

# Infra boost to decongest transport hub

CMDA study suggests wider roads, better land use and traffic management in and around Koyambedu

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
CHENNAI**

Three Corporation wards adjoining the Chennai Mofussil Bus Terminus – the transport hub plagued by traffic congestion – are set to get a makeover, with wider roads, improved land use planning, better pedestrian facilities, multi-modal integration and infrastructure boost such as bridges.

The Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority (CMDA), "Preparation of Koyambedu Local Area Traffic and Transportation System Management Strategies and Implementation Plan", has commissioned a study to understand Koyambedu's problems and suggest solutions.

Based on the study, civic agencies such as Chennai Corporation will start widening roads and develop modern pedestrian facilities in at least 6.98 sq km of the area covering Arumbakkam, Nerkundram and Koyambedu.

## Details sought

The CMDA has asked Chennai Corporation and other line agencies for data on encroachments, parking facilities, economic activity, households, residential neighbourhoods, existing land use, and road accident data to complete the study. "The Chennai Corporation will widen roads, clear encroachments and develop more civic facilities," said an official.

The area that will receive a makeover covers ward number 105 (Arumbakkam) in Chennai Corporation's Anna Nagar Zone, ward number 127 (Koyambedu) of Kodambakkam Zone, and ward number 145 (Nerkundram) of Valasaravakkam Zone.

"We are planning to include more junctions in ad-

dition to those in these three wards. So the area that will receive a makeover will increase," said an official.

This is the first time such a study has been done for any neighbourhood in the city, officials said. The area has a population of 1.28 lakh and 29,506 households.

"The land use is primarily commercial. But many residential neighbourhoods have been developed in the area. We will identify the challenges faced by residents and develop facilities to rectify them," said an official.

Already, the Chennai Corporation has planned to widen Kalamankoil Street in the area.

"More roads in the three wards will be widened to ease traffic congestion. Pedestrians will be able to walk without any hindrance," said an official.

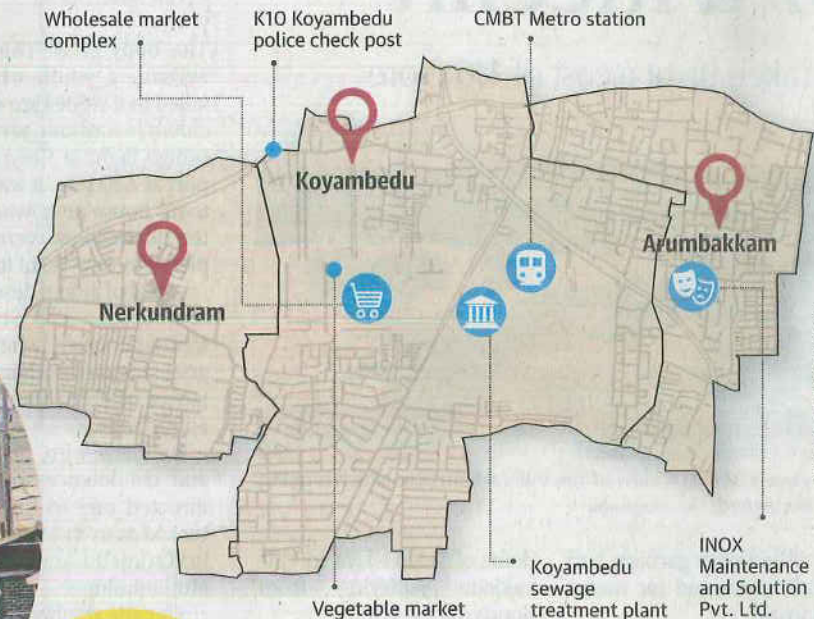
## Narrow lanes

Former floor leader of Chennai Corporation Council V. Sukumarbabu from ward 105 in Arumbakkam said at least 12 narrow roads such as Panchaliamman Koil Street, Thiruveedhi Ammankoil Street, and Mariammankoil Street have heavy traffic in the morning and the evening. "The roads have to be widened. Bottlenecks have to be removed," said Mr. Sukumarbabu.

"Accidents are reported frequently on MMDA Colony Main Road. Several schools are located in the neighbourhood. Pedestrian facilities have to be developed," he said.

## Nerve centre in a jam

A study commissioned by the Chennai Metropolitan Development Authority is analysing problems at Koyambedu and suggesting solutions



Unregulated commercial activity affecting 1.28 lakh residents in 29,506 households in three wards of Koyambedu, Arumbakkam and Nerkundram

## WHAT AILS KOYAMBEDU



Traffic congestion caused by 2 lakh commuters, one lakh customers in market and 40,000 traders



Delay in widening of narrow roads such as Kalamankoil Street because of political compulsions



Inadequate last mile connectivity and poor multi-modal integration near bus terminus and three Metro stations in Arumbakkam, Koyambedu and CMBT



Over 50 interior roads in residential areas have seen a spurt in traffic congestion because of traffic bottlenecks on arterial roads such as Jawaharlal Nehru Salai and Poonamallee High Road



Rising accidents along roads, particularly motorists and pedestrians



Poor land use planning, encroachments along the roads and environmental pollution



Land use is primarily commercial but parking spaces are inadequate

## SOLUTIONS SUGGESTED BY STUDY



- Widening of at least 50 more roads in addition to stretches such as Kalamankoil Street
- Development of civic infrastructure such as bridges, subways and pedestrian facilities
- Improving non-motorised transport facilities along at least 50 stretches
- Creation of better infrastructure for freight traffic
- Better traffic management plan
- Better parking facilities
- Reduction of road traffic accidents

## Government agencies that will play a key role in implementation of the projects

Chennai Corporation | Public Works Department | Metro Water | TNSCB | Highways Department | Traffic Police

## WARDS COVERED

Ward number

**105**

Arumbakkam Zone - Anna Nagar



Population  
47,338



Households  
10,548

Ward number

**145**

Nerkundram Zone - Valasaravakkam

Population  
25,031

Households  
6,715

Ward number

**127**

Koyambedu Zone - Kodambakkam

Population  
55,837

Households  
12,243

Main road junctions to get a makeover: Nolambur signal | Koyambedu Metro junction | Naduvankarai junction | Arumbakkam Metro junction | CMBT | Jawaharlal Nehru Salai-Kalamankoil Street junction | K10 police station junction | Chinmaya Nagar junction