



From Farms to Borders: NH-22 Four-Laning Project to Boost Connectivity and Economic Growth in Bihar

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Road infrastructure plays a vital role in connecting agricultural regions, industrial centres and border areas with wider markets. In Bihar, the Muzaffarpur–Sitamarhi–Sonbarsa section of National Highway-22 (NH-22) serves as an important link between a major economic centre and the India–Nepal border. Its upgradation to four lanes will enhance the capacity of this corridor and strengthen regional connectivity.

The project is expected to facilitate smoother movement of passengers and freight, improve access to economic centres and support regional trade. It will also strengthen links between road, rail and other logistics infrastructure, creating a more integrated transport network for North Bihar.

In August 2026, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the upgradation of this 82.57-km section to four lanes at a total capital cost of ₹3,590.73 crore under the Hybrid Annuity Mode (HAM).

Strengthening Connectivity to the Nepal Border

NH-22 connects Muzaffarpur with Sonbarsa on the India–Nepal border. At Muzaffarpur, it intersects NH-27, which forms part of the East-West Corridor. Towards Sonbarsa, the highway provides an important link between the national highway network and cross-border transport infrastructure.

The upgraded corridor will support cross-border passenger and cargo movement through the nearby Bhithamore Land Port. By improving connectivity between economic centres and border areas, it is expected to facilitate regional trade and enhance the efficiency of goods movement.

Four-Laning for Smoother and Safer Travel

The existing route passes through densely populated areas, including Muzaffarpur, Muksudpur, Runni Saidpur, Thumma, Dumra, Bhutahi and Sonbarsa. Four-laning is expected to ease congestion along these stretches and improve traffic flow.

Designed for a speed of 100 kmph, with an average operating speed of 80 kmph and no at-grade median openings, the upgraded highway will support more predictable journeys for passenger and freight traffic.

The project includes seven major bridges, including a 340-metre bridge over the perennial Bagmati River, three railway overbridges and two flyovers. These structures will address key crossing points, improve traffic continuity and help reduce conflicts between road and railway movement.

Integrating Industry, Railways and Logistics

Planned under the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, the project aims to strengthen connectivity between industrial centres, agricultural production areas and logistics infrastructure.

The corridor will connect five economic nodes, including four industrial estates and a Mega Food Park, supporting manufacturing, food processing and agro-based industries. Improved access to Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi railway stations will also facilitate multimodal logistics and freight movement.

Its links with NH-31 and NH-122 will further integrate the corridor with Bihar's transport network. Enhanced connectivity towards Barauni's industrial hub and riverine logistics centres along the Ganga is expected to create opportunities for inland waterway trade and improve supply-chain efficiency.

Strengthening Farm-to-Market Links

For a region where agriculture is an important part of the local economy, improved road connectivity can make the movement of produce to markets and processing centres more efficient. Reduced travel time, lower transportation costs and improved fuel efficiency are expected to support more reliable supply chains.

Better connections with railway stations, industrial estates and wider transport corridors will also facilitate the movement of agricultural produce to markets beyond the immediate region.

Improving Access to Key Destinations

The upgraded highway will improve access to important religious, cultural and social destinations, including Baba Garibnath Temple, Mata Janki Temple, Punaura Dham and the Buddhist Circuit.

It will also strengthen connectivity to Muzaffarpur and Sitamarhi, both identified as aspirational districts, supporting regional mobility and access to important destinations.

Building a More Integrated Transport Network

The four-laning of NH-22 will strengthen a key corridor linking economic centres, agricultural areas, industrial nodes and the India–Nepal border. With improved highway capacity, upgraded crossing infrastructure and stronger links to railways and logistics facilities, the project is designed to address existing traffic constraints while supporting the region's connectivity needs.

By bringing together road transport, industrial activity, agricultural supply chains and cross-border movement, the Muzaffarpur–Sitamarhi–Sonbarsa corridor will contribute to a more integrated transport network in the region, boosting connectivity and economic activity.

Union Cabinet has approved upgradation c

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