

Kanakapura road to become 4-lane route

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The NH 209 or the Kanakapura road was among the few roads motorists preferred to avoid because of its numerous curves, turning it into a death trap. Soon, the national highway will become a four-lane road, making driving a hassle-free experience for those heading towards Mysore and beyond.

Sources said the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has issued a preliminary notification and will soon begin the road widening work.

NH 209 starts from Dewan Madhav Rao Road in Basavanagudi and touches Vedasandur near Dindigul, Tamil Nadu.

While the stretch from NICE junction to Kanakapura will be a four-lane road, the Kanakapura-Tamil Nadu border (near Chamarajnar) stretch will be an improved two-lane road.

After the road widening, the expressway will become a toll road.

Kanakapura Road is a vital link to Bangalore with a traffic density of 6,000 to 8,000 passenger car units (PCU) per hour. According to experts, since one lane can cater to only 1,200 PCUs, four lanes

are an urgent requirement.

Traffic expert M N Sreehari said, "Accidents happen due to absence of a good road, haphazard driving, inadequate signboards, lack of proper illumination. Surprisingly, the Kanakapura road has all these ingredients."

A senior NHAI official said they will ensure the numerous curves on the road are straightened by constructing shoulder pavements to ensure safe driving.

Once the four-laning is completed, the road can serve as an alternative road to Mysore.

Many prefer to take the Kanakapura road as the existing road via Channapatna and Mandya has a high volume of traffic while the same is comparatively low on the Kanakapura-Malavalli-Bannur-Mysore route.

Sources, however, said the government needs to improve the state highway no. 33 connecting Malavalli and Mysore.

They said a four-laned NH 209 will also cut down the distance to Coimbatore compared with the existing road via Krishnagiri.

Kanakapura road can also serve as an alternative for those going to Kozhikode via Chamarajanagar, Gundlupet and Sultan Battery.

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