



Dated: 14-02-2024

**Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Gujarat State Broadband Committee for the year 2023-24 held on 29-12-2023.**

3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of Gujarat State Broadband Committee (SBC) for the year 2023-24 was held on 29-12-2023 under the Chairmanship of Ms Mona Khandhar, Principal Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Panchayat, Rural Housing & Rural Development Department, Govt. of Gujarat at Conference Hall of Chief Secretary, Gandhinagar. Shri Ram Kumar, DDG (Rural-1), DoT, Gujarat LSA was the convenor of the meeting. The meeting was attended by:

➤ *Government of Gujarat Side:*

1. Ms Mona Khandhar, Principal Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Panchayat, Rural Housing & Rural Development, Department Govt. of Gujarat
2. Shri Tushar Y. Bhatt, IAS , Director (I/C), IT & e-Governance, Government of Gujarat
3. Shri C P Patel Chief Engineer Roads & Building Department, Government of Gujarat
4. Shri N. H. Gadhavi, Joint Secretary (IT), Department of Science & Technology, Government of Gujarat.
5. Ms Bhakti Shamal, Joint Secretary, Energy Petrochemicals Department, Government of Gujarat.
6. Shri Vinodkumar Damor, Deputy Conservator of Forest-Land, Forest & Environment Department, Government of Gujarat.
7. Shri Vijay Bhaliya, ICT Officer, Department of Urban Development and Urban housing Department, Government of Gujarat.

➤ *Department of Telecom. Side:*

1. Dr. Kunj B. Sharma, Director (Rural), DoT, Gujarat LSA
2. Shri. Ganpat Patel, AD (Rural), DoT, Gujarat LSA

➤ *BSNL / BBNL Side:*

1. Shri Dharmendra Sharma, PGM / State head Bharatnet BSNL, CGM BBNL and Statehood Gujarat,
2. Shri Hemant Pandey, PGM (CM), BSNL Gujarat

➤ *COAI / DIPA Representative - through Video Conferencing.*

At the outset, Shri Ram Kumar DDG (Rural-1) welcomed Ms Mona Khandhar, Principal Secretary, Department of Science & Technology, Panchayat, Rural Housing & Rural Development Department, Govt. of Gujarat and Chairman of the meeting. He also welcomed all the participants in the Meeting.

Dr. Kunj B. Sharma, Director (Rural), Gujarat LSA briefed the committee about the agenda of the 3<sup>rd</sup> SBC meeting and explained with a detailed presentation covering all the agenda points of the meeting.

**1. Status of 5G Roll-Out:**

- a) The committee was intimated about the Meeting with NID, held on dated 30-11-2023 regarding discussion for installation of 5G equipment on Street furniture.
  - The Chairperson told for intimation of NID designs to all the state departments who are the owner of the street furniture.
- b) Director (Rural) requested to implement 3 amendments in RoW Policy to expedite the 5G progress in Gujarat State.
  - The Chairperson advised to share a brief outlining the provisions of the RoW Rules, 2022, with all relevant departments, and the finalization would take place in the next meeting with the departments.
  - The Chairperson also advised the LSA, DoT to convene a meeting with EPD officials, DISCOMs members, and representatives from TSPs to explore possibilities for the utilization of DISCOMs infrastructure, specifically electric poles, for the 5G network rollout.
  - The Judgement of Hon'ble Supreme court is to be studied for using street furniture especially electric pole for 5G equipment installation. Then RoW amendments notified by GoI may be incorporated accordingly.
  - It was discussed that additional attributes need to be entered/updated for the street furniture mapped in GatiShakti NMP portal by the concerned Departments. EPD has already mapped their assets in GatiShakti NMP and for additional attributes they may integrate their application with GatiShakti NMP portal for updation of additional attributes with coordinating BISAG.
- c) DDG (Rural) informed that whenever underground OFC is cut, street furniture authorities do not allow for erection of OFC on street poles without permission. In case of emergency, they should allow TSPs to erect OFC on street poles for 60 days without any rent and without any prior permission. Intimation may be sent to street furniture authorities, later on.
  - The Chairperson added that a letter will be written to all street furniture authorities for considering above. Moreover, it was also informed that this has been provisioned in the RoW Rules 2023 notified by the GoI.

d) DDG (Rural-2) intimated that at present RoW portal allows only 5 locations in a single application as designed for 4G Towers RoW clearance. It should be upgraded to ROW amendment rules for bulk applications and multiple locations in a single application for 5G Towers RoW clearance.

