

Noida: It's patchwork to patchwork for DND as it waits for resurfacing funds

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NOIDA: The DND Flyway remains dotted with potholes, and its bitumen layer has crumbled at many places, including at the toll plaza and loops, as the road that needs a resurfacing survives from one round of patchwork to another. Workers are engaged in repairing potholes on the Noida to Sarai Kale Khan stretch and the Sarai Kale Khan to Noida stretch. The loop connecting the Film City road to the DND will be next. But the commuting relief this will provide will only likely be shortlived, like the previous repairs.

According to a Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) study commissioned by the Flyway operator, Noida Toll Bridge Company Limited (NTBCL), the entirety of the stretch requires resurfacing.

The NTBCL, which is in charge of maintaining the bridge, collected toll for its use till an Allahabad High Court order scrapped it in 2016. Since then, the NTBCL revenues have been from advertisements.

Recently, NTBCL promoter Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services Limited (IL&FS), in a press statement, said the Noida toll bridge is over 20 years old and needs repairs, including some structural repairs, for which NTBCL has sought funds. "After writing to respective governments, NTBCL has now filed a petition with the Supreme Court, seeking intervention from the governments of UP and Delhi for a Rs 100 crore assistance for undertaking repairs on the toll bridge," its statement said.

Sharad Goel, chief communications officer of IL&FS Group, said the company had arranged for a functional and structural evaluation of the DND Flyway and the Mayur Vihar link road by CRRI to determine the surface strengthening and maintenance works required. “The CRRI has recommended resurfacing the entire stretch. The NTBCL has shared the report with the governments of UP and Delhi and the Noida Authority CEO, seeking assistance towards the restoration of DND Flyway,” he said.

On repairing the potholes, Goel said the company regularly undertakes repairs and general maintenance. “Fixing potholes is a continuous process. The potholes at the Sarai Kale Khan loop came up due to some construction work, and we have repaired the same,” he said.

He added that besides existing streetlights, there are fog lights on the bridge, where the traffic density is high, to ensure the safety of riders during inclement weather conditions.

Last Friday, a group of workers started filling the cracks on the Delhi-Noida stretch of the DND Flyway with bitumen emulsion to strengthen the road and prevent further erosion. Officials said they are experimenting with the bitumen emulsion and need some time to see the results, which, if good, they would use this repair method for other broken stretches.