

Soon, smartphone will be your ticket to board a metro train

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Chennai: When the remaining underground stretch along Anna Salai becomes operational early next year, commuters may need only their smartphones to board a metro train.

Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) is working to introduce QR-based tickets which will allow passengers to buy them through a mobile app and tap the QR code they receive, upon payment, on the scanners at the automatic fare collection (AFC) gates. It does away with physical ticket. Commuters may no longer have to carry plastic smart cards or wait in queues at stations to purchase tickets or to top up their cards.

“We have studied its feasibility and conducted tests. We are in the process of preparing tender invites. We may introduce it in

six months across all stations,” said a CMRL official. To purchase tickets on a smartphone, passengers will have to select their origin, destination and number of passengers and make a payment. A QR code will then be displayed.

The existing CMRL mobile app will be updated with the feature. Readers scanning QR-codes will be put up at all AFC gates at stations. “This mode of ticket purchase will promote digital transaction. This will make our job of handling cash and accounts at ticket counters easier. It will also save us on the cost of making smart cards,” the official said.

Delhi Metro has mobile ticketing system on its airport line. Officials said commuters in Delhi still have to carry a printout of the QR-ticket. Bengaluru Metro also has plans to introduce this system.