

Metro initiates feasibility study for airport-Kilambakkam line

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Chennai: In a few years, commuters arriving at the Kilambakkam bus terminus could board a metro train to reach the city without much hassle, as Chennai Metro Rail Limited has started preliminary work to extend its network by initiating a feasibility study. CMRL has floated tenders to find an agency to study the fea-

sibility of extending the airport metro station in phase-1 up to Kilambakkam near Vandalur on GST road.

"When the line comes up, it will also fulfil demands of sub-

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urban residents to extend metro rail service till Tambaram," said a metro rail official.

A metro rail official said the

feasibility study would analyse several parameters that will be key to seeking approval for the project. It includes identifying the route from airport to Kilambakkam to build the line, alignment, number of metro stations and their location, land required, method of construction and number of commuters likely to use the service.

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'Will seek funds after studying feasibility'

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An official said, "Once the feasibility report is submitted, a detailed project report will be prepared for government approval and funding". Metro rail now links all transport hubs in the city through a direct train between Central, Egmore, Koyambedu CMBT and the airport. But ever since the airport line was opened, residents in the southern suburbs have been demanding extension of the airport line till Tambaram.

If metro rail is extended up

to Kilambakkam, commuters arriving at the bus terminus could board a metro train to any of the transit hubs.

In May this year, chief minister Palaniswami announced that metro rail services will be extended up to Kilambakkam. "A study will be conducted to extend the metro line up to the proposed mofussil bus terminus and integrate it with all rapid transport systems," the CM said during the inauguration of metro services between Central Metro and Nehru Park and from AG-DMS to Little Mount.