

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORT AUTHORITY – MUVATTUPUZHA –
HELD AT COLLECTORATE CONFERENCE HALL, ERNAKULAM ON
23.01.2023 at 2.30 p.m.**

Present:

1. Dr. Renu Raj IAS, District Collector (Ernakulam); Chairperson RTA,
2. Sri. Shaji Madhavan, Deputy Transport Commissioner (CZ-2); Member, RTA

Item No. 1

Heard.

1. This is to re-consider the application for fresh stage carriage permit to operate on the intra-district route Alinchuvade – Uppukandam – Kothamangalam – Perumbavoor – Allungal as ordinary service.

2. This authority previously considered the application and verified connected records in detail. Route Enquiry Officer has strongly recommended for further increase in number of trips between Kothamangalam – Allungal and Kothamangalam – Aalinchuvadu sectors than Kothamangalam – Perumbavoor in view of public convenience. On verification of files and records, we were also convinced that increasing trips to those ill-served areas will be beneficial for the public. Kothamangalam – Perumbavoor is a sector, where stage carriages are operating in a frequency of 1 - 2 minutes. One of the settled objectives of this authority is to provide more travelling facilities to the people, especially that of ill-served and rural areas. In view of observations made above we have suggested for a re-visit and rescheduling of time schedule proposed by the applicant during previous consideration of this application.

3. Thus, we have considered this application on 26.09.2022 in Additional Item No. 1 and the decision was adjourned with following remarks:

- a) focus operation has to be changed from Kothamangalam – Perumbavoor to other two areas; representations from local leaders also suggests the same.
- b) re-visit on time schedule is highly necessary in this fresh stage carriage proposal in such a way that at least two more single trips are to be included in Aalinchuvadu – Uppukandam – Kothamangalam & Perumbavoor – Allunkal sectors.
- c) Halting time at Perumbavoor (9.32 a.m.) has also to be increased.

d) Revised application with modified enquiry report has to be place before this authority.

4. The applicant submitted a modified time schedule with two more single trips to Uppukandam and also with an increase of 3 Minutes stay time at Perumbavoor (departure time changed from 09.32 a.m. to 09.35 a.m.). The modified proposal submitted by the applicant did not reflect the discussions made by us in our previous consideration. He has submitted a proposal without any mentioning on the extent of compliance of suggestions that made by this authority last time.

5. Motor Vehicles Inspector, Kothamangalam has conducted further enquiry on the revised proposal.

We have also considered and verified the revised proposal and the comments of the enquiry officer. As we suggested earlier, we strongly feel that there is possibility of at least two more trips to Alinchuvadu and Allumkal sectors by reducing trips between Kothamangalam and Perumbavoor. Report of Motor Vehicles Inspector also reveals that the suggested modification is viable and feasible. It is a well-known fact that the time gap is less than two minutes in Perumbavoor – Kothamangalam sector and more number of trips on this route will ultimately lead to unhealthy competition on the road and result in bloodshed.

6. In view of the discussion made above and as per the provisions contained in Section 72 (1) of Motor Vehicles Act; we are of the common view that the proposal has to be re-worked and modified in such a way that at least two more trips to Alinchuvadu and Allunmkal sectors within the given time schedule by reducing trips between Kothamangalam and Perumbavoor which we find it appropriate and viable; Secretary RTA will examine the same by conducting an enquiry and place before this authority.

7. Hence, decision on this application is **adjourned**.

Item No. 2

Heard.

1. This is to re-consider the application for fresh inter-district stage carriage permit to operate on the route Vazhithala – Pothanikad as ordinary service. We have re-considered the application, verified connected files and records.

2. This application along with records were considered by this authority held on 26.09.2022 in Item No. 4.

3. In the open hearing of this authority, there were objections on the line of travers mentioned in the report and application, especially in Thodupuzha town. Hence the decision was adjourned with a suggestion to re-enquire the matter with Joint Regional Transport Officer, Thodupuzha through Regional Transport Officer, Idukki.

4. The matter has been re-enquired by the Motor Vehicles Inspector, Sub-Regional Transport Office, Thodupuzha through Regional Transport Officer, Idukki.

We have examined the remarks on the report:

- Portion of the route (17.5 Kms) passes through the jurisdiction of that office.
- There is a virgin portion of 1.7 Kms in the jurisdiction of that office
- Fare to be fixed and road fitness certificate to be obtained from concerned authorities.
- Proposed line of traverse at Thodupuzha town is not in par with the present traffic regulation existing in Thodupuzha Town.
- As per the present traffic regulation, stage Carriages operating in this direction are travelling through Thdupuzha town, Gandhi Square, KSRTC Bus Station etc. as per the present traffic system at Thodupuzha.

The line of traverse proposed by the applicant is in such a way that the stage carriage is directly enters in to the back side of the bus stand through Ashirwad theatre road, avoiding the entire major points in the city.

- There is no overlapping with any of the notified routes in the proposed line of traverse.
- Applicant argued that a stage carriage has already been permitted to operate on the proposed line of traverse.

5. We have considered the objections for and against the application. Major objections were related to the line of traverse and traffic regulations at Thodupuzha Town, which lies in the jurisdiction of Sister RTA, Idukki. We are of the opinion that a final conclusion will be taken on this application after obtaining concurrence from Sister RTA, Idukki. We have also considered the provisions contained in Rule 171 (2) of Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules. Being a permit, of inter-district in nature, concurrence from Sister RTA is essential for further proceeding on this application.

Hence, Secretary RTA will seek concurrence from Sister RTA, Idukki and place before this authority.

Hence, decision on this application is **adjourned**.

Item No. 3

Heard.

