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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Defence
Member of Consultative Committee on Defence
Member of Central Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps
Co-Chairman, Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, Bangalore Urban District
Vice Chairman, National Military Memorial Management Trust, Bangalore

29th June, 2016

Dear Shri Siddaramaiah avare,

I have received several representations and requests from various citizens and Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) expressing their concerns over proposed steel flyover from Basaveshwara Circle to Hebbal flyover.

As a citizen of Bengaluru and a Member of Parliament from the city, I write to you on their behalf and mine to express severe disappointment and some anger with the Government's handling of the issue.

I have no hesitation in referring to this project – as purely contractor and politically driven since, the proposed project is neither citizen-driven nor plan-driven. It is a blatant misuse of public money and illegal, as the proposed project is not placed before the constitutionally set up Bengaluru Metropolitan Planning Committee (BMPC) and there is no public consultation held before preparing Detailed Project Report (DPR). No impact study has been prepared and placed in public domain for scrutiny and transparency, as media reports suggest about 500 fully grown trees will be cut down to facilitate the proposed project.

There are many unanswered questions about this project – the haste, the design and the impact on environment, issues of maintenance, the aesthetics and beauty of our city, why not concrete like our flyovers, its interlinkages with future constructions and elevated corridors that will be required, etc. Its sponsor Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) and its leadership is already embroiled in many other questionable decisions and financial improprieties.

The strong opposition sparked is the evidence of the fact that Bengalureans are willing to assert their right to have a say in the development of their city. Our people and our city and state deserve better than what we are seeing today. They deserve a



Government and institutions that work in partnership with citizens, rather than the current situation of conflicts between residents and Government.

The problems Bengaluru is facing, specifically with respect to Transport & Traffic Management is to do with more fundamental issues of planning and institutional performance in terms of delivering public services less to do with structure or size of the city. The traffic crisis and several other issues the city faces like Public health and Dengue, Garbage mismanagement, Water scarcity etc. are glaring symptoms of avoiding planning. I understand the temptation to do away with planning because it gives unfettered administrative and political discretion to launch many projects with public money without scrutiny or questions. But that I can assure you is no longer the case.

Bengaluru needs a proper statutory long-term plan, including financial plan. BDA is now working on a plan, but the process needs to be made more transparent involving citizens, RWAs & NGOs, and must be placed before the Bengaluru Metropolitan Planning Committee (BMPC) where again it must be discussed openly and approved with public consultation.

If the State Government hopes to uphold the letter and spirit of the 74th Constitution Amendment Act (CAA) and ensure that citizens have their legitimate say in the development of the city, your immediate intervention is required to ensure that the Bengaluru Development Authority (BDA) exercises caution and does not exceed its mandate in this case. This project and all other projects including a medium and long term plan must be developed, placed and discussed before the MPC – the body that is constitutionally empowered to do this.

At a broader level, the cities governance has descended into chaos and crisis management - a fact that is important given that you had promised better Governance. The rampant corruption, lack of transparency, flawed contracting system and vested interests that are driving the city's governance strategy have rightfully, caused the ire of citizens.

I urge you to keep your promise of Good Governance and uphold the constitutionality of the MPC or face opposition to these moves. I further, urge you to have a BMPC approved multi-year plan blue print for the overall development of the City's issues including transportation which can then be executed in a phased manner.



I hope that action in this regard will be initiated promptly failing which I will on behalf of the lakhs of honest, hardworking citizens and their families who want to protect this city – be constrained to approach other forum to ensure that right course is followed.

Sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri Siddaramaiah

Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka
Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore

CC: **Shri K J George**, Hon'ble Minister for Bengaluru Development & Town
Planning, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru