

NEW RING ROAD IN THE OFFING: DARE WE HOPE?

By Nischith N, Bangalore Mirror Bureau | Updated: Mar 26, 2018, 04.00 AM IST



The Highways authority is working on a six-lane Satellite Tolled Ring Road (STRR) that will significantly ease traffic on ORR

While the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) is a dream that is yet to come true for Bengaluru, commuters can look forward to another circuit that will take some load off the Outer Ring Road. This six-lane Satellite Tolled Ring Road (STRR) will not only connect towns around Bengaluru city but also the Hosur region in Tamil Nadu.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is executing the work on this ring road under the Bharatmala project. The circuit will be as follows – Dobbspet (Tumakuru road), Doddaballapur (Hindupur road), Devanahalli (Hyderabad road), Hosakote (Kolar road), Hosur (Chennai road), Anekal (Thali road), Kanakapura (Kollegal road), Ramanagara (Mysuru road), Magadi (Kunigal road) and Dobbspet.

The work has already begun on the Dobbspet-Doddaballapur stretch. For the remaining portion, a detailed project report is being finalised and tenders will be awarded after that. NHAI officials estimate that it could take up to two years to complete the project.

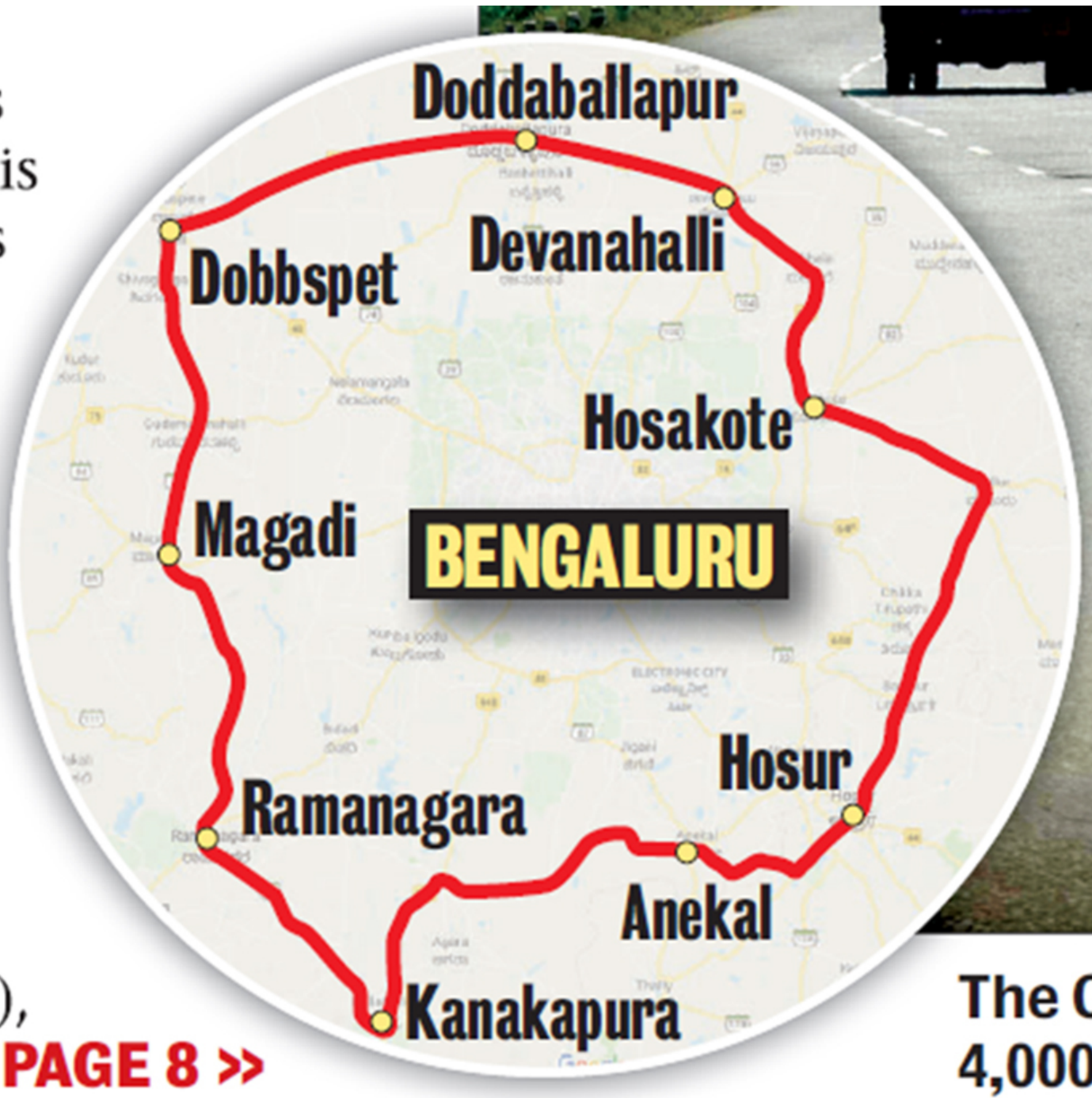
The total length of this ring road will be about 140 km (as against 116 km identified for PRR and 60 km of the existing ORR) in Karnataka, and 45 km in Tamil Nadu. The project will tentatively cost Rs 10,000 crore.

