



INFRASTRUCTURE CONSULTANTS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA

HEADQUARTER : Plot No. 29 F/F, Second Floor, Sector 11, Dwarka, New Delhi-110078

Mobile : 9617777944, 9910832248,

E-mail : infraconsultantindia@gmail.com, contact@icaindia.net

Reg. No.: 01/01/01/24554/12, Website : www.icaindia.net

Ref. No. ICAI/Member/NHAI/2026-27/252

Date 25/05/26

To,
The Member (Projects),
National Highways Authority of India,
G-5 & 6, Sector-10, Dwarka,
New Delhi-110075
Email: anilmemberproject@nhai.org

Sub.: Issues for discussion in the Quarterly Meeting with DPR Consultants of NHAI Projects scheduled on 26-05-2026 at NHAI Head Quarter, New Delhi.

Ref.: Meeting Notice No. DPR-150551 /1 /2025-DPR Cell (Comp. No. 271335), dated 15-05-2026.

Respected Sir,

Infrastructure Consultants Association of India wishes to bring to your kind notice the following issues being faced by DPR consultants and hope to resolve in the forthcoming Quarterly Interaction Meeting scheduled on 26-05-2026 at NHAI Head Quarter with your kind intervention. DPR consultants are facing various challenges in preparation of DPRs. In spite of their best efforts, the current system is causing significant financial losses and unwarranted delays and demotivation among consulting firms. Major problems being faced are submitted below:

1. Finalization of alignment: The alignment approval process involves multiple tiers of scrutiny leading to repeated revisions for which the consultants are not compensated. The sequence of events is as follows:

- The DPR consultants submit 3 alignment options after preliminary studies to the concerned Project Director.
- The PD scrutinizes and suggests modifications which are then forwarded to the Regional Officer.
- The Regional Officer further suggests changes requiring the consultant to carryout additional work.
- The revised alignment is sent to NHAI Head Quarter for review by the concerned General Manager, **Chief General Manager and Member** who often propose more modifications.
- Finally, the alignment is placed before the **DPR Cell NHAI HQ** and PTAC for approval, where further changes are frequently suggested.

Thus, the consultants are compelled to undertake multiple revisions of the alignments through no fault of their own. However, as per the existing RFP payment schedule the consultants are paid only for carrying out the activity once. This is grossly unfair and puts enormous financial and manpower burden on the consultants. Hence, it is suggested that the DPR Cell at NHAI

HQ may kindly be assigned as Nodal Agency for all DPR consultancy assignments for better coordination amongst several officers connected with DPRs.

2. Issues related to Land Acquisition and Clearances: Land Acquisition and related clearances are major bottlenecks. The DPR consultants are having no control over land ownership record. The DPR consultants are expected to coordinate with lower ranking Revenue Officers such as Patwari, R.I./ Kotwar and Tehsildar of the concerned state government without active support from the Project Directors' office. The PD staff merely affix signatures on documents without participating in field verification

In case of any deficiency found later in the Land Acquisition plan or documents, the entire responsibilities are fixed on the consultants even though the officials of PIUs including Project Directors put their signatures on Land Acquisition record at various stages. Similar situations exist in forest land cases where only Beat Officer and consultant's personnel visit the site. In case of utility shifting, only Junior Engineers of the concerned departments accompany the consultants.

In all such cases, the consultants are held solely accountable for discrepancies. Hence, Project Directors and other officers of PIUs should also be made accountable for mistakes in one or more records submitted by DPR consultants.

3. Payment Schedule: The payment schedules indicated in the RFP documents do not commensurate with the actual quantum of work performed by the consultants, particularly in view of the repeated revisions and extensive coordination efforts required. The payment schedules indicated in the RFP documents are as follows:

S. No.	Item	Payment %
1	Submission of final QAP and Inception Report	2.5%
2	Approval of final Alignment Report, Traffic Study, Topographical Study and Submission of ToR for EAC	10%
3	Submission of LAC-1 and LAC-2 Proposal (for NHAI/MoRTH as the case may be)	10%
4	Submission of final feasibility Report	7.5%
5	Submission of 3a Notification, Draft 3 A and Publication of 3a, 3A notifications	5%
6	Submission of all utilities shifting proposals to utility owning agencies and submission of utilities relocation plan to NHAI	5%
7	Submission of Bidding Documents and Technical Schedules	5%
8	3D publication for all land parcels identified in item 4 above and submission of Land Acquisition II report	5%
9	Completion of award declaration (3G) for 90% of land parcels identified and submission of Land Award Report	5%
10	Submission of all stage I clearance (Forest, Wildlife, EC) proposals on Parivesh portal and acceptance by Nodal Officer	5%
11	Submission and Approval of final DPR Report, documents and drawings	5%
12	Appraisal of Project by PATSC/IAC	5%