➤ The chairperson suggested that it may be decided after implementation RoW amendments.

## 2. 4G saturation project:

a) It was informed that 17 sites are pending due to forest land clearance issues.

➤ A meeting is proposed on dated 02-01-2024 with Forest Department and issues will be raised in it by BSNL.

b) Shri Hemant Pandey PGM (BSNL) told that land allotment of 9 sites are pending due to high rent issues (more than ₹ 24000/- per annum). The request for lowering rent of these sites have been sent by BSNL to the Revenue Department and presently the file is in secretariat for approval to make the rent of these sites within limit. He also told about higher demand note (more than 2 lakh per site) issued at 32 villages by Electricity board.

➤ The Energy & Petrochemicals Department was instructed to review the increased demand notes issued by DISCOMs for the deployment of Mobile Towers under the USOF Saturation 4G Mobile Services project.

➤ It was decided to share information with the Revenue Department for areas where land allocation is either pending or unavailable in the villages.

## 3. Industrial Facilitations Measures:

a) It was intimated that around 90 non-required RoW applications were deleted from the portal as suggested by DOT after taking confirmation form Airtel. Same exercise was done for BSNL also and deleted 16 non-required applications.

➤ The Chairperson instructed to send letters to all Departments for resolving huge pending RoW application at their end. DoT was also suggested to instruct TSPs to make payment for "payment pending" RoW applications.

b) Chairperson suggested not to pursue the 'deemed approved' approach and are instead prioritizing the clearance of Right of Way (RoW) applications.

## 4. DLC (District Level Committee) formation was discussed.

It was decided that the DLC would be formed only for the 8 major Municipal Corporations, and the Urban Development & Urban Housing Department will initiate the formulation of the committee.

**5. Digital Inclusion:**

- a) The matter of establishing an Inter Departmental Coordination Committee (IDCC) for DCRI was discussed.
- It was decided that IDCC is not required as DCRI cases will be discussed in SBC meetings under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary.

**6. Skilling Targets in Telecom Domain:**

It was intimated that DOT had organised a meeting on dated 12-12-2023 with the CTOs of all the TSPs for the utilisation of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for providing master trainers & fulfilling training requirements in institutes.

- The Chairperson assured that any required help will be provided by secretariat for this purpose.

The meeting was concluded with the vote of thanks by Shri Kalpesh Patel, Dy Director, Department of Science & Technology, Government of Gujarat to all the members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> SBC.

(Dr. K. B. Sharma)  
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Copy to:

1. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Gujarat.
2. Additional Chief Secretary, Revenue Department
3. Additional DGT, D.O.T., Govt. of India, Gujarat LSA.
4. Principal Secretary, Panchayat, Rural Housing & Rural Development Department.
5. Principal Secretary, Energy and Petrochemicals Department.
6. Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment Department.
7. Secretary, Department of Science & Technology
8. Commissioner of Land Reforms and Ex-officio Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
9. APCCF – Land, Forest and Environment Department.
10. Dy. DG (R1)/ Dy. DG (R2)/ Dir (R2), D.O.T., Govt. of India, Gujarat LSA.
11. CGM, BSNL/ PGM (Mobile), BSNL / PGM / State head Bharatnet BSNL, CGM BBNL and Statehood Gujarat.
12. Joint Managing Director, Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation (GIDC).
13. Director, ICT & e-Governance, Department of Science & Technology.
14. Deputy Secretary, Urban Development & Urban Housing Department.
15. Chief Engineer, Roads & Building Department
16. Chairman, COAI/ Chairman, DIPA.