

# 2 more subways to come up near Central station

## CMRL Floats Tender As Part Of ₹400cr Central Square Project



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**Chennai:** Crossing the busy Poonamallee High Road at one of the congested junctions near Central Railway Station will soon become hassle-free as Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) will construct two new pedestrian subways. CMRL has floated a tender to build the two subways as part of the ₹400 crore Central Square project.

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they are constructing. "The two 9m-wide subways will be above the tunnels that lead to Central Metro Station. Once the tender is awarded, we are expecting it to be ready in one year," an official said.

The subways, which will have escalators and elevators, are likely to be either linked to Central Metro Station or the entry/exit will be closer for commuters to access the station or to walk to any side of the road. Metro rail officials said one of the

subways would be built in cut and cover method and would also have an extension.

This subway is expected to link the Southern Railway headquarters with Rajiv Gandhi Government General Hospital (RGGGH) and an extension from the subway will link to the bridge over the Buckingham Canal opposite Central Railway Station. The other pedestrian subway will link RGGGH with Evening Bazaar Road that leads to Flower Bazaar. Both the subways will be 9m wide. The second subway will be built using a technique where boxes of segments casts outside will be pushed through embankment of road by jacking.

A pedestrian subway-cum-entry point linking Moore Market Complex with Park Station was opened earlier this month. The subway also links Central Metro making it convenient for users to walk to Moore Market Complex as well as Central Railway Station. A 14m-wide subway, which will connect Central Railway Station with the flyover over Buckingham Canal, is expected to be ready by later this year.

According to officials, all the four subways are expected to cater to the nearly 70,000 pedestrians using Poonamallee High Road near and around Central Railway Station during peak hours. In addition, they will also help the growing metro rail ridership, which is expected to be 12,000 to 15,000 in Central Metro by 2026. "Our plan is to take pedestrians underground as much as possible and let motorists use the road," an official said.