



Press Release

For immediate publication

SOBHA supports the cause of widening of Panathur - Balagere Road

Bengaluru, February 27, 2018: Bengaluru, home to India's IT and ITES sector is one of the fastest growing metropolis in India. Over the past decade, the city has grown manifold and has attracted a number of multinational corporations to set up offices. This has enticed young professionals from all over the country, making it the third most populous city in India. As a result of this influx, Bengaluru has witnessed several issues - traffic congestion being one the most acute problems. Being a responsible corporate entity, SOBHA is committed to making a meaningful contribution towards resolving this issue.

According to **Bangalore Development Authority's (BDA) Revised Master Plan 2031**, the city will have 20.3 million residents by 2031 — beyond the current population in metros such as Mumbai and Delhi. The plan has also highlighted that Bengaluru's current population of 10 million citizens waste 600 million man hours annually, leading to a loss of INR 3,700 crore, including INR 1350 crore on fuel alone, and the rest on productivity (man hour). Such losses impact the overall economic and social growth of the city in particular and the country at large.

Today, some of the important routes connecting major IT and ITES companies in Kadubeesanahalli and Devarabeesnahalli include Outer Ring Road (ORR), Sarjapur road, Panathur road leading to Varthur from ORR and HAL road. Of these, Panathur / Outer Ring Road (ORR) to Balagere is one the most congested with only 4m vent on a 4km stretch absorbing vehicular traffic emanating from both the sides. This leads to 600 to 700 metre long vehicular queue, wasting at least 45-60 minutes of commute time on an average. While the problem is severe, there are no alternative roads from Balagere to Panathur/ORR.

Speaking on the issue, Mr. J.C. Sharma, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, SOBHA Limited said, "There is tremendous pressure on the Panathur to Balagere road, especially during peak hours. This affects a large number of working and residential people in and around the area. Additionally, the condition of the road from ORR to Balagere is extremely poor. With increasing development in the area, it is expected that the number of cars and two wheelers in the next 4 to 5 years will be around 50,000. This will further aggravate the current traffic woes on the route. Therefore, it is imperative to look for solutions for improving the traffic management and preparing for the future development."

Based on the recommendations of the Consortia of Infrastructure Engineers (CIE), SOBHA believes that this issue can be resolved to a large extent by developing an alternative road from ORR via the road adjacent to CROMA and connecting it to existing Panathur road on the eastern side of the railway line



through a new underpass on the railway line. There should also be focus on improving the Balegere–Panathur road and managing the traffic better on the stretch by:

- Developing an additional narrow railway vent, adjacent to the existing one.
- Covering of open drains on either side of the Panathur road to avoid accidents.
- Streamlining of vehicle parking along the sides to ease vehicle passage.
- Long-pending widening of the Panathur road to 18m as per BDA-CDP. There is a need for an additional vent adjacent to the existing one.
- Restricting the entry of water tankers during peak hours and more.

Mr. Sharma emphasised the need to consider these recommendations at the earliest and help improve mobility in the region. He also stressed that efficient management of traffic problems in the city will translate into improved productivity and economic growth of the state. He is hopeful that the concerned authorities will look into this issue seriously and initiate necessary action.

Large number of concerned citizens have started a signature campaign and have written to the officials concerned and also to the Chief Minister in this regard hoping for an early positive action.

About SOBHA Limited:

Founded in 1995, SOBHA Limited is one of the fastest growing and foremost backward integrated real estate players in the country. It means that the company has all the key competencies and in-house resources to deliver a project from its conceptualization to completion. SOBHA is primarily focused on residential and contractual projects. The Company's residential projects include presidential apartments, villas, row houses, super luxury & luxury apartments, plotted developments and aspirational homes. In all its residential projects, the company lays strong emphasis on environmental management, water harvesting and highest safety standards. On the contractual projects side, the Company has constructed a variety of structures for corporates including offices, convention centres, software development blocks, multiplex theatres, hostel facilities, guest houses, food courts, restaurants, research centres, and club houses. For more information on SOBHA Limited, please visit: www.sobha.com

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