

HOP ON METRO, PARK UNDER KATHIPARA'S LOOPS

Metro Rail Is Being Integrated With Other Modes Of Transport

Karthikeyan Hemlatha | TNN

Metro rail passengers will be able to park their vehicles beneath the wide cloverleaf loops of Kathipara Flyover before hopping on a train from the transit system's station at Alandur.

Chennai Metro Rail Ltd has requested the highways department, which owns the land, to set up facilities to allow commuters to park under the interchange, one of the largest in Asia. With work steaming ahead on the first corridor, between Chennai Central and St Thomas Mount, CMRL is drawing up plans to integrate metro rail with various modes of transport and make the stations easily accessible.

"Alongside erecting the pillars and laying the tracks, we have come up with a comprehensive strategy to ensure that pedestrians, those using Metropolitan Transport Corporation buses, 'intermediate public transport' like au-

torickshaws and those with private vehicles have equal access to their station," a CMRL official said.

He explained the company planned inter-transport connectivity by first drawing an imaginary circle with a 500m radius around every station. "There has to be an MTC bus stop or suburban train station, an autorickshaw stand as well as parking space for commuters' vehicles within this zone," he said.

Officials at CMRL expect heavy traffic at the Alandur station from seven institutions and offices nearby, including two schools, a college, a church, a municipal office and a regional transport office. "These are our 'trip generators'. We have to make sure that there are safe pedestrian paths for commuters from these places to get to the station," the official said.

The two lines of metro rail (the second corridor is between Washermenpet and the airport) will meet at the Alandur station, so CMRL has to make allowance for a large number of commuters. "We will build a skywalk connecting the station with bus bays and au-

torickshaw stands," said an official.

The company will request Chennai Corporation to construct roads to link the station to residential areas nearby. "Commuters will have to use GST Road station, but there will also be a rear entrance and roads will have to be built to connect it with localities in the vicinity," the official said.

The official said CMRL would hold talks with the corporation and autorickshaw and share auto drivers to set up stands for commuters in the area outside the core 500m zone, up to 2.5km from the station. "From 2.5km to around 6km, MTC will provide feeder service to all metro stations," the official said. "We have already begun talks with MTC so both transport systems can complement each other."

The area under Kathipara Flyover has been a mess since the interchange was launched in October 2008, littered with construction debris that has not been cleared. "There is no space to walk on the road now. Even buses often do not stop here," said K Kamakshi, who works in Teynampet, adding that she hoped metro rail linked with other transport systems made commuting easier in the city.

MAKING SPACE

CMRL plans inter-transport connectivity so all kinds public transport have equal access to stations

₹14,000cr

Total expenditure for both corridors of the metro rail

45,000

Passengers will be able to avail the metro in each direction per hour



Graphic:
Varghese Kallada



PARKING
CMRL has suggested the land below the Kathipara flyover be used as parking spaces



FOOTPATHS
Pedestrians will be provided footpaths within a 500m radius of the metro station



SKYWALK: Apart from the existing subway, a skywalk has been proposed near the bus / auto bays



BUS & AUTOS
For those using public transport, bus bays and space for share autos will be provided right outside the metro station



ROADS
New roads will be laid for easy access for residents behind the station



There has to be an MTC bus stop or suburban train station, autorickshaw stand and parking space within 500m of every station

— CMRL OFFICIAL

Commuters are irked by the prolonged construction work, as the debris has left no space for pedestrians