

Feasibility study soon for metro rail in Coimbatore

Report To Be Prepared In 10 Months

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Chennai: Nearly four months after a metro rail project in Coimbatore was announced on the assembly floor, the state has planned to appoint a consultant for a feasibility study. Bids will be soon opened for it and based on the study a detailed project report (DPR) would be prepared before construction could begin. The process will be handled by the Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL).

"We will open the bids soon calling for a consultant. They will conduct a feasibility



PRIME SPOT: Avinashi Road will be considered for the study

study to assess the suitability for metro rail or other form of mass rapid transport system in Coimbatore. Thereafter, a detailed project report will be prepared," S Krishnan, principal secretary to government, planning, development and special initiatives told TOI.

Officials said both the feasibility study and the DPR will be prepared in about 10 months.

Krishnan said the German government's development bank KfW is interested to fund the preparation of the DPR. The plan is to sync metro rail and existing transport systems in the city. If KfW provides partial funding, it would be obtained through the Centre while the rest would be paid by the state government.

"CMRL will be the technical agency which will help with the DPR. When it comes

to execution, we will decide later: Whether the metro rail in Coimbatore will be handled by CMRL or another special purpose vehicle will depend on a number of factors," said Krishnan.

The feasibility study has been planned following a comprehensive mobility plan for Coimbatore local planning area in 2015 which emphasised on the need for a compatible, adequate and extensive mass transport network system.

State government officials said four mass transport corridors covering a distance of about 136km proposed in the CMP will be considered while conducting the feasibility study. The corridors were planned based on the vehicular and pedestrian traffic on the city's main roads including Tiruchi road, Sathyamangalam road, Avinashi road and Mettupalayam road.