

Subways, Walkways, Skywalks And Foot Overbridges To Help Commuters Switch From One Mode Of Transport To Another

METRO TO LINK SUBURBAN, MRTS AND BUS SERVICES

V Ayyappan | TNN

Everyday, S K Parthasarathy travels 30km to his workplace in Triplicane from suburban Nemilicherry. He takes a train to the Moore Market Complex station and walks nearly 10 minutes to the Park Town MRTS station to board another service to Triplicane. By the time he is at his desk, he is exhausted.

For people like him, things could change when metro rail operations begin and they will be able to seamlessly switch from one mode of transport to another. Subways, skywalks, canopied walkways and foot overbridges will be built at metro rail stations close to suburban stations, MRTS stations and bus stations so that "commuters wanting to move from metro to suburban trains or

A SUBWAY FROM MOORE MKT AND CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION WILL CONNECT THE METRO'S STATION BELOW POONAMALLEE HIGH ROAD, WHILE A CANOPIED WALKWAY WILL BE BUILT FROM ITS ENTRY OR EXIT TO PARK SUBURBAN STATION AND MRTS STATION

buses will be able to do so without having to step out in the open on the road."

Metro rail, set to become the crucial piece in the jigsaw of the city's transport network, has been designed to interlink suburban trains, MRTS services and bus stations at Washermanpet, High Court, Chennai Central, Government Estate, Guindy, Saidapet, St Thomas Mount and Airport. In Koyambedu, the metro station will be on the CMBT campus, while at Vadalani shuttle buses will take commuters to the nearby MTC terminus.

Metro rail's underground station near Chennai Central will be a major hub, linked to the Chennai Central railway station, MMC suburban station, MRTS Park Town station and the Park suburban station. "It will have eight entry and exits. The first floor concourse, one level under Poonamallee High Road, will be the common

transit point for people to move to different modes of transport. Metro trains will travel one level below the concourse," said a metro rail official. Nearly 10 lakh people use Chennai Central, MMC, Park and Park Town MRTS stations daily.

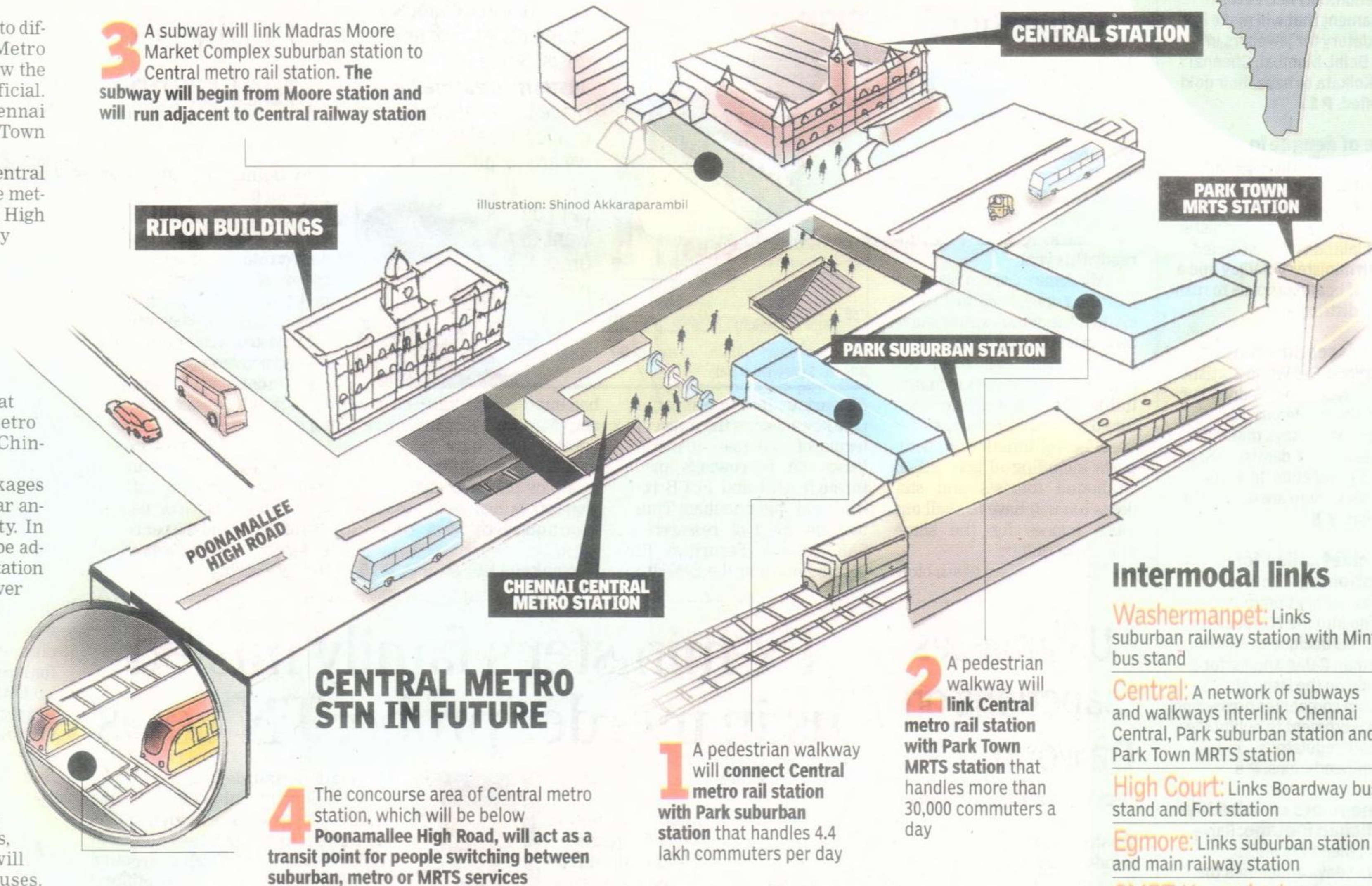
A subway from MMC and Central railway station will connect the metro's station below Poonamallee High Road, while a canopied walkway will be built from its entry or exit to Park suburban station and MRTS station. The Chintadripet MRTS station and Government Estate underground metro station will be linked by a subway so that those wanting to switch to metro trains need not come out of Chintadripet station.

