

New, shorter metro rail line to make commuting cheaper

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: With the last leg of 45km phase-1 from Washermenpet to AG-DMS, which will link Chennai Central to Airport on the shortest route of 18km, set to be open for public from Sunday, commuters who struggle with traffic snarls will get a faster and cheaper option to travel within the city. Most stations on the line will be accessible at just ₹40.

A trip between any two major transit hubs (Central, Airport, Koyambedu) in the city may also cost around the same, which would be about 10% of the cost of taking a cab.

The new fare chart released on Thursday shows that a trip from Chennai Central to stations on Anna Salai such as

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Guindy, Little Mount, Saidapet, Nandanam and Teynampet will cost ₹40. The trip to the same stations from Airport will also cost the same. Commuters can travel up to three stations from the station where they board a train at a cost ₹20 and four stations at ₹30.

The cost of trip from Chennai Central to Airport, which is at present ₹70 via Koyambedu line, will be ₹60. Travelling

from Koyambedu to Airport, a distance of about 14km, would cost ₹50.

"We have not reduced the fares. Our automatic fare collection gates, where the smart cards are swiped, will charge based on the distance," an official said. It meant, as the distance between Chennai Central to Airport via Koyambedu is longer and a circuitous route covering 21km when compared to the route via the Anna Salai line which is around 18km, the AFC gates will consider the shortest route, that is via Anna Salai, and commuters will pay just ₹60.

The longest distance from Washermenpet to Airport covering 22km costs ₹60, which will be around 12% of the peak hours cab charges that could cost around ₹500.