1. This is to re-consider the application for fresh stage carriage permit to operate on the route Paingotoor – Mamalakkandam touching Malippara via. Pothanikkad, Pallarimangalam, Adivad, Kozhippilly, Kothamangalam, Neriyamangalam, 6 Mile and Chelad as ordinary service.

2. This application has been considered by the RTA held on 26.09.2022 in Item No. 3 and the decision was adjourned for want of a re-enquiry report specifying the condition of road.

4. Joint Regional Transport Officer, Kothamangalam has re-enquired the matter with his agency and the report reveals the following:

1. After rainy season, condition of road has been improved considerably and now, the road is ready to conduct stage carriage operation. Presently five stage carriage trips are operating between Mamalakkandam and Kothamangalam

2. Frequency of service

Paingootor – Kothamangalam - 20 to 25 Minutes

Kothamangalam – Mamalakkandam - 2 Hrs

Kothamangalam – Malippara - 40 Minutes

3. Part of the route is passing through tribal settlement areas and the sector Kothamangalam – Mamalakkandam is ill-served by public transport facilities. Hence proposal serves good traffic conveyance to those ill-served people.

5. We have also verified connected files and previous route enquiry report in detail. Objections for and against the applications were also considered as per law.

6. As per the report of enquiry officer, this is an inter- district route with a total route length of 65 Kms; in which 16.4 Kms lies in Idukki District and remaining 48.6 Kms in Ernakulam District. There is no virgin portion on the proposed route and the route is not overlapping with any of the nationalised routes.

7. We have also considered the provisions contained in Rule 171 (2) of Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules. Being a permit, of inter-district in nature, concurrence from Sister RTA is essential for further proceeding in this application. Hence the Secretary RTA will seek concurrence from Sister RTA, Idukki and place the application along with concurrence before this authority.

Hence, decision on this application is **adjourned**.

Item No. 4

Heard.

1. This is to consider the application for fresh S/C permit to operate on the route Koothattukulam – Piravom – Vattappara via. Chambamala, Nellurampara, Elanji, Namakkuzhi, Palachuvadu, Mullurpady, Pazoor, L P School, Kottappuram, Kalamboor, Kavala, Thottoor as ordinary service.
2. We have considered the application, report of route enquiry officer; connected files, objections raised for and against the application in the open hearing of this authority in detail.
3. As per the report of enquiry officer, the proposed route is intra-district with a total route length of 36 Kms; of which 2 Ks. lies in the jurisdiction of Regional Transport Authority, Ernakulam. There is an overlapping of 0.1 Kms. With notified route at Koothattukulam. Overlapping with notified route is reported to be not objectionable. Route enquiry officer has further reported that there is no sufficient stage carriages are operating in Koothattukulam – Elanji–Vattappara route and thus proving a stage carriage permit will be beneficial to travelling public and school children in the en-route area.
4. Therefore fresh regular stage carriage permit on the proposed route is **granted** to a suitable stage carriage subject to settlement of timings. The grantee of the permit is directed to produce the current records of a stage carriage for endorsing the granted permit within thirty days of communication of this decision as per Rule 159[2] of KMV Rules 1989; failing which the grant of the regular permit will be treated as revoked without further notice.

Item No. 5

Heard.

1. This is to consider the application for fresh stage carriage permit to operate on the route Thalakkode Checkpost – Kothamangalam – Perumbavoor via. Oonnukal, Puthencuiz, Kuthukuzhy, Nellimattom, Oodakkaly and Kuruppumpady as ordinary service.
2. This authority considered the application, verified the route enquiry report and other connected files and records. Objections, for and against the application were considered as per law.

3. As per the route enquiry report, the proposed route is intra-district with a total route length of 34 Kms. There is no virgin portion and an overlapping of 0.5 Kms with notified route. There is an average frequency of 5 Minutes on Thalakkode Checkpost – Kothamangalam sector and 2 minutes in Kothamangalam – Perumbavoor.

Route enquiry officer has further suggested that concentration of operation of this service is mainly Kothamangalam – Perumbavoor, where there are lot many stage carriages are operating.

Based on the route enquiry report, in Thalakkode check post – Kothamangalam sector, frequency of service is more than the other sector. He has also suggested for more number of trips in Thalakkode Check post – Kothamangalam sector for the benefit of passengers and travelling public. We consider this as a viable and appropriate suggestion.

4. The approach of this authority is to facilitate more travelling facilities for interior, rural travelling public. In this context, we cannot ignore the findings of the enquiry officer. He has clearly suggested for a modification on this proposal with more number of trips to less-served areas. There was a submission from one of the Peoples' representative of Kavalangad Grama Panchayath, he also suggested for stage carriage operation from Thalakkod. Also, we are of the common view that these proposals have to be framed in such a way that the stage carriages should act like a bridge between rural townships and urban Municipal areas rather operating services between two urban spots with negligible frequency. It is a well-known fact that the time gap is less than two minutes in Perumbavoor – Kothamangalam sector and more number of trips on this route will ultimately lead to unhealthy competition on the road and result in bloodshed.

5. Thus, as per the provisions contained in Section 72 (1) of Motor Vehicles Act; we are of the common view that the proposal has to be re-worked and modified in such a way that at least two more single trips has to be added to the sector Thalakkode Check post – Kothamangalam within the proposed time schedule submitted along with the application.

Secretary, RTA will re-enquire the modified application submitted by the applicant and place before this authority.

6. Hence decision on this application is **adjourned**.

Item No. 6

Heard. 1. This is to consider the application for fresh stage carriage permit to operate on the route Avolichal – Muvattupuzha – Ayavana via. Neriyaamangalam, Kothamangalam, Puthupadi, Muvattupuzha, Randar, Ayavana, Varappetty, Pidavoor, Adivad and Pothanikkad as ordinary service.

