

Govt. plans better connectivity of North-South Bengal

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State government is set to come up with a 270-km north-south corridor linking the districts of north and south Bengal for better connectivity.

The Asian Development Bank will assist the state government in constructing the corridor.

The corridor will run from Mechogram in Haldia to Morgram in Jangipur. Connecting East Midnapore and Murshidabad, the road will pass through Hooghly, Burdwan and Nadia. A detailed project report is being prepared by the West Bengal Highway Development Corporation. In the first phase, two stretches will be constructed between Mechogram to Ghatal and Arambag to Burdwan.

According to a senior official, the corridor will help ease traffic congestion within the city as vehicles plying through this road will not have to enter the city.

The corridor will provide an alternative route to NH-34.

An assessment will be done to identify stretches for four-lanes and two-lanes.

The cost of the project has been pegged at around Rs 4,500 crore of which 70 per cent will be ADB-funded.

If things go as planned the government will float the requisite tenders by March 2015, said the official.

Upgradation work is already underway on several stretches, including Tribeni ~Kalna~Katwa Road, Chanditala~Seakhala~Champadanga Road, Barjora~Durlavpur More (Mejia) Road and Dankuni~Chandannagar~Mogra.

For improving the road infrastructure of the state, the corporation conducts a survey from time to time for assessing the viability of expanding the state highways. Bengal has 19 state highways with a total length of 4400 km. The corporation is responsible for their maintenance.