

# Gurugram-Mumbai e-way to stretch till DND

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NEW DELHI: After initiating the land acquisition process for the Gurugram-Mumbai greenfield expressway project, the government is planning to extend the road to Delhi. Sources said a new eight-lane road would be built connecting the Western Peripheral Expressway (WPE) with the DND Flyway in Delhi.

The Mumbai expressway will meet the WPE near Sohna. Officials said the connecting road from WPE to DND would be about 58 km and the construction cost would be around Rs 2,000 crore. Land acquisition cost has not been estimated yet.

“About three lakh vehicles (in units of cars) daily take the NH-8, which connects Delhi with Mumbai. This is one of the reasons for congestion on this stretch. The new link will decongest NH-8 and will also help reduce traffic congestion in Delhi,” said an official.

In April, highways minister Nitin Gadkari had announced the mega Delhi-Mumbai greenfield project through backward regions of Mewat in Haryana and Dahod in Gujarat. Later, Gurugram was designated as the takeoff point for the expressway.

“Now, with the plan to extend the road to the national capital, it will be a complete stretch from Delhi to Mumbai, which was originally conceived by the government,” the official said. However, he added the NHAI would have a tough time getting land in neighbouring areas of Delhi for this crucial project.

In 2015, the highways ministry had announced a plan to build half a dozen link roads to provide direct connectivity to the Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE) and WPE from Delhi as a part of its plan to decongest the national capital. While NHAI has made the EPE operational, Haryana government is yet to complete the WPE. Only Manesar to Palwal section of the WPE is functional.





NHAI has taken up the construction of Dwarka Expressway and Urban Extension Road, which will also reduce traffic congestion on the arterial roads. Sources said these are part of the composite plan to bring relief to commuters and meet the future traffic demand as the NCR grows. The travel trips will also increase manifold due to greater economic activity in the region.

The government has decided to give priority to build new roads rather than expand existing national highway stretches, which often face delay due to difficulties in acquiring land, getting green clearances, shifting of utilities and demolition of built up areas along the existing corridors.