

Transport body pushes for Pune-Paud Road widening

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Pune: Commuters can expect relief from frequent traffic jams on Paud and Tamhini Ghat Road with the work of widening of Pune-Bhugoan-Pirnagut-Paud Road set to begin in the next few days.

The widening of road up to Paud is part of a project to strengthen the Pune-Paud-Tamhini-Mandgaon-Dighi Port highway link.

The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRDC) has said that it will soon float tenders for widening and concreting of this crucial road stretch.

Altogether Rs 450 crore has been sanctioned for the entire work up to Tamhini, which is expected to be taken up in a phased manner. The road is crucial for city residents to reach Konkan via Tamhini Ghat and it is also being developed as an alternative road for transporters to reach Dighi Port.

MSRDC officials said that they were in the process of finalising tender details. A preliminary sanction of the tenders is expected in the next one month. As per the plan, Pune (Bhugaon) to Paud Road will be made into four-lane with addition of two more lanes to the existing road. The road stretch after that will be three-lane road. Officials said that road work would be planned in a phased manner because the entire stretch has heavy vehicular traffic with significant number of daily travellers.

Sources in the department said that the Union road transport minister Nitin Gadkari during his recent visit to the city had given a push to various road projects in the district, including this road link.

Vijay Patil, a regular traveller to Konkan via Paud and Tamhini Ghat, said that the road requires urgent widening. "Traffic has

gone up in the last few years. A lot of new industries and residential areas have come up in Bhugaon and Pirangut areas. The road always has traffic jams during weekends," he said.