Nandanam signal to open for four-way traffic next month

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Chennai: The Nandanam Junction will be opened for four-way traffic from the second week of April, the traffic police have said.

After Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) took over part of the stretch in 2011 to lay metro lines below Anna Salai, traffic and made two-way. Now almost after seven years, motorists can use the stretch again from all sides.

Though CMRL began metro rail services in May 2011, it handed over the stretch to the traffic police to open it for regular traffic a couple of months later. Now, vehicular movement on both sides are allowed from Contergh Road and Nandanam signal. However, at least a 100-metre stretch on Venkatachalam Road remains closed. Due to this, vehicles on Venkatachalam Road in T Nagar take a detour to South Bong Road and Poondu Basar Road before joining Anna Salai or take Lushki Road and Moopuruppiyur Street before merging with Anna Salai.

Earlier, police had put up concrete boulders across the road to divert vehicles from Venkatachalam Road to South Bong Road. Now, boulders have been replaced with temporary barricades. To regulate traffic, Chennai traffic police have engaged officials to build a median on the stretch of Venkatachalam Road just before it joins Anna Salai.

However, road users, especially two-wheeler riders, have begun using the stretch. Prabhakaran, employed at a supermarket near Natarajan Park, said, "I stay at Lotuss Colony in Nandanam. It takes more than 10 minutes for me to reach the supermarket which is just a kilometer from my house. Now I can reach within a few minutes."