Metro to link route planned under monorail network

Porur, Other Areas To Be Part of Phase-2

Chennai: It is not clear if monorail, one of former chief minister J Jayalalithaa's pet projects, will ever see the light of day, but hints flow like Porur, Egmore, Palavakkam and Poesanaiel, planned under the system, will be linked under the 18km phase-2 of Chennai Metro Rail Limited.

A comprehensive study on passenger flow revealed high traffic density between Porur and Poesanaiel that metro rail, not monorail, is capable of handling it, said CMMR managing director Prabhu Konar Bussell. Corridor 4, now planned between Light House and CMRT, will be extended up to Poesanaiel and will finally stretch over 30km with 11 stations. The 18km (phase-I, estimated to cost Rs1,000 crore, will commence services in 2017.

“We presented the traffic data to the state government and suggested that metro rail would be more suitable in these localities than monorail. After the government approved, we revised corridor 4,” Bussell said.

As of 2015, monorail was to connect Kattupara to Poesanaiel — linking Porur — SRMC Hospital, Egmore, Kattupara, Kattupara and Kakkam on a “Y shaped alignment including an arm from Porur to Vandalur, and Vellore to Kanadukathan.”

A part of corridor 4, initially planned to be underpass, has now been changed to elevated. Officials said the line between Light House and Meenambakkam College in Kottivakkam will be underground, as it links the city centre. From Meenambakkam College to Poesanaiel will be elevated.

The state government proposed a 30-km two corridor monorail at an estimated Rs4,000 crore and tasked Metropolis Transportation Corporation (MTC) to execute. But the project is yet to take off. Experts have been highlighting that the project would require units of metro rail and monorail system in the public transport popular.