

Restrictions on Cenotaph Road to go

Move Likely To Reduce Violations

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Chennai: Motorists can breathe easy. The busy intersection of Cenotaph Road with Anna Salai is set to open for two-way traffic from next week, more than seven years after restrictions were put in place to facilitate metro rail work.

Chennai Metro Rail Ltd (CMRL) had begun underground services on the stretch in May last year but the traffic police was able to take it over only a couple of months later. After the restrictions are removed, motorists coming from Kotturpuram and beyond will be allowed to turn right from Cenotaph Road on to Anna Salai, go further and take a U-turn or turn right on to Bharatidasan Salai on which SLET College is located.



BUSY INTERSECTION: The signal at the Cenotaph Road-Anna Salai junction will start operating from the first week of April

This is expected to reduce the incidence of violations, including jumping of signals, say traffic police officers who plan to operate the Cenotaph Road and SLET (Bharatidasan Salai) traffic signals in tandem. The proposal has been sent to the

deputy commissioner of police, south Chennai, along with a prototype working plan.

During the seven years that the restrictions were in place, motorists were only allowed to turn left from Cenotaph Road on to Anna Salai and proceed to-

wards the Nandanam signal. A dedicated bus-lane was provided for vehicles coming from Nandanam to Cenotaph Road. Those coming from Kotturpuram and beyond and wishing to proceed towards Parry's were forced to travel up to Nandanam

junction to take a 'U' turn and proceed to their destinations.

Many motorists going to Chennai Central or Parry's complained that they had to sweat it out with vehicles going towards Saidapet before taking the U-turn.

Incidents of traffic violations became common, with cab drivers blatantly proceeding in the wrong direction at great risk to other road-users.

Anumol, a student of SLET College for Women, said that the situation was particularly bad during the morning rush hour. "There were only one or two police personnel on duty at the junction and by the time they reached the spot of violation the offenders would have escaped."

Now, a traffic police officer said, "We have decided to give 70 seconds to motorists travelling to and fro on Anna Salai, while the vehicles merging from Cenotaph road will be given 25 seconds. After a trial run, we might increase the timing based on the volume of vehicular traffic from Kotturpuram."