

Minutes and Resolution of Public Hearing for proposed Ropeway project between Guwahati and North Guwahati by Guwahati Metropolitan Development Authority on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2009, at 11:00 AM at Town Committee Hall, North Guwahati, Kamrup (Metro) Dist;

PANEL MEMBERS

1. Nareswar Upadhyay - ADC Kamrup (Metro)
2. Chandan Bhadury - Sr. Env. Eng. PCBA.

The meeting of the proposed Rope-way project public hearing started with welcome address of Mr. Chandan Bhadury and then Mr. Nareswar Upadhyay, ADC Kamrup (Metro) taken over the charge of president and started the proceedings.

Then as per Agenda of the meeting, Mr. Chandan Bhadury, Sr. Env. Engineer, Pollution Control Board, Assam explained the purpose of holding the Public hearing. He said that as per Ministry's Notification on 2006 under Environment (Protection) Rules, 1986, it is mandatory to hold public hearing for this type of B2 category projects and people can give their suggestion, opinion and objection etc. which will be recorded and same will be forwarded to Ministry.

As per next agenda, Mr. Britam Saikia, Chief Executive Officer, AMDA, briefly explained about the project and said that it is a Passenger Ropeway between South Guwahati and North Guwahati over river Brahmaputra and which is a time bound project - The project consultant is RITES, EIA studies done by SENE, project cost is Rs 28 crore.

*Chandan Bhadury*  
Sr. Environmental Engineer,  
Regional Office, Guwahati,  
Pollution Control Board, Assam.

*[Signature]*  
Additional Deputy Commissioner  
Kamrup Metropolitan District

He also said that both the consultants were present in the meeting and they will give the reply of every queries.

After that, Mrs. Ishita Dutta, SENES given the detail presentation of the project with EIA and EMP in English. The presentation in local language i.e. in Assamese was given by Mr. Jaydeep Baruah, Scientist, Assam Science Technology and Environment Council.

After the project presentation on behalf of public Mr. Prabhat Sarma, Secretary, TOPOBAN (Cm NAO) asked about whether the ropeway touch Umananda Mandir, cutting of trees and frequency of ropeway. Mr. Mantura Bora and Mr. Jaydeep Baruah, ASTEC replied that it will not disturb Umananda Mandir and away from it. The ropeway will have fixed time schedule and no trees shall be cut as the terminal stations are already a cleared one.

Then Mr. Rajkamal Sangkakahi, Reporter, asked about the safety measure of ropeway and the effect of wind on it which blows at the time of dry season. Mr. Bhadra RITES replied that as per design of the Ropeway, it is a bi-cable one having pull back and breaking system and had additional emergency recovery trolley. Further, the diameter of the rope is 34 mm and they have taken all the safety measures. They said that wind calibration facilities shall be provided and if it crosses the limit, the Ropeway

will stop automatically. Mr. Sangkatakati expresses his satisfaction over it.

Mr. Brajendra Kr. Baruah, Geologist, asking about its less impact on environment, pointed out that the post will be on riverbed. Already siltation effect of River Brahmaputra is there and river side of North Guwahati is covered by one beach & a hills only. To stop siltation effect, he asked to minimise the area of the post. Mr. Bhadra, RITES, informed him that only two towers will be constructed in riverbed whose foundation will be 8 meters in diameter and a round one. The tower ~~with~~ height will be above the high flood and in design this care has been taken.

Mr. Tapan Baruah, local people, pointing towards religious temples, of Umananda and Kamakhya, for which tourist come to Guwahati, asked to stop the ropeway in Umananda. Mr. Jaydeep Baruah, Scientist, ASTEC, replied that the ropeway is a means of transport between North Guwahati and South Guwahati. To stop it in Umananda, infrastructure has to be built up there, which will affect the hillock. Considering the timing and means of transport also, this aspect is not taken into consideration. Then Mr. T. Baruah asked about the timing of ropeway. Mr. Manu Baruah, GMDA replied that the timing of ropeway will be depend on its requirement and demand of the people & public.

Mr. Bhairab Sarma, Professor (Retd.), North

Wednesday 20/08/09  
Sr. Environmental Engineer  
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25/8/09  
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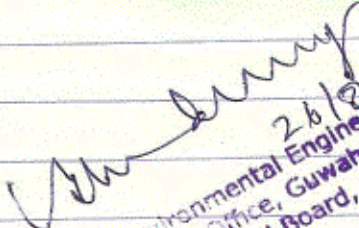
Guwahati College then asked about the height of the ropeway from water level, medical facility at the cabin and development of North Guwahati. Mr. Bhadra, RITES, replied that the height of the ropeway will be 17.5 mts from its highest flood level and first aid medical facility shall be provided in the cabin. Mr. Mantu Bora of AMDA said that as the people come to North Guwahati by ropeway, socio-economic development will come out to North Guwahati.

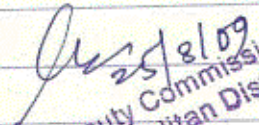
Mrs. Indu Baruah, President, Silsaku Mahil Samithi, welcoming the ropeway asked about pollution of people and how they will mitigate this. Mr. Jaydeep Baruah, ASTEC, replied that there will be a slight improvement of flow of people and it will not affect the environment too much. However common facility centre, STP etc. shall be provided.

Mr. Bijay Medhi, local people then asked about the fare for ropeway passenger. Mr. Mantu Bora, AMDA replied that it will be a Government rate and Govt. has also considered the viability of ropeway. The fare shall be around Rs 25/- per trip i.e. to and fro. Adding to this Mr. Paragmon Das asked about the one time fare and Mr. Pradip Hazarika, Secretary 2 no. Ward, about the student concession. Mr. Mantu Bora, AMDA replied that the fare will be as commuters

and passenger and they have not yet considered for Student Concession.

At the end, Mr. Nareswar Upadhyay, the president asked for people support towards the project and the public has applauded it by giving 'clap'. Then the president of the public hearing given concluding address by giving thanks to the public and asked them to make it success before time and closed the public hearing.

  
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