental works on Palace Road, in light of the fact that permission to fell 32 trees had been granted by the Tree Officer in accordance with law. The Tree Officer had granted permission as the roots of these trees had been damaged by the BESCO and Reliance works carried out, and they posed a danger to life & property. The Chairman said that if the members desired, they could make a site inspection.

Dr. Subbarayan Prasanna said that the decision on the implementation of works was not one to be decided by the committee, but this should be put forward before the local people for discussion and suggestions and the decision making process should be in accordance to the Pattana Panchayat Act. He said that it would be appropriate to stay the developmental works and re-examine them Responding to this, Yellapa Reddy said that the High Court had directed that the developmetal works should be sustainable, and hence the Committee was responsible to ensure this.

Dr. Sharma raised a question if there were initiatives to plant saplings undertaken by the BBMP. With the permission of the Chairman, the CF responded that the the Separate Forest Cell in

the BBMP was undertaking afforestation initiatives across 8 zones, under the ACF. In 2007, 1.5 lakh saplings were planted in the rainy season, in 2008, 2 lakh trees were planted and a provision has been made in the 2008-09 budget. He said that the tree felling was being compensated through such Afforestation measures.

When Shri Yellapa Raddy asked Dr. Carol Upadhyaya for her opinion, she said that an expert opinion was required before a decision could be taken regarding tree felling on Palace road, and she would provide the contact details to the CF within one hour. She requested that the Chairman should give permission for a final inspection of the trees by an expert. Disconcerted by this, Shri Yellapa Reddy said that keeping in mind that the present committee was an expert committee constituted by the High Court, what was the necessity for inviting another expert? However, respecting the suggestion, he asked her to provide details of the expert to the Tree Officer within one hour and by 11 o' clock on the next day, this had to be put forth before the Committee for final decision.

The Chairman closed the meeting.

Chairman

Empowered Technical Advisory Committee on Sustainable Development