2. This authority considered the application, verified the route enquiry report and other connected files and records. Objections, for and against the application were considered as per law.

3. As per the route enquiry report, the proposed route is intra-district with a total route length of 58 Kms. There is no virgin portion and an overlapping of 2 Kms with notified route. There is an average frequency of 3 Minutes on Muvattupuzha – Kothamangalam sector and 15 Minutes on Pothanikkad – Kothamangalam and 30 Minutes on Avolichal – Neriyaamangalam.

Route enquiry officer has further suggested that proposed route will connect remote areas like Avolichal, Pothanikkad and Ayavana with Kothamangalam and Muvattupuzha.

In this case, frequency of stage carriage service in Avolichal – Neriyaamangalam is 30 Minutes and the applicant proposes only one single starting and halting trips to this ill-served area. The approach of this authority is to facilitate more travelling facilities for interior, rural travelling public. We are of the common view that a modification on this proposal with more number of trips to less-served areas is highly necessary. Also, we are of the common view that these proposals have to be framed in such a way that the stage carriages should act like a bridge between rural townships and urban Municipal areas rather operating services between two urban spots with negligible frequency.

4. Thus, as per the provisions contained in Section 72 (1) of Motor Vehicles Act; we are of the common view that the proposal has to be re-worked and modified in such a way that at least two more single trips has to be added to the sector Avolichal - Neriyaamangalam within the proposed time schedule submitted along with the application.

Secretary, RTA will re-enquire the modified application submitted by the applicant and place before this authority.

5. Hence decision on this application is **adjourned**.

Item No. 7

Heard.

1. This is to consider the application for fresh stage carriage permit to operate on the route Vadattupara – Kothamangalam – Muvattupuzha via. Keerampara, Nadukani, Kothamangalam, Nellikuzhi, 314 Road, Nirappe, Keecheripadi, Puthuppadi as ordinary service.

2. This authority considered the application, verified the route enquiry report and other connected files and records. Objections, for and against the application were considered as per law.

3. As per the route enquiry report, the proposed route is intra-district with a total route length of 36 Kms.; in which a distance of 34 Kms lies in the jurisdiction of this authority and a distance of 2 Kms lies in the jurisdiction of RTA Ernaulam. There is no virgin portion and an overlapping of 2 Kms with notified route at Muvattupuzha. There is an average frequency of 3 Minutes on Muvattupuzha – Kothamangalam sector and 30 Minutes on Vadattupara – Kothamangalam and 60 Minutes on Nellikuzhy - Keecheripady.

Route enquiry officer has further reported that Vadattupara, Chakkimedu, Thundam, Nadukani, Nirappu are remote areas. This proposal bridges these remote areas with town areas like Kothamangalam and Muvattupuzha. He has further reported that no stage carriage services are operating from Oonjappara to Nadukani and Nellikuzhy to 314 Junction; and public transport service will be beneficial to the people and students of these village areas.

4. Therefore fresh regular stage carriage permit on the proposed route is **granted** to a suitable stage carriage subject to settlement of timings. The grantee of the permit is directed to produce the current records of a stage carriage for endorsing the granted permit within thirty days of communication of this decision as per Rule 159[2] of KMV Rules 1989; failing which the grant of the regular permit will be treated as revoked without further notice.

Item No. 8

Heard

1. This is to consider the application for fresh stage carriage permit to operate on the route Kothamangalam – Vazhakkulam via. Varappetty, Ayavana, Kallorkkad and Nerrampuzha as ordinary service.

2. This authority considered the application, verified the route enquiry report and other connected files and records. Objections, for and against the application were considered as per law. Erratum agenda published on proposed time schedule verified and accepted.

3. As per the route enquiry report, the proposed route is intra-district with a total route length of 26.5 Kms. There is no virgin portion and an overlapping of 0.2 Kms with notified route at Vazhakkulam. There is an average frequency of 30 Minutes in Kothamangalam – Varappetty sector; 45 Minutes in Varappetty – Ayavana and 45 Minutes in Ayavana – Kallorkkad sector.

Route enquiry officer has further reported that the proposed route bridges remote areas such as Ayavana, Neerampuzha and Kallorkkad with Kothamangalam. So, the proposed permit will be beneficial to the people and students of this area.

4. Therefore fresh regular stage carriage permit on the proposed route is **granted** to a suitable stage carriage subject to settlement of timings. The grantee of the permit is directed to produce the current records of a stage carriage for endorsing the granted permit within thirty days of communication of this decision as per Rule 159[2] of KMV Rules 1989; failing which the grant of the regular permit will be treated as revoked without further notice.

Item No. 9

Heard.

1. This is to consider the application for fresh stage carriage permit to operate on the route Inchathotty – Neriyaamangalam via. Oonnukal, Nellimattom, Kothamangalam, Oodakkali, Perumbavoor as ordinary service.

2. This authority considered the application, verified the route enquiry report and other connected files and records. Objections, for and against the application were considered as per law.

3. As per the route enquiry report, the proposed route is inter-district with a total route length of 43.9Kms in which 42.9 Kms lies in the jurisdiction of this authority and a distance 1 Km that of RTA idukki.

There is no virgin portion and an overlapping of 0.5Kms with notified route at Perumbavoor. There is an average frequency of 5 Minutes in Kothamangalam – Neriyaamangalam sector and 1 to 2 Minutes in Kothamangalam - Perumbavoor sector. Inchathotty – Neriyaamangalam sector is totally ill-served. Route Enquiry Officer

further suggested that more travelling facilities are required to this sector for the benefit of travelling public.