13	Clearance of the project by NPG (if applicable) and Appraisal of Project by SFC (if applicable). In case none of above is applicable then payment shall be released on approval of Project by NHAI.	5%
14	State II clearance approval (Receiving approval of Forest, Wildlife, EC from Concerned agencies) and submission of final clearances II report	5%
15	Final approval of utilities shifting estimates and submission of Utilities II report, ROB GADs from Railway, Irrigation other concerned department;	5%
16	Receipt of land possession certificates (3H) for 90% of all land parcels identified in LAC report and submission of Land Possession report	5%
17	Completion of Condition Precedent on Part of Authority	5%
18	Amount to be released at earlier of projects COD or 3 years from start of civil work	5%
Total		100%

As per the existing payment schedule in most RFPs, the consultants receive only 45% of the contract value even after completion of the majority of documentation work. The remaining 55% is linked to activities such as Land Acquisition, Forest and Wildlife Clearance, GAD approval from Railways and Utility Shifting estimates. These activities are outside the control of the DPR consultants.

In numerous cases DPRs are closed due to Land Acquisition issues, yet the consultants receive only 45% payment inspite having completed almost all technical documentation.

In view of the above, the association respectfully suggests the following improvements.

1. Revised Payment Schedule: Kindly release 80% of the payment upon submission of all documents and completion of technical work. Link the remaining 20% to the final clearance like Land Acquisition, Stage-1 and Stage-2 Forest Clearance etc. as per the following schedule:

S. No.	Item	Payment %
1	Submission of final QAP and Inception Report	10%
2	Approval of final Alignment Report, Traffic Study, Topographical Study and Submission of ToR for EAC	10%
3	Submission of Draft Feasibility Report	20%
4	Submission of Final Feasibility Report	20%
5	Submission of Draft DPR, Submission of 3a Notification, Draft 3 A and Publication of 3a, 3A notifications, 3D publication for all land parcels and submission of forest / wildlife clearance and utility shifting proposals	20%
6	Submission of final DPR, submission of Bidding Documents and Technical Schedules including completion of award declaration (3G) for 90% of land parcels identified and submission of land award report and obtaining NOC of Stage-1 and Stage-2 for forest clearance with approval of all ROBs drawings from Railway department	20%
Total		100%

2. Escalation Clause for delays : Most DPR projects are delayed due to the reasons not attributable to the consultants. Hence, kindly introduce an escalation Clause providing 20% enhancement in the per Km. rate for every year of delay beyond the stipulated completion period. If the DPR is not finalized even after 3 years from the date of award, the project may be declared close with full and final payment released to the consultants of the stages completed.

3. Deployment of named Key Personnel in DPR contract: Deployment of named Key Personnel in DPR contract may kindly be restricted up to stipulated time period of contracts and submission of certification for deployment of named Key Personnel during extended period of DPR contracts may kindly be relaxed.

We earnestly request your personal intervention in this matter and will be grateful if the above points raised by the association are included in the agenda of the proposed review meeting scheduled to be held with DPR consultants of NHAI projects on 26-05-2026 to discuss these issues in detail.

PRAYER

We humbly submit the following for your kind consideration and necessary orders for implementation please.

1. It is requested that the alignment of DPR along with all related activities may kindly be discussed, reviewed and finalized in one go in a single meeting by the concerned authorities i.e. Project Director, Regional Officer, General Manager at HQ, CGM at HQ, Member and DPR Cell. This consolidated approach will eliminate unnecessary repetition of the same activities at multiple levels resulting in significant savings of time and infructuous expenditure.

2. Further, it is requested that after finalization of alignment and proposals, DPRs should be finalized early in PTAC and SFC.

3. It is also requested that the Project Directors and other officers of PIUs should also be made accountable for mistakes in one or more records submitted by DPR consultants so that the concerned officers may scrutinize the submitted documents thoroughly before affixing their signatures on the documents.

Thanking you,

For Infrastructure Consultants Association of India


(Dr. L. N. Malviya)
Chairman

- Copy to: 1. PPS to the Chairman, NHAI (Email: joseph@nhai.org)-For kind information
2. PPS to the Member (Project)- AC, NHAI (Email: jyoti@nhai.org, umeshsharma@nhai.org) -For kind information
3. The General Manager (T)- DPR Cell, NHAI (Email: dprcell@nhai.org) -For kind information
4. All esteemed Members of ICAI - For kind information.


