

Ahmedabad-Rajkot high-speed rail corridor

Aerial survey soon for Rs 22,000 crore project

Rail corridor to run along national highway to reduce need for new land acquisition

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The work on the Rs 22,000 crore high-speed rail project between Ahmedabad and Rajkot — the hometown of **Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** — will kick off with the state government planning to hire aerial survey agency.

The aerial survey for the 220-km project, along the highway connecting two major cities of Gujarat, will be carried out using helicopter. The survey will study vehicular traffic, its movement and direction, congestion points, elevation and turns along the highway.

According to the proposal, the elevated corridor will be constructed along the existing National Highway 47 to reduce acquisition of new land. The proposal envisages dedicated right of the way for semi high-speed train running over 160km/hour speed.

Gujarat Rail Infrastructure Development Corporation (G-Ride), which is spearheading the project,



REPRESENTATIONAL PICTURE

The survey will study factors like traffic and accident zones

will soon appoint an agency for aerial survey. Over 45 lakh rail passengers travel annually between Ahmedabad and Rajkot. The survey will also focus on possible accident zones.

One of the directors of G-Ride, Ashwini Kumar, said, "The passenger traffic between the two cities has risen exponentially in the last 10 years and

crossed 45-lakh mark in 2017 compared to 19 lakh in 2007. The figure crossed 50 lakh mark in 2019.

Once set up, the corridor will reduce travel time between Ahmedabad and Rajkot by 2 hours. At present, 340 buses ply between the two

cities ferrying 13,000 passengers. But, most of all the high-speed corridor will act as a feeder to Ahmedabad-Mumbai high-speed rail that is under implementation."

The project, which will link Saurashtra with rest of the state, has been put on fast track for completion at the earliest.

