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Work on metro phase-2 likely to begin by mid-2020

Chennai: The Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) is likely to begin construction for the remaining 66km portion of the total 126km phase-2 corridor by mid-2020, with talks on for funding from international banks. Construction for the 22km priority corridor will be taken up first, and is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

A metro official said soil tests are being conducted in several localities in the 66km stretch, including Light House, T Nagar and Poonamallee. It is likely to be completed by the end of this year.

“We have floated tenders in small packages for soil tests. The test reports will help us finalise the construction tenders faster,” an official said.

Officials said construction tenders for the 66km priority corridor will be floated in June 2019. The 110km phase-2 has been planned with three corridors linked by 228 stations, to be built at an estimated cost of 36,900 crores. The remaining 66km stretch of the phase will be linked to 21 stations. It will cover stretches from Sholinganallur to Siruseri, along the CMRL, covering around 68km, and a 38km line from Light House to Poonamallee linking several localities, including core areas like Mylapore, T Nagar, Kodambakkam and Velachery.

It will also link Perur, Kamarapankudi, Vandalur and Poonamallee, which are poorly connected by public transportation. The third 38km stretch is from CMRT to Sholinganallur, linking the western fringes of the city.

The CMRL has been in talks with four international banks—World Bank, ADB, Deve-