

Metro App for rides to IT hubs

Office Ride Starts Today From Alandur

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CMRL has launched an APP similar to that of cab aggregators for rides from Alandur to Elcot and Sipcot. (File photo)

A metro rail official said the service would be similar to share taxis or vans and link metro stations with major IT hubs at affordable rates. "As a start, the service will be available from Alandur metro sta-

tion to Elcot and Sipcot. Later, it will be extended to other stations such as Anna Nagar and AG-DMS. The service will be available to all metro commuters," the official said. "The idea is to provide first and last mile connectivity as well as reduce traffic congestion and pollution."

Office Ride also has an app, active in Chennai and Pune, which works like those operated by other cab aggregators. Commuters will have to enter their pickup and drop location upon downloading the app. The service functions on crowdsourced route suggestions to improve commutes.

Apart from its plans to link OMR through an elevated corridor in phase-2, CMRL has introduced several such feeder services in the last two

years linking its stations with neighbourhoods in an effort to encourage passengers to use metro trains. "Our patronage has gone up to nearly 60,000 after more lines opened and introduction of new feeder services," an official said.

In October 2018, CMRL introduced four air-conditioned vans from Alandur metro station for passengers heading towards DLF in Porur, as one of the options for last mile connectivity. Metro commuters could board these vans every 15 minutes between 6.30am and 9.30pm for a flat charge of ₹20.

While passengers could board and deboard anywhere between Alandur metro station and DLF, the service itself was launched following many requests from IT employees working in business parks in

Porur.

In August 2018, CMRL launched share autos and share taxis services at 13 stations on a trial basis for a period of six months. More than one lakh commuters used the services during the trial period.

Besides rental cycles and bikes, CMRL in tie-up with Zoomcar introduced self-drive car rental services in Thirumangalam metro station in December.

In the 107.55km phase-2, CMRL has taken up linking of OMR as part of its 52km priority corridor, construction for which is expected to begin before the end of 2019.

It is also estimated that nearly 400 buses will be required to operate feeder service in the three-corridor phase-2.

Chennai: As the last leg of phase-1 is to open soon, Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has taken another step to woo passengers. It has tied up with Ford's Corporate Shuttle Feeder Services to launch Office Ride, to provide safe commute to passengers particularly IT employees from home to office and back through metro trains and feeder services. The service is being launched at Alandur Metro Station on Wednesday.