4. In this case, the focus of operation is Kothamangalam – Perumbavoor and the frequency of stage carriage service in Inchathotty is nominal; the applicant proposes only one single starting and halting trips to this ill-served area. The approach of this authority is to facilitate more travelling facilities for interior, rural travelling public. We are of the common view that a modification on this proposal with more number of trips to less-served areas are highly necessary. Also, we are of the common view that these proposals have to be framed in such a way that the stage carriages should act like a bridge between rural townships and urban Municipal areas rather operating services between two urban spots with negligible frequency.

5. Thus, as per the provisions contained in Section 72 (1) of Motor Vehicles Act; we are of the common view that the proposal has to be re-worked and modified in such a way that at least two more single trips has to be added to the sector Inchathotty - Neriyamangalam within the proposed time schedule submitted along with the application by reducing the number of trips between Kothamangalam and Perumbavoor.

Secretary, RTA will re-enquire the modified application submitted by the applicant and place before this authority.

6. Hence decision on this application is **adjourned**.

Item No. 10

Heard.

1. This is to consider the application for fresh stage carriage permit to operate on the route Kothamangalam – Manikantanchal via. Thattekkad, Kuttambuzha, Pinavoorkudy and Pooyamkutty as ordinary service.

2. This authority considered the application, verified the route enquiry report and other connected files and records. Objections, for and against the application were considered as per law.

3. As per the route enquiry report, the proposed route is intra-district with a total route length of 38.1 Kms. There is no virgin portion and no overlapping with notified route. There is an average frequency of 25 Minutes in Kothamangalam–Thattekkad; Thattekkad – Kuttampuzha, Kuttampuzha – Pooyamkutty and pooyamkutty – Manikantanchal; also there is an average frequency of 50 Minutes in Kuttampuzha –

Pinavoorkudy sector. Route Enquiry Officer further suggested that the applicant propose fresh stage carriage permit for the commuters mostly from tribal area. Hence it increases conveyance facility from most interior places to Kothamangalam township.

4. Therefore fresh regular stage carriage permit on the proposed route is **granted** to a suitable stage carriage subject to settlement of timings. The grantee of the permit is directed to produce the current records of a stage carriage for endorsing the granted permit within thirty days of communication of this decision as per Rule 159[2] of KMV Rules 1989; failing which the grant of the regular permit will be treated as revoked without further notice.

Item No. 11

Heard.

1. This is to consider the application for fresh stage carriage permit to operate on the route Pothanikkad – Muvattupuzha – Kaliyar via. Pulinthanam, Ayavana, Kizhakkekara, Muvattupuzha, Kakkadasserry and Vannappuram as ordinary service.

2. This authority considered the application, verified the route enquiry report and other connected files and records. Objections were considered as per law.

3. As per the route enquiry report, the proposed route is inter-district with a total route length of 43Kms; in which 37 Kms lies in the jurisdiction of this authority and 6 Kms lies in the jurisdiction of Sister RTA, Idukki. There is virgin portion from Pulinthanam to SNDP Junction, Ayavana and there is a distance of 2 Kms overlapping with notified route at Muvattupuzha. There is an average frequency of 20 Minutes in Muvattupuzha - Kaliyar; there is no stage carriage service at present in the sector Pothanikkad – Ayavana; and there is a frequency of 45 Minutes in the sector Ayavana - Muvattupuzha.

Fitness certificate produced for the virgin portion from the Secretary Ayavana Panchayath needs to be modified with specific details mentioning, whether the road is fit for stage carriages or not and fare stages to be fixed. We have also verified the time schedule of the proposed application. It is evident that the entire concentration of this stage carriage operation is between Kaliyar and Muvattupuzha, in which there are many more stage carriages are operating. Ill-served areas like Ayavana and Pothanikkad are totally ignored. Only single trip in early morning (starting) night (halting) trips are proposed through the virgin portion.

The approach of this authority is to facilitate more travelling facilities for interior, rural travelling public. We are of the common view that a modification on this proposal with more number of trips to less-served areas are highly necessary. Also, we are of the common view that these proposals have to be framed in such a way that the stage carriages should act like a bridge between rural townships and urban Municipal areas rather operating services between two spots with less frequency of stage carriages operation.

5. Thus, as per the provisions contained in Section 72 (1) of Motor Vehicles Act; we are of the common view that the proposal has to be re-worked and modified in such a way that at least two more single trips has to be added to the sector Pothanikkad – Ayavana – Muvattupuzha during peak hours within the proposed time schedule submitted along with the application.

Secretary, RTA will re-enquire the modified application submitted by the applicant and place before this authority.

6. Hence decision on this application is **adjourned**.

Item No. 12

Heard.

1. This is to consider the application for fresh stage carriage permit to operate on the route Pothanikkad – Muvattupuzha – Kaliyar via. Pulinthanam, Ayavana, Kizhakkekkara, Muvattupuzha, Kakkadasserry and Vannappuram as ordinary service.

2. This authority considered the application, verified the route enquiry report and other connected files and records. Objections, for and against the application were considered as per law.

3. As per the route enquiry report, the proposed route is inter-district with a total route length of 43 Kms; in which 37 Kms lies in the jurisdiction of this authority and 6 Kms lies in the jurisdiction of Sister RTA, Idukki. There is virgin portion from Pulinthanam to SNDP Junction, Ayavana and there is a distance of 2 Kms overlapping with notified route at Muvattupuzha. There is an average frequency of 20 Minutes in Muvattupuzha - Kaliyar; there is no stage carriage service at present in the sector Pothanikkad – Ayavana; and there is a frequency of 45 Minutes in the sector Ayavana - Muvattupuzha.

