Phase 2: Metro Rail to use MRTS space to reduce land acquisition

According to the detailed project report, the proposed corridor 5 will follow the alignment of the existing Metro's corridor 2 from Alapuzha to Inner Ring Road via St Thomas Mount. The Alignment of the proposed MRTS line between St Thomas Mount and Adambakkam is a double elevated line in this section. It is proposed that substructure for MRTS and elevated corridor 5 in this section may be constructed together with common alternative path arrangement to minimize the land acquisition, the DPT said.

The MRTS stretch between Adambakkam and St Thomas Mount remains incomplete for over a decade following court cases filed by the residents against the land acquisition. In January, Madras High Court dismissed the plea challenging the land acquisition against MRTS line connecting Adambakkam with the Mount subsystem station. The proposal to have a common path arrangement for a stretch of about 500 metres was moved to avoid the court cases over the land acquisition.

"CMRL and MRTS are planning to go for common piece of approximately 15 acres as a portal arrangement with different levels to avoid land acquisition," said a senior CMRL official.

The official, however, said that the sharing arrangement would be finalised only after working out a detailed design and talks with the railway line. "The common path arrangement was proposed for a small stretch of about 500 metres," the official said, adding that the metro line would be "double-decked" to accommodate the MRTS line.

Already, at St Thomas Mount, an integrated station is built to cater to the needs of both CMRL and MRTS. It is an elevated station with MRTS platforms and tracks at the first higher level and CMRL's platform and tracks at the second higher level."