

Public works department frames plan to expedite road infrastructure development in Uttar Pradesh

Pankaj Shah / TNN / Updated: Jun 8, 2021, 12:38 IST

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LUCKNOW: To streamline execution and ensure timely completion of development projects, the public works department ([PWD](#)) has submitted a comprehensive annual work plan for the development of highways and district roads in the state.

Principal secretary, PWD, [Nitin Ramesh Gokarn](#) said once the plan gets approved by the [state government](#), the department would take it up on priority.

“Earlier, projects were taken up on a piecemeal basis due to which there was no clarity. The annual work plan, which we have proposed for the current fiscal, would make things clearer and expedite development of roads and highways,” Gokarn told TOI.

Sources said PWD decided for annual work plan after the [Covid](#) second wave started flattening. The government's decision to step up development of road infrastructure comes after CM [Yogi Adityanath](#) pitched for early completion of various expressways, including Purvanchal and Bundelkhand expressways. The government has also expedited acquisition of land for the 594km Ganga expressway, touted as the longest expressway project in the country. Experts said the development of district roads and highways forms the core of any government's development agenda as the condition of roads decides the political fortunes of a ruling party. Sources said the department had been grappling with the issue of timely sanction of funds to execute projects. “The issue would be addressed as the engineers would know how the projects would be taken up over a period of one year,” a senior PWD official said.

PWD has earmarked funds for widening and strengthening of state highways in at least eight districts –Lakhimpur Kheri, Kannauj, Ghazipur, Basti, Firozabad, Barabanki, Mathura and Bahraich. The work is proposed to be carried out at a cost of around Rs 80 crore in the first phase.

The department has also proposed the development of main roads in over 20 districts.