Fitness certificate produced for the virgin portion from the Secretary Ayavana Panchayath needs to be modified with specific details mentioning, whether the road is

fit for stage carriages or not and fare stages to be fixed. It is evident that the entire concentration of this stage carriage operation is between Kaliyar and Muvattupuzha, in which there are many more stage carriages are operating. Ill-served areas like Ayavana and Pothanikkad are totally ignored. Only single trip in early morning (starting) night (halting) trips are proposed through the virgin portion at Ayavana.

The approach of this authority is to facilitate more travelling facilities for interior, rural travelling public. We are of the common view that a modification on this proposal with more number of trips to less-served areas are highly necessary. Also, we are of the common view that these proposals have to be framed in such a way that the stage carriages should act like a bridge between rural townships and urban Municipal areas rather operating services between two spots with less frequency of stage carriages operation.

5. Thus, as per the provisions contained in Section 72 (1) of Motor Vehicles Act; we are of the common view that the proposal has to be re-worked and modified in such a way that at least two more single trips has to be added to the sector Pothanikkad – Ayavana – Muvattupuzha during peak hours within the proposed time schedule submitted along with the application.

Secretary, RTA will re-enquire the modified application submitted by the applicant and place before this authority.

6. Hence decision on this application is **adjourned**.

Item No.13

Heard.

1. This is to consider the application for fresh stage carriage permit to operate on the route Pothanikkad – Muvattupuzha – Kaliyar via. Pulinthanam, Ayavana, Kizhakkekara, Muvattupuzha, Kakkadasserry and Vannappuram as ordinary service.

2. This authority considered the application, verified the route enquiry report and other connected files and records. Objections, for and against the application were considered as per law.

3. As per the route enquiry report, the proposed route is inter-district with a total route length of 43 Kms; in which 37 Kms lies in the jurisdiction of this authority and 6 Kms lies in the jurisdiction of Sister RTA, Idukki. There is virgin portion from Pulinthanam to SNDP Junction, Ayavana and there is a distance of 2 Kms overlapping with notified route at Muvattupuzha. There is an average frequency of 20 Minutes in

Muvattupuzha - Kaliyar; there is no stage carriage service at present in the sector Pothanikkad – Ayavana; and there is a frequency of 45 Minutes in the sector Ayavana - Muvattupuzha.

Fitness certificate produced for the virgin portion from the Secretary Ayavana Panchayath needs to be modified with specific details mentioning, whether the road is fit for stage carriages or not and fare stages to be fixed and fare stages to be fixed. We have also verified the time schedule of the proposed application. It is evident that the entire concentration of this stage carriage operation is between Kaliyar and Muvattupuzha, in which there are many more stage carriages are operating. Ill-served areas like Ayavana and Pothanikkad are totally ignored. Only single trip in early morning (starting) night (halting) trips are proposed through the virgin portion.

The approach of this authority is to facilitate more travelling facilities for interior, rural travelling public. We are of the common view that a modification on this proposal with more number of trips to less-served areas are highly necessary. Also, we are of the common view that these proposals have to be framed in such a way that the stage carriages should act like a bridge between rural townships and urban Municipal areas rather operating services between two spots with less frequency of stage carriages operation.

5. Thus, as per the provisions contained in Section 72 (1) of Motor Vehicles Act; we are of the common view that the proposal has to be re-worked and modified in such a way that at least two more single trips has to be added to the sector Pothanikkad – Ayavana – Muvattupuzha during peak hours within the proposed time schedule submitted along with the application.

Secretary, RTA will re-enquire the modified application submitted by the applicant and place before this authority.

6. Hence decision on this application is **adjourned**.

Item No.14

Heard.

This to consider the application for fresh stage carriage permit to operate on the route Nedumkandam – Ernakulam Vytila Hub via. Myladumpara, Thinkalkkadu, Kambilikandam, PanamkuttyKavala, Karimanal, Neriya Mangalam, Kothamangalam, Perumbavoor, Cochin Bank Junction, Medical, College, Kakkanad, Palarivattom Bypass and Vytila Hub as limited stop ordinary service (LSOS).

2. This authority considered the application, verified the route enquiry report and other connected files and records. Objections, for and against the application were considered as per law.

3. As per the route enquiry report, the proposed route is inter-district with a total route length of 135 Kms; in which 83Kms lies in the jurisdiction of this authority and 52Kms lies in the jurisdiction of Sister RTA, Idukki. There is no virgin portion and there is a distance of 1.5Kms overlapping with notified route at Perumbavoor. There is an average frequency of 30 Minutes in Nedumkandam - Neriya Mangalam; 5 Minutes between Neriya Mangalam and Kothamangalam and 3 Minutes between Kothamangalam and Perumbavoor. Route enquiry officer has further reported that at present, there is no stage carriage service is between Nedumkandam and Ernakulam Vyttila Hub via. Kambilikandam. Also, proposed permit covers remote areas not having adequate public transport facility. List of stops were considered and verified.

4. In the proposed application, after Perumbavoor, timing is shown for Vyttila Hub. Timing for intermediate points are not shown and these are points in which lot many other stage carriages are operating. We have verified the enquiry report further and in which frequency and other details after Perumbavoor is missing. Thus, Secretary, RTA will obtain a detailed enquiry report from the Secretary; RTA Ernakulam for the portion lies in the jurisdiction of that authority on the modified application submitted by the applicant specifying the time slots for intermediate points between Perumbavoor and Vyttila Hub.

5. Hence decision on this application is **adjourned**.

Item No.15

Heard.

1. This is to consider the application for variation of regular permit in respect of Stage Carriage KL 40 H 1215 operating on the route Mekkappala – Chottanikkara. The Permit holder intends to operate such that Kuruppumpady – Chottanikkara via. Perumbavoor, Kolancherry; that is the permit holder requested for changing the starting and halting place from Mekkappala to Kuruppumpady

2. This authority considered the application, verified the route enquiry report and other connected files and records. Objections, for and against the application were considered as per law.

