

Chennai Metro Rail Limited

Press Release

Major milestone in Phase 1 Extension underground tunneling works achieved with break-through of first TBM

Today 24th September 2017, the first of the two Tunnel Boring Machines, operated by M/s. Afcons Infrastructure Limited, makes breakthrough at the cut-and-cover retrieval shaft at Korukkupet to complete its drive from Washermenpet to Korukkupet as part of Phase 1 Extension's underground section covering a total of 1.8 km-long drive.

During the drive since its launch at Washermenpet, the Herrenknecht TBM has travelled beneath the Railway tracks at Washermenpet with active rail traffic till date in addition to crossing under 480 buildings of mixed developments and 310 numbers of wells/borewells of which 10 were open wells. The TBM was driven through the Theagaraya Underground station box of Phase 1 Extension of the Chennai Metro Rail Project. Intensive instrumentation and monitoring was undertaken by the contractor during the tunnel progress to maintain the structural integrity of existing buildings.

It is a major milestone in the tunneling works with the TBM progressing at an average rate of around 11m per day including interventions from the day it was launched at Washermenpet in April this year. This is significant since it is one of the highest average rates achieved by TBMs operated in Chennai till date. The works in this contract commenced in July 2016 with the presence of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu at ground breaking.

The second TBM is also following closely and shall be ready for break-through after completing the balance length of around 465m of tunnel drive. 2636 numbers of precast tunnel lining segments required for the TBM drive had been casted at the state-of-the-art casting yard facility installed at Parivakkam for this purpose.

From here onward, the works to get the TBM out, cover up the shaft, complete cross passage works, clean up the tunnel and handover to the interfacing contractor of UAA-09 contract ie., M/s.ITNL-KMBJV who will complete the works of stations, complete architectural detailing, and allow for laying track, installation of all critical electrical-signalling-telecommunication systems for proceeding to conduct trials, obtain necessary approvals and commence commercial operations. The works of elevated corridor of Phase 1 Extension is also on-going.

The Phase-1 Extension will seamlessly integrate with the Phase 1 Corridor 1 thereby introducing direct connectivity from Wimco Nagar to Chennai Air Port once all the works in elevated and the underground portions of the Phase 1 Extension corridor are completed.

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