Diversion on Anna Salai continue

Metro Rail Work Over, Cops Yet To End One-Ways

Chennai: It is more than eight months since the AG OMR, Teynampet and Nandanam metro rail stations were opened, but motorists are still forced to take diversions between Nandanam and G G Puram along Anna Salai. At least eight roads are yet to be open for two-way traffic.

The present diversions were enforced nearly eight years ago when construction of tunnels and stations began. Chennai Metro Rail Limited officials said they had informed the traffic police about the completion of work, but police were yet to act upon it. “We wrote to the traffic police in December saying they can make roads leading to Anna Salai two-way,” said an official.

South Boag Road, North Boag Road, Nandanam Road and a portion of G G Chetty Road, Verkatturpet Road and Vijayavaraha Road have been one-way since 2012 when construction for the tunnels and the three underground stations on Anna Salai began. The three stations were opened in May 2018. The Anna Salai General Futters Road junction and Anna Salai Whites Road junction are still one-way as construction for the LC and Thousand Lights underground metro station is on.

Apart from a 2km-wide stretch from the landing of Anna Salai Flyover to Nandanam junction barricades for construction, the road is a one-way ramp for two-lane traffic.

Since many BCT buses ply across Anna Salai, the Nandanam junction安娜 Flyover stretch was restricted to buses to avoid inconveniencing commuters. Private vehicles from Salapet had to turn left onto Verkatturpet Road at Nandanam junction, and go via South Boag Road, Thiruppara Road, North Boag Road and turn right to GN Chetty Road to reach Anna Flyover. Vehicles coming out of Cooum Bridge Road towards Anna Salai couldn’t turn right and had to take a U-turn at Nandanam Junction to go towards SIB signal and beyond. Sunder Street, which links GN Chetty Road to Anna Salai was also made one-way.

Additional commissioner of police A Arun admitted receiving information from CMRL. He said, “We tried to reach CMRL officials for some clarification on restoring two-way traffic. Once we get clarity, we will make arrangements.”

Motorists continue to be hassled, particularly during the rush hour in the mornings and evenings, and say the traffic police should restore two-way traffic as soon as possible.

“Today a kilometer stretch from South Boag Road to GN Chetty Road would normally take less than five minutes. It now takes 15 to 20 minutes during morning and peak hours as it is one-way. The roads were made one-way nearly eight years ago, but residents have not been informed that the traffic flow used to be when it was two-way,” said Prakash Deva, T Nagar resident.