3. As per the route enquiry report, the application involves a curtailment of Mekkappala – Kuruppumpady in the starting and halting trips. He has further reported that, this curtailment will adversely affect the travelling public and school children travelling in the early morning and late evening and this will not be beneficial to the rural public.

4. This authority considered the observations of the route enquiry officer with due seriousness and we do not want to overrule the same.

We have also considered this application in accordance with the provisions explained in Rule 145 (6) i & ii of Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules; we could not find any such circumstances as explained in aforesaid Rules in the applied route.

Thus, based on the provisions contained in Section 80 (3) of Motor Vehicles Act, Rule 145 (6) i & ii and also the observations of route enquiry officer, application for variation is **rejected**.

Item No.16

Heard.

1. This is to consider the application for variation of regular permit in respect of Stage Carriage KL 65 L 9674 operating on the route Elamlasserry – Muvattupuzha via. Pinavoorkudy, Kuttampuzha, Thattekkad, Kothamangalam, Puthuppady, Pooyamkutty and Vellaramkuthu so as to curtail the first and last trips from Elamlasserry to Pinavoorkudy by changing starting and halting place.

2. This authority considered the application, verified the route enquiry report and other connected files and records. Objections, for and against the application were considered as per law. Route Enquiry Officer has reported that this curtailment will adversely affect the travelling public. This involves shifting of termini; Curtailment of first and last trips are against the interest of travelling public and this will not be beneficial to the rural public and not advisable.

3. This authority considered the observations of the route enquiry officer with due seriousness and we do not want to overrule the same.

We have also considered this application in accordance with the provisions explained in Rule 145 (6) i & ii of Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules; we could not find any such circumstances as explained in aforesaid Rules in the applied route.

Thus, based on the provisions contained in Section 80 (3) of Motor Vehicles Act, Rule 145 (6) i & ii and also the observations of route enquiry officer, application for variation is **rejected**.

Item No.17

Heard.

1. This is to consider the application for variation of regular permit in respect of Stage Carriage KL 03 N 6535 operating on the route Perumbavoor – Thripunithura via. Allapra, Kuttippadam, Anand Oil Mills, Poonjasserry, Chithrapuzha Road, Thamarachal, Kizhakkambalam, Pallikkara, Veegaland, Vikasavani, Thengode, Edachira, Kakkanad, Irumpanam, Karingachira so that deviation of existing trip nos. 8 and 9 through Thandekkad by curtailing route portion Anand Oil Mill, Kuttippadam and Allapra; Trip Nos. 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 extended up to Infopark East Gate from Edachira – Infopark Road Jn.

2. This authority considered the application, verified the route enquiry report and other connected files and records. Objections, for and against the application were considered as per law. Route Enquiry Officer has reported that this curtailment will adversely affect the travelling public. As per the report of enquiry officer, curtailment of portion of route Kuttippadam – Anand oil mills is ill served than the added portion via Thandekkad. This will adversely affect travelling public of this area. Variation is not in the interest of travelling public. There is also a remark that Edachira – Infopark is an ill-served sector and is beneficial to the travelling public. The officer further states that no circumstances as per R 145 (6 & 7) of KMVRs exists in the varied route. Any variation amounts to a fresh permit as per S. 80 (3) of Motor Vehicles Act.

3. This authority considered the observations of the route enquiry officer with due seriousness and we do not want to overrule the same.

We have also considered this application in accordance with the provisions explained in Rule 145 (6) i & ii of Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules; we could not find any such circumstances as explained in aforesaid Rules in the applied route.

Thus, based on the provisions contained in Section 80 (3) of Motor Vehicles Act, Rule 145 (6) i & ii and also the observations of route enquiry officer, application for variation is **rejected**.

Item No.18

Heard.

1. This is to:

a) peruse the directions contained in the Judgment of Hon. High Court of Kerala in WP(C) No. 40360 of 2022; Dtd. 13.12.2022

b) peruse the directions contained in the order of Hon. State Transport Appellate Tribunal, Ernakulam in M.P. No. 693/2022 in MVAA No. 152/2022; Dtd. 10.08.2022

c) re-consider the application for variation of regular permit in respect of Stage Carriage KL 26 E 0886 operating on the route West Morakkala – Aluva via. Kizhakkambalam, Pookattupady, Choondy so as to

i) Extend 3,4,5,6,9,10 trips to Kakkanad through newly opened Maanjerikuzhi Bridge via. Edachira, Kinfra Gate with change in departure time from Aluva as 07.10. a.m. in trip no. 3; no change in other trips/timings.

2. This authority considered the application, verified the route enquiry report and other connected files and records. Objections, for and against the application were considered as per law.

3. This authority has previously considered this application based on the directions contained in the judgment of Hon. High Court of Kerala in WP(C) No. 5326 of 2022; 17.02.2022 in its sitting held on 26.04.2022 in Item No. 10 and adjourned the decision on this application with following remarks:

a) ...while considering the application of a stage carriage permit, including variation through a particular route (Section 2(38)), utmost importance has to be given for public safety and interest. Thus, consideration on condition of the road to accommodate stage carriage services is also that of paramount importance. We have also referred the provisions given in Section 71 and 72 of Motor Vehicles Act and also the powers vested upon this authority while considering the application of fresh/regular permit (Joshy Rapheal v. RTO Ernakulam – 1991 KHC 98 : 1991(1) KLT 288:1991 (1) KLJ 165.)

Thus,

a) fare stages on virgin portion has to be fixed and published

b) the condition of the road has to be improved in line with the observation of Route Enquiry Officer for starting stage carriage operation through this road.

c) On completion of the work, place the application before this authority for re-consideration with a revised report.

