

Light Rail Transit being considered for city

Cost-effective to build; could serve as feeder service to Metro, say officials

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The Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) is reportedly mulling over the implementation of Light Rail Transit in Chennai and New Delhi in the near future.

Top sources in the MoUD told *The Hindu* that Chennai Metro officials recently made a presentation on the viability of LRT in the metro and

tier II cities and the advantage of implementing it in future. "We are seeing if we can build LRT in the metro cities as feeder services to the main project; it could serve independently in the tier II cities like Coimbatore. We just had one round of discussion to see if it can be implemented as a pilot project in Chennai and Delhi Metros," a source said.

One of the main reasons for considering LRT, they said, was that it could cost much less when compared to an underground Metro system. "If stations in LRT are built as at-grade (on the ground), then it will work out to be quite cheap," he added.

According to officials of Chennai Metro Rail Limited, while construction of an un-

derground station will cost ₹500-600 crore, that of an elevated station will require nearly ₹150-200 crore. "But if an LRT station is built at-grade, it may require only about ₹70-80 crore. Also, it can be built with a very compact station with minimum amount of land and just a handful of personnel to monitor the station," said an official.