

Come 2020, Tiruvottiyur to airport will be an hour's ride

Tunnelling work for Chennai Metro's phase I extension project done, say officials

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With the phase I extension project picking up pace, by March 2020, commuters from areas like Wimco Nagar and Tiruvottiyur in North Chennai will be able to travel directly by Metro to Chennai Central and Chennai Airport.

The project – connecting Wimco Nagar with Washermanpet – covers only a distance of 9 km. But the phase I project, that passes through 45 km of the city, already connects Chennai Central with Chennai airport and, in a few months, there will be connectivity from Chennai Central to Washermanpet as well.

So a passenger can travel by the Chennai Metro from Tiruvottiyur to Chennai Central – a distance of about 18 km – in half an hour, and from Tiruvottiyur to Chennai Airport – a distance of near-

ly 32 km – in an hour.

Connectivity to the Chennai Central Metro station will be crucial, as it is a major transit hub for passengers.

According to Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) officials, the phase I extension project runs underground from Washermanpet to Korukkupet, from where it runs as an elevated section up to Wimco Nagar.

Work in progress

"We have finished the tunnelling work. The construction of underground stations and the building of viaduct is in progress," an official said.

However, many may find the fares steep, as they go up to ₹70. The minimum fare is ₹10.

Though the project was originally scheduled to be completed by 2019, there was a delay in construction, owing to which, it is likely to open for the public by 2020.

Phase I extension

From: Washermanpet to Wimco Nagar

Distance: 9 km

Date of completion: March 2020

When this extension project is complete, a commuter can travel directly from Wimco Nagar to Chennai airport, a distance of 32 km

Travel time from Wimco Nagar to Chennai airport by road during rush hour: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Travel time from Wimco Nagar to Chennai airport by Chennai Metro: 1 hour