4. These remarks were based on the report of route enquiry officer and also for safety of public and passengers. However the applicant has further approached Hon. STAT against the decision of this authority in M.P. No. 693/2022 in MVAA No. 152/2022; Dtd. 10.08.2022 and there is a direction to grant provisional variation of conditions of permit to operate stage carriage service on the route West Morakkala – Aluva for a period of one month.

5. Further, we have re-considered the matter in the light of the directions contained in the order of Hon. STAT. However, since it was reported that the condition of the road is not suitable for stage carriage operation, RTA, adjourned the matter with a direction to re-enquire the condition of the road by an officer not below the rank of a Joint Regional Transport Officer.

6. Again, the applicant has produced a judgment from Hon. High Court of Kerala in WP(C) No. 40360 of 2022 Dtd. 13.12.2022 in which there is a direction to the Secretary, RTA to comply with the directions stipulated in the order of STAT.

7. Meanwhile, Joint Regional Transport Officer, Perumbavoor has submitted re-enquiry report on condition of the road; as per his report:

i) Width of culvert (Otti kanal) is 3.3 Mts. Only. Hence double lane traffic is not possible.

ii) Both sides of road is ruined and there is a land-sliding in a width of 30 cm

iii) No handrails and/or signal boards in the culvert

iv) Manjerikuzhi Bridge – Morakkala road is in a depilated condition and stage carriage service is not possible in present condition

v) Road through virgin portion, there are no street lights and/or traffic signage and/or other safety measures.

For reasons cited above, stage carriage operation cannot be allowed through the above route due to safety reasons.

8. We consider this as a matter of public safety and are not in a position to grant the application ignoring the observations of two officers who are authorized to enquire and report the matter concerned with variation of permit. We have also perused the directions contained in the order of Hon. STAT, allowing variation of permit provisionally. Hon. High Court of Kerala also directed the Secretary to comply the direction of Hon. STAT since there was not statutory request for appeal or review. One month period of provisional variation is also seems to be expired. In this context, the

Secretary RTA will, in consultation with standing counsel, file a petition which is deemed to fit, before Hon. STAT for a direction on the nature of action to be taken on this application and previous order of Hon. STAT in the light of enquiry reports; provisions contained in Motor Vehicles Act and Rules. Also, a time extension petition may be filed before Hon. High Court of Kerala till further orders of Hon. STAT.

Till a conclusion is made by Hon. STAT, decision on this application is **adjourned**.

Item No.19

Heard.

This is a request by the grantee of fresh stage carriage permit on the route Adimaly – Vyttila Hub as ordinary service for getting maximum time for producing the current records of a suitable stage carriage for endorsing the granted permit.

This authority, held on 26.09.2022 in Item No. 1 granted fresh stage carriage permit subject to the production of current records within 30 days of a suitable vehicle and settlement of timings.

Now the grantee of the permit has requested for granting maximum time for the production of current records of a suitable vehicle for endorsing the granted permit.

We have considered the application and verified connected records.

We have also verified Rule 159 of Kerala Motor Vehicles Rules, as provisions stipulated in the Rule, maximum time of four months in aggregate for the production of current records of a suitable vehicle for endorsing the granted permit is **granted**. Also, we made it clear that, if the grantee of the permit, fails to produce the current records within the stipulated four months' time, no further extension of time will be allowed and grant of the permit will be revoked without further notice as per law.

Item No.20

Heard.

1. This is to consider the

- i. request for condone the delay occurred in filing the application for renewal of permit
- ii belated application for renewal of the regular stage carriage permit in respect of the stage carriage KL 10 U 9583 operating on the route Piravom – Muvattupuzha - Kothamangalam vide permit no. 17/1974/2007/EM, which was valid from 18.10.2017 to 17.10.2022 for further period of 05 years.

2. We have verified the request and connected documents in detail. This is a belated application and the permit holder has requested to condone the delay in filing the application on medical grounds.

We have also verified the provisions explained in Section 81 (2) of the Motor Vehicles Act, that stipulates the submission of application for renewal of permit not less than 15 days of expiry of permit. In this case, the permit holder failed to submit the application before 15 days of expiry of permit.

We have considered the request of the permit holder on medical grounds.

In the open hearing of this authority there was an objection stating that the medical certificate and the reasoning stated by the permit holder was not genuine.

Hence, the Secretary RTA, will conduct one more enquiry with his agency on the genuineness on the request for condone the delay in submitting application for renewal and place before this authority.

Hence decision on this application is **adjourned**.

Item No.21

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.22

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.23

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.24

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.25

Heard. Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.26

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.27

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.28

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.29

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.30

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.31

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.32

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.33

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.34

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.35

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.36

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.37

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.38

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.39

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.40

Heard.

Transfer of permit **allowed** subject to the production of no objection certificate from the financier, if applicable and clearance of Govt. dues, if any.

Item No.41

Heard.

1. We have considered the decisions of Traffic Regulatory Committee Meeting, Kothamangalam Municipality held on 14.11.2022 in the light of decision taken by RTA

Muvattupuzha held on 01.02.2020; Item No. 23; verified connected documents and files.

2. There are three bus stands in Kothamangalam Municipality:

1. High-Range bus stand
2. Town stand and
3. Thankalam stand

2. Traffic regulation in Kothamangalam Municipality has been in question for long time and many solutions and suggestions were tried out. Several initiatives were tried out by various agencies to arrive at a consensus on the line of traverse with respect to stage carriages connecting these three bus stands due to opposition from various corners.

3. This authority held on 01.02.2020 in Item no. 23 considered the matter and entrusted Traffic Regulatory Committee, Kothamangalam to suggest a viable proposal on this matter for further consideration.

