

OFFERS AN OVERVIEW OF THE FEATURES THAT WILL BENEFIT USERS

Metro video zooms TO 2015 COMMUTE



V Ayyappan | TNN

A silver-blue train zips along a brightly-lit tunnel. As it stops, the platform screen doors slide open in tandem with the train's automatic doors at an underground station. It reveals the blue and silver interior of the coach that has a broad gangway for commuters to walk from one coach to another. There are also nooks to sit or stand. Those with first class tickets will get the comfort of custom-made red seats while women and the disabled will have spaces reserved for them.

This is going to be the way Chennaites will be commuting when metro rail's two corridors are ready in 2015. Chennai Metro Rail has released two videos that use animation to offer a peek inside the trains to show their interiors, the tunnels and underground and elevated stations.

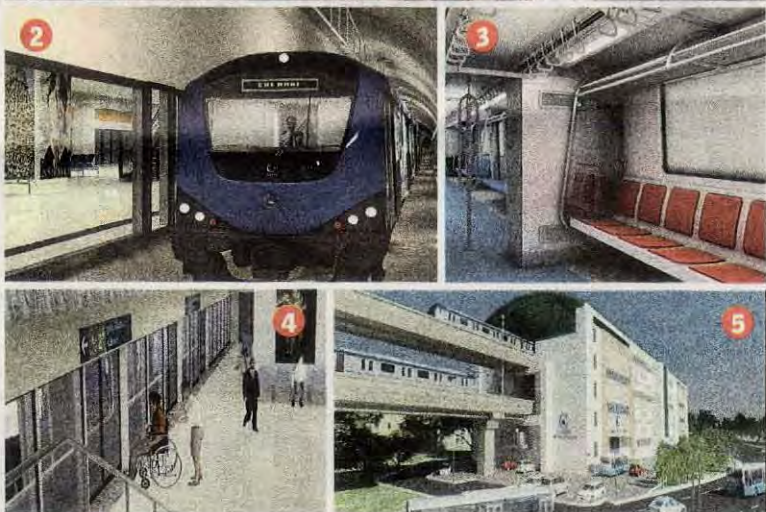
The underground station near the Madras high court will have brickwork and a canopied entry. An escalator and staircase will take commuters down a level to the ticketing area from where they can use elevators, stairs or escalators to get to a lower level and board the trains. The underground stations will have an enquiry counter, a barricaded entry for commuters, and a broader entry for the disabled or those on wheelchairs among other facilities.

Murals on the walls will provide the aesthetic quotient and add to the ambience in underground stations. The elevated stations will be highly functional with metal truss canopies at the top-most level where trains arrive.

"The documentary was made to offer an overall picture of the project, including its features and how it will benefit commuters," a metro rail official said.

The videos have been posted on a video-sharing site so people in the city can get an idea of how they will travel just a little more than two years from now. The videos have already received more than 400 'likes' and several people have left posts to welcome the transit system.

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ARRIVING IN STYLE: 1 The metro passes through an underground tunnel; 2 The train at a station; 3 First class compartments will have red seats; 4 Passengers wait to board a train at the high court station; 5 The outside view of the Alandur station



THE NETWORK

- ▶ Washermenpet to Airport
- ▶ Central to St Thomas Mount
- ▶ 16min from CMBT to St Thomas Mount
- ▶ 16min from Central to Thirumangalam
- ▶ 40min from Washermenpet to Airport

TRAINS

- ▶ Stainless steel blue and silver Alstom Metropolis trains will be operated
- ▶ Each train will have space for more than 1,200 commuters
- ▶ Large gangways, LED display to inform about approaching stations
- ▶ Dedicated space for the disabled, separate section for women and first class
- ▶ Communication-based train control
- ▶ Maximum speed will be 80kmph