The NHAI plans to connect a portion of this satellite ring road to the proposed Bengaluru-Chennai expressway. The expressway is to start from Hosakote and will be connected to the STRR so that vehicles from all directions can easily reach this road.

Currently, the ORR is unable to take the vehicular density. The average density at ORR is 4,000 PCU (passenger car units) per hour and this can almost double at junctions such as Hebbal, KR Puram and Goraguntepalya.

A senior NHAI official told Bangalore Mirror: “A few years ago, we had taken up the bypass project from Tumakuru road to Hyderabad road via Dobbspet-Doddaballapur-Devanahalli. However, the project had to be stalled as concessionaire didn’t speed up the work. Now, the project has been re-awarded. So, we decided to connect this road across the city and convert it into a satellite ring road under the Bharatmala scheme.”

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“Initially, we were debating whether to include Hosur in it. However, as Bengaluru and Hosur have become a continuous urban

agglomeration, we decided to connect Hosur too. Currently, the traffic density between Electronics City (which is NICE Road junction) and Hosur has one of the highest vehicular density, and with the opening of the STRR, vehicles can avoid Hosur town altogether to reach, or go out of, Bengaluru,” the official said.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari had recently said that the work on the remaining “portion of STRR for Bengaluru (West side) to Hosur in Tamil Nadu (connecting NH-4 to NH-7) will be taken up under Bharatmala”.



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After the Centre made its stance clear on Peripheral Ring Road, it is unlikely that the NHAI will take over PRR work. Ever since SM Krishna had announced the PRR project in 2003, the project never took off. It was said that NHAI wanted to take up the project but the state government was not willing to hand it over. However, when the state government requested NHAI to take over the project, the latter refused it. Now, the BDA, which is unable to mobilise resources for the

much-needed PRR, is planning to take up this project in phases and in the first phase, it proposes to connect Tumakuru road with Devanahalli road.

Traffic expert MN Sreehari said cities such as Bengaluru, Hyderabad and New Delhi need as many ring roads as possible. “Bengaluru is an outwardly and radially growing city and requires more roads. For example, if you take NICE Road, travel time between Tumakuru road and Hosur road is less than an hour and if you use the city’s arterial road from Tumakuru to Hosur road, it may take three to four hours. An STRR will be a welcome relief.”

Meanwhile, Nitin Gadkari announced on Saturday that tenders for the proposed Bengaluru-Chennai expressway will be called in April. This project will cost around Rs 6,000 crore.