

# Metro rail to inspect 21-km elevated corridor, test for structural strength

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**ELIMINATING RISK:** The inspection is critical for the safety of metro rail passengers as well as those on the road below

**Chennai:** To check the stability of elevated metro rail corridors that run across two arterial roads, Chennai Metro Rail Ltd will soon begin inspection of the structures. CMRL is looking for a firm that has the expertise to inspect, investigate and submit a report with suggestions. Metro rail operates a 21km elevated corridor from Thirumangalam ramp to St Thomas Mount and Saidapet ramp to Airport.

“Such inspections are important once an elevated section completes two years of operation. The contractor will only inspect the corridor and submit a report to us in six months. Depending on the

outcome of the report, we will decide on the next step,” an official said. A team of experts will inspect the structures on parameters including strength, stability, development of cracks among others. More than 500 columns and the viaducts above them will

be checked during the inspection.

“The most important part of the structure is the rubber bush between the columns and the deck on which tracks have been laid. We must periodically check its condition and position and look for dis-

turbances that may have occurred due to the movement of trains above,” a CMRL official said.

The inspection is critical for the safety of metro rail passengers as well as those on the road below. In August in Kochi, a piece of concrete from a pillar of the elevated corridor fell on an autorickshaw, whose passengers managed to escape unhurt.

This is will be the second inspection on the elevated corridor. “Last time, we got quotations from contractors instead of floating tenders as the stretch was small and the value was less. This time the value is high as the entire corridor is to be inspected,” an official said.