Metro tweaks line to connect core city to western suburbs

Extends Network To Cover Fast-Developing Areas That Don't Have Good Transport

In a few years from now, when a metro train operates from Lighthouse on the Marina, people who are now setting down in rapidly developing locations such as by-pass road, Kattupakkam and Poonamallee could board the direct link to the heart of the city. The Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) has changed the alignment of one of the corridors in Phase 2 to link areas in the western suburbs.

These neighbourhoods had been added to the alignment after a decision was taken to extend the line to Poonamallee.

Corridor 4, one of the three corridors of the 22.5km Phase 2, will now stretch from Lighthouse in the east to Poonamallee in the west cutting across Mylapore, Nandambur, T Nagar and Kodambakkam.

Under the earlier alignment, the line was supposed to pass via Vashishteswaram, passport office in Saligramam, Vepery, and Jaffna and join CMRL. Now, it will bypass Jaffna and pass through Alwarthirunagar, Vepery, Pasumalai, Perur, by-pass road, Kattupakkam, and reach Poonamallee Bypass.

For CMRL, the change in the alignment is an attempt to catch up with the fast-expanding city, where the population is growing, and the promise of a transport infrastructure that is lacking will be served. For now, soil tests have begun from Lighthouse to Meenakshi College in Kodambakkam and tenders have been floated for tests in the nearly 10km stretch from Meenakshi College to Poonamallee Bypass.

The extension

The new line will connect the city's easternmost part to western suburbs via centrally located areas.

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<td>TOTAL DISTANCE</td>
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\[ \text{Reduction by } 11.30 \text{ km from revised project report} \]

- Alwarthirunagar, Vepery
- Karakonam, Alakapakkam junction and Perur Junction will be interchange stations, linking corridors 4 and 5

Old Plan

- Light House to CMBT covering 21.5km with 20 stations
- Soil test between Light House and Meenakshi College (33.33km) has begun
- Will link core areas like Mylapore, Nandambur, T Nagar and Kodambakkam

The Extension

- From CMBT to Poonamallee covering 10km
- Orbital corridor that would have 10 more four corridors of phase 1 and phase 2

The new line will connect the city's easternmost part to western suburbs via centrally located areas.