"We are building such linkages wherever a metro station is near another public transport facility. In Guindy, the metro station will be adjacent to the suburban railway station where we are planning a foot over bridge linking the two services. We also plan to provide space for city buses to come into the metro station campus at Nandanam while the metro station at the high court will be linked to the MTC terminus and Fort suburban station," said a senior official.

The metro station at the airport, which will have a walkalator connecting the new terminals, will be designed in a way that will allow commuters to access buses. Railways have asked metro to link airport metro station to Tirusulam suburban railway station, opposite the airport. But, the Airports Authority of India is now considering to provide access to the existing subway that connects the airport campus and the railway station.

Metro rail is putting up such infrastructure in a bid to allow commuters to travel using a single ticket. A Chennai unified metro transport authority, which is already in place, will work out details of single ticketing for interlinked urban transit network that is expected to become operational by 2016.

3 A subway will link Madras Moore Market Complex suburban station to Central metro rail station. The subway will begin from Moore station and will run adjacent to Central railway station



CENTRAL METRO STN IN FUTURE

4 The concourse area of Central metro station, which will be below Poonamallee High Road, will act as a transit point for people switching between suburban, metro or MRTS services

ADVANTAGES OF LINK TRAFFIC

▶ Suburban train network and MRTS will be interlinked to make it easier for commuters to switch from one mode to the other

▶ Walkways with canopies across stations will protect passengers from harsh weather and traffic

▶ Commuters can move from suburban to metro to MRTS using a single ticket

▶ Time taken to walk from Moore Market Complex suburban station to Park Town MRTS will halve as commuters need not wait to cross the busy Pallavan Salai

▶ Exclusive subways, walkways, skywalks and foot overbridges will be constructed interlinking suburban stations, MRTS stations and metro stations wherever feasible

Intermodal links

Washermanpet: Links suburban railway station with Mint bus stand

Central: A network of subways and walkways interlink Chennai Central, Park suburban station and Park Town MRTS station

High Court: Links Boardway bus stand and Fort station

Egmore: Links suburban station and main railway station

CMBT Koyambedu: Metro rail station to come up on mufussil bus terminus

Alandur and Central: Commuters can switch from one metro corridor to the other (Washermanpet-Anna Salai-Airport corridor and Central-Koyambedu-St Thomas Mount corridor.)

St Thomas Mount: Links MRTS and suburban stations

Airport: Links Tirusulam suburban station, airport and bus services



WE ARE BUILDING SUCH LINKAGES WHEREVER A METRO STATION IS NEAR ANOTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT FACILITY
SENIOR OFFICIAL