



HOW MTHL INTERCHANGES WILL BRING PUNE AND GOA CLOSER TO MUMBAI

RAMPS AND LOOPS: HOW THEY WILL HELP SIGNAL-FREE TRAVEL

Three interchanges have been planned on MTHL, with the main one at Sewri, comprising eight ramps, the next at Shivajinagar in Ulwe (where MTHL meets Navi Mumbai), and the last further inland at Chirle, where MTHL ends. At the Sewri interchange, four of the ramps will connect MTHL with the Freeway, two with Haji Bunder Road, and two with the proposed Sewri-Worli link. The Shivajinagar interchange will connect MTHL to the under-construction Navi Mumbai international airport and JNPT, besides local roads. The Chirle structure will provide links with the Mumbai-Pune Expressway in the future, besides leading towards JNPT and Panvel too. These segregations will ensure smooth movement of traffic to and from MTHL.



HIGHWAY NETWORK

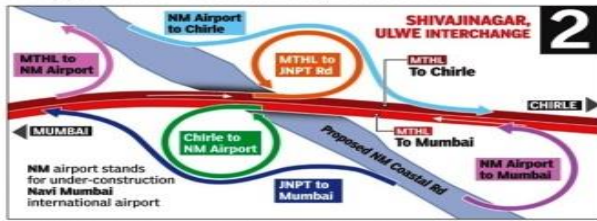
Which roads and highways does MTHL link up with? Scan this QR code to find out

Bridge and its connectors will cut 2 hours from travel between cities

The proposed Sewri-Worli connector and Palaspe-Shedung link (across the junction of the old Pune Highway and the expressway), on either side of MTHL, will reduce travel time between Mumbai and Pune by almost two hours, besides saving 30-40% in fuel costs. A similar benefit will be experienced by those who travel frequently to Nashik via the congested Thane-Nashik highway (the Mumbai-Nagpur Samruddhi corridor is expected to be opened from Anand village near Paigaha Vasind on Nashik Highway by the end of this year) and to Ratnagiri on Goa Highway, which is being widened. While the main deck of the 22km MTHL is expected to start by November, the connectors will take a couple of years more to speed up traffic dispersal. Three small flyovers over existing junctions on the currently six-lane JNPT Road (Chirle-Palaspe) have also been planned to be ready by 2025.

From Palaspe junction, the planned connector will give easy access to the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, as well as the Old Pune Highway at Shedung Junction, where the connector will land. But this connector will come up by 2025, till when motorists can take the Expressway from Kalamboli and get on the old highway at Shedung, explained MMRDA chief engineer Sunil Wandhakar. The upcoming Navi Mumbai airport, Nerul and Kharghar would be approachable from Chirle

in 10-15 minutes via the Belapur diversion, while Palaspe and Kalamboli on JNPT Road will be 15-20 minutes away from the Chirle landfall point. The Samruddhi corridor will be approachable from Kalamboli via Talaja, Shil Phata and Mumbra or Kalyan. Motorists will have easy access to Mumbai too. The under-construction Airoli-Katol Naka tunnel road through Parsik hills will be ready soon and offer faster connectivity to Nashik, said MMRDA assistant engineer A R Bhisikar.



MTHL will virtually negate peak-hour congestion on the existing Nashik-Pune and Goa-bound roads (Ghodbunder Road, Eastern Express Highway, Thane-Belapur Road and Sion-Panvel Road), with exits and entries at Dahisar, Airoli, Kalwa and Vashi. Not just travel time and fuel, but the cost of travel too will come down. —Chittaranjan Tembhekar