4. Thus, Traffic Regulatory Committee, Kothamangalam convened a meeting on 14.12.2022 and has taken the following decisions. Joint Regional Transport Officer, Kothamangalam has submitted the report of Traffic Regulatory Committee before this authority for consideration.

5. Further, by interpreting the provisions contained in Motor Vehicles Act and Rules in various similar cases, Hon. High Court of Kerala has categorically stated and affirmed that Regional Transport Authority (RTA) is the apt legal authority to delve deep in to the matter pertaining to the traffic regulations with respect to stage carriages and bus stands.

6. We have considered the decisions of Traffic Regulatory committee, Kothamangalam in the open hearing of this authority. Decisions of the regulatory committee were already been published along with the agenda of RTA. People from various walks of life expressed their viewpoints in the open hearing of this authority and we, considered it as per law. The matter has been considered by this authority several times and series of deliberations were made in this regard. However, it is a fact that a unanimous conclusion could not be arrived at due to the opposition from various corners.

7. We have considered the decisions taken by the Traffic Regulatory Committee of Kothamangalam Municipality and the Chairman of the Municipality himself briefed the decisions in the open hearing. We have considered the decisions and **approved**

the same without any further modifications. Municipality can enforce these decisions in consultation and support with line departments.

Item No.42

1. This is to ratify the replacement of a stage carriage under lease agreement with respect to the stage carriage regular permit attached to KL 63 D 2455 with KL 47 H 9124 operating on the route Mulamkuzhy – Thattekkad as LSOS with permit no. 17/8/1993 and valid from 19.04.2018 to 18.04.2023 as per the request of permit holder.
2. We have verified the notes from the Secretary in this regard. Notarized lease agreement produced and the incoming vehicle is with later model and with same seating capacity. Secretary RTA verified the application and effected the replacement as per law.
3. This authority **ratified** the replacement done as per law.

Item No.43

1. This is to ratify the surrender of of regular permit in respect of Stage Carriage KL 33 5409 operating on the route Thonippara – Perumbavoor - Kothamangalam with permit no. 17/460/2006 and valid from 06.07.2016 to 05.07.2021 as per the request of permit holder.
2. We have verified notes from the Secretary, RTA in this regard. Permit holder appeared personally before the Secretary, RTA, Muvattupuzha and explained the reasons for surrender of permit. He has been heard and as per procedure, cancelled the stage carriage permit.
3. This authority **ratified** the surrender of permit done as per law

Item No. 44

1. This is to ratify the surrender of regular permit in respect of Stage Carriage KL 48 D 3465 operating on the route Vavely - Kothamangalam with permit no. 17/1075/2006 and valid from 06.11.2016 to 05.11.2021 as per the request of permit holder.
2. Permit holder appeared personally before the Secretary, RTA, Muvattupuzha and explained the reasons for surrender of permit. Heard the permit holder in person and as per procedure, cancelled the stage carriage permit.
3. This authority **ratified** the surrender of permit done as per law

Item No.45

1. This is to ratify the surrender of of regular permit in respect of Stage Carriage KL 47 H 0278 operating on the route Kombanad – Chottanikkara with permit no. 17/83/2005 and valid from 31.12.2020 to 30.12.2025 as per the request of permit holder.
2. Permit holder appeared personally before the Secretary, RTA, Muvattupuzha and explained the reasons for surrender of permit. Heard the permit holder in person and as per procedure, cancelled the stage carriage permit.
3. This authority **ratified** the surrender of permit done as per law

Item No.46

1. This is to ratify the surrender of of regular permit in respect of Stage Carriage KL 17 N 8694 operating on the route Moolamattom – Ernakulam with permit no. 17/158/1995 and valid from 05.07.2020 to 04.07.2025 as per the request of permit holder.
2. Permit holder appeared personally before the Secretary, RTA, Muvattupuzha and explained the reasons for surrender of permit. Heard the permit holder in person and as per procedure, cancelled the stage carriage permit.
3. This authority **ratified** the surrender of permit done as per law

Departmental Item No.1

1. This is to approve the digitalized time sheets of stage carriages issued through the Route Management System (RMS) project implemented by Motor Vehicles Department, Kerala with the support of C-DAC, Thiruvananthapuram.
2. We have verified connected files in detail; the department has initiated a project for the implementation of GPS based monitoring system in all stage carriages in the state. As part of this, it has been decided to digitalise the route data and time sheet of all stage carriages across the state. C-DAC has developed and deployed software solution –Route Management System for this purpose.
3. Software development has been completed and shared to all Regional Transport Offices. The data entry of time sheets of all stage carriages was entrusted to C-DIT. C-DIT has completed the data entry work of time and permit details collected from stage carriage operators after verification from the Nodal officer, Motor Vehicles Inspector.
4. Typed data has been published in the web-site of Motor Vehicles Department inviting objections/corrections from public including stage carriage operators.

Objections received in this regard were further verified by the Nodal Officer and incorporating changes wherever necessary.

5. There were objections that some of the terminus were changed in the draft list published. The published list is a draft list and the Secretary; RTA will make necessary changes in the final list after considering the objections as per law.

6. We have noted and approved the process done in connection with Route Management System in the jurisdiction of this authority.

Departmental Item No. 2

Ratified works done by the Secretary, RTA, Muvattupuzha under delegated powers as per law.

Proposed date for next sitting of RTA, Muvattupuzha will intimate later.

Sd/-

Sri. Shaji Madhavan, Deputy Transport Commissioner (CZ-2); Member, RTA

Sd/-

Dr. Renu Raj IAS, District Collector (Ernakulam); Chairperson RTA,