

58

Brief Note

SUB: Adoption of National Highways by Engineering Colleges/Universities –reg

National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is mandated with development, maintenance and management of National Highways which are arterial networks of the Country. The NHAI's vision is to provide a world class NH network to meet the Nation's need which is being realised by implementing a large number of mega highway projects in a cost effective manner. As highway infrastructure is built with public funds, NHAI always thrives for enhanced economic and social benefits by way of savings in operating cost, safety, user comfort etc.

In order to leverage the intellectual prudence of students and faculty towards improvement of road infrastructure ecosystem in the country, NHAI has launched an initiative wherein the Engineering Colleges/ Universities may adopt a few nearby stretches of National Highways, on voluntary basis, under the ambit of Institutional Social Responsibility (ISR). In order to bridge the industry-institution gap, internships will be offered periodically to a few undergraduate and post-graduate students. This will provide opportunity to students for hands on learning, internships and a sense of contribution in building local infrastructure. The faculty gets relevant areas for their research, including access to data aiming to improve quality and safety aspects of the NHs. The institute derives utility through enhancing user experience and leveraging NHAI resources for further academic advancement. The NH stretch adopted can be co-branded with the institute by NHAI

The Institute may associate with the Consultant/Department/NHAI for upcoming new projects during conceptualisation, design and project preparation stage and suggest the relevant parameters and innovations based on experience specific to the climate, topography and resource potential for better socio economic outcome. Further, NHAI may support creation of Lab infrastructure in the Institute and can sponsor relevant research project that helps in using alternative resource material and

improving quality of roads.

268

Detailed periodic investigation may be carried out and suggestions may be made for improving the efficiency of existing highway asset keeping the following aspects in mind:

- Improvements in safety provision by removing existing deficiencies;
- Improvements in continual maintenance of the stretch using environmental friendly new technology;
- Localised solutions for removal of congestion points thereby increasing the average speed of traffic flow;
- Improvement in the riding comfort through cost effective measures based on innovative technologies & practises applicable in the area;
- Viability of new way side amenities for road user based on the existing traffic pattern and user expectations;
- Potential solutions to recurring problems based on local experience from time to time etc.;

As on date over 18 IITs, 28 NITs and 219 other engineering colleges have given their consent to associate with NHAI for this initiative and 221 institutes out of these have already signed MOUs with NHAI. The Regional Office wise status of MoUs is attached as Annexure-I.