

New app to complement metro smart cards soon

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Chennai: Soon, a simple mobile app might be a ticket to a metro ride in the city. CMRL plans to develop a mobile application that will double as a smart card for metro train rides.

A metrorail official said their plans to go hi-tech will involve commuters opening an application installed in their mobile phones and pointing it towards a scanner embedded with a chip. The equipment will scan the phone and the ticket price will be deducted. Commuters may have to use the app while exiting a station similar to how smart cards are being used.

"Commuters can recharge in the app and use it like a smart card. All they have to do is download the app, recharge it and show the phone against a chip that will be installed at the AFC gates," the official said. "Our plan is to bring in a one-time solution



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to metrorail ticketing."

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Earlier this year, CMRL launched an app that gives information on metro line routes, facilities in stations and feeder services available. Officials said they would also include travel recharge facility in the app for commuters to recharge their smart cards. CMRL also had

a tie up with SBI for a mobile wallet.

CMRL had made it mandatory for commuters to get smart cards particularly in the underground section as metrorail faced several issues getting tokens back from commuters. There were complaints that many passengers had lost their tokens during the commute.

So far, metrorail has issued four lakh smartcards to passengers and has floated tenders to procure another 20 lakh cards. "On an average, we issue 6,000 smartcards in our stations per day," an official said.