

# Soil tests on 8km metro line from lighthouse soon

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**Chennai:** With work already in full swing to assess soil conditions on a 50km stretch across corridor 3 and 5 of metro rail's phase 2, CMRL will soon begin conducting soil tests for an 8km line on corridor 4. CMRL has floated tenders to conduct the tests on the line planned to link the lighthouse near Marina Beach and Meenakshi College in Kodambakkam.

The stretch between the lighthouse and Meenakshi College covers localities like Foresore Estate, Mylapore, Alwarpet, Nandanam, T Nagar and Kodambakkam.

CMRL officials said the 17km corridor 4 planned between the lighthouse and CMBT is an orbital corridor as it links the rest of the four corridors in phase 1 and 2. Work is also underway to prepare a detailed project report to extend the corridor to another 15km up to Poonamallee. "Construction will, however, begin in the section of corridor 3 and 5 where soil tests are at present underway," an official said.

In August 2018, CMRL started conducting soil tests across a 50km stretch including a 35km alignment from Madhavaram Milk Colony to Sholinganallur in corridor 3, and a

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15km line from Madhavaram Milk Colony to CMBT as well as the depot at Madhavaram in corridor 5.

Officials then said soil tests will be completed in eight to 10 months and the results will go into making the preliminary design of the alignment and stations. "We are getting the detailed design ready as early as possible, as it caused a delay in phase 1. It was one of the lessons we learnt in phase 1," a metro rail official told TOI earlier.

Further, CMRL has also split the corridors into small sections and floated separate tenders both for soil tests as well as for a detailed design consultant to ensure work does not get affected in case an issue arises with a contractor. "Even during construction stage, we will divide the corridors into small sections and float tenders," an official said. To conduct soil tests on the 50km stretch, CMRL had floated six tenders.