

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE REGIONAL  
TRANSPORT AUTHORITY - ERNAKULAM  
HELD ON 10.09.2025**

**Present**

**Chairman**

Smt. Priyanka. G. IAS, District Collector, Ernakulam

**Members**

1. Smt. Hemalatha M. IPS, District Police Chief, Ernakulam Rural, Aluva.
2. Sri. Anoop Varkey, Deputy Transport Commissioner (Law), CZ-II  
Ernakulam.

**Item No: 1**

**07G1/144/2025/KL07**

The representatives of the KSRTC, various associations of the bus operators, members of the public and counsel participated in the deliberations on the subject dealt with in agenda No. 1 of this meeting. Some of the participants put in writing their representations for and against the subject matter, a few of which are stated below in brief.

- i. Letter No. B1/87/2025 dated 25.06.2025 of the Special Secretary, Transport is not a notification required under the provisions of section 67 (1) of the MV Act capable of directing the STA/ RTA to revise the time schedules to achieve road safety. Voluntary installation of GPS and Geo fencing system and preferential allotment of timings by auction procedure are not favoured by most of the bus operators.
- ii. No circumstances have emerged demanding the re-scheduling of timings of buses in the state without there being a scientific study as to its feasibility as well as propriety and legality.
- iii. In the absence of necessary infrastructure such as bus-bays, bus stops, time punching stations etc. implementation of the proposed exercise may not be possible according to some stake holders.

- iv. Allotment of five minutes or ten minutes of time space as the case may be, for each bus in Cochin city limit is a welcome suggestion and the said proposal is supported by most of the participants but with little hope.
- v. Entry of mofussil services into the city roads/ urban area, if prohibited, would achieve advancement of public safety and ease of operation, according to city bus operators.
- vi. Imposition of Cess or penalty on motor cars and other non- transport vehicles entering the city without the full complement of passengers in such vehicles is a suggestion acclaimed by the bus operators.
- vii. Issue of new permits both in urban and panchayat areas shall be suspended until the proposal in question is approved and given effect to.
- viii. All the 503 bus routes formulated by the government shall be fastened with specific time schedules in terms of 5 or 10 minutes time gap and shall be allotted to the prospective operators, if necessary by auction proceedings.
- ix. Yet another demand is that more than 2000 old junks, without valid registration or certificate of fitness owned by the KSRTC in violation of the Central Govt. mandate shall be withdrawn from the roads to achieve public safety and convenience.

The proposal submitted by a section of the bus operators operating circular services on the route Vytilla-Vytilla in clockwise and anti-clockwise directions has been examined. All the suggestions, objections and the representations were examined in detail.

On a conspectus of the statutory provisions of section 67 (1), 68 (3), Rule 212 and the recommendations of the amicus curiae this authority is pleased to resolve,

- i) not to entertain applications for fresh stage carriage permits or variation of permit conditions both in urban and panchayat areas until general schedules of timings for stage carriages other than those of the STU running on specified routes under the provisions of rule 212 (1)(a) is formulated, approved and implemented with or without the assistance of Geo-Fencing and Monitory system or AI based time scheduling and management system for stage carriages followed by prompt time revision conferences in a phased manner.

Phase -1:

To begin with this authority identifies the following routes where revision of time schedules shall be formulated and given effect to on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025.

- a) Aluva- FortKochi
- b) Kakkand- Ernakulam and beyond to various destinations such as Edakochi, Thripunithura, Thevara etc.
- c) N. Parvoor- High court Junction.
- d) Vytla- Vytla (circular)

The secretary RTA shall call upon the permit holders on the respective routes to furnish true copies of their permits and the approved time schedule, on receipt of which he shall prepare a 'route war register' afresh with a view to pursue the revision of schedules of time. This process would help identify the valid permits. The secretary shall commence the time revision conferences as may pre-fixed by him. This exercise shall be completed on or before 1<sup>st</sup> November 2025.

- ii) to abstain from revising the time schedules of mofussil services operating on inter- regional or inter-district routes until after the STA co-ordinates the decisions of the respective RTAs under the provisions of section 68 (3) (a) without which no uniform procedure can be devised and implemented in the state.
- iii) Where voluntary installation of GPS based Geo Fencing and Monitoring system desired by the Govt. does not work, the secretary RTA shall immediately take up the matter with the Transport Commissioner to provide all facility as are necessary at the expense of the government.
- iv) This authority desires that one or more accredited auctioneers be assigned with the task of auction procedure throughout the state or in the alternative, development of a software for the purpose which shall be incorporated in the vahan portal. The secretary shall take up this matter too with the Transport Commissioner.
- v) This authority is of the view that the entire traffic enforcement machinery shall be overhauled in such a way that well equipped police personnel shall be deployed at various strategic points in Cochin city in place of the Traffic Wardens and Home Guards for the purpose of effective traffic management.
- vi) The general restriction often desired by the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala that stage carriages plying in Cochin city limits shall not overtake any other stage carriage moving ahead of it, shall be strictly implemented by the traffic controllers.
- vii) to invite detailed proposal from KSBL and other interested stake holders for examination and approval for immediate implementation of rescheduling of bus timings and management system after

affording fair opportunity of hearing to the concerned bus operators or their associations.

**Item No.2**

**07G1/125/2025/KL07**

In view of the long pending demand of the general public for adopting measures for safety and comforts of passengers in stage carriages plying in the district of Ernakulam on permission by this authority and in view of judgment in W.A No.454 of 2023 (Joint RTO v/s Thomas Joseph) of the Honorable High Court of Kerala this matter has been brought up for deliberation in the meeting today. The following proposals have been deliberated.

- (a) Implementation of AIS: 052 (code of practice for bus body design and approval) under Rule 125 (c) of the C.M.V Rules, 1989 by this authority while exercising the powers under the Motor Vehicle Act.
- (b) Implementation of BS VI exhaust emission standards under Rule 115 of C.M.V Rules, 1989 with a view to achieve environmental protection while exercising the powers under the Motor Vehicle Act.

The matter was deliberated at this meeting of the authority. The objections and suggestions for and against the above said proposals were considered. In view of provisions of Section 72 (2) of the M.V Act enabling this authority to specify the description of the vehicle for grant of permit and in view of judgment in W.A No.454 of 2023 (Joint RTO v/s Thomas Joseph) of the Honorable High Court of Kerala it is resolved to implement the said proposals in a phased manner.

- a) No fresh permit will be granted and issued in respect of a stage carriage by this authority unless such carriage is of Type I for urban and sub urban/city transport and Type II for interurban/intercity operations so as to provide the minimum safety and comforts of passengers in compliance with AIS:052.

- b) Every stage carriage seeking grant and issue of permit under item No.1

above shall comply with BSVI emission standards.

**Explanation:** The terms “urban and sub urban/city transport” would mean city or town service and “interurban/intercity” would mean mofussil service.

**Sd/-**

Smt. Priyanka. G. IAS,  
District Collector and Chairman RTA Ernakulam

**Sd/-**

Smt. Hemalatha M.IPS,  
District Police Chief, Ernakulam Rural, Aluva and member RTA, Ernakulam

**Sd/-**

Sri. Anoop Varkey,  
Deputy Transport Commissioner (Law) CZ -II, Ernakulam and member RTA,  
Ernakulam