

Zoom on metro above MRTS line

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MRTS commuters will get to travel on an elevated structure once the proposed 500m link between St Thomas Mount and Adambakkam in the phase-2 extension is constructed. The elevated structure will be built right under the viaduct of the metro rail line. The metro rail and MRTS lines will run at two levels in a single elevated corridor on the stretch.

Chennai metro rail limited (CMRL) has plans to build a single structure for both MRTS and metro

between Adambakkam and St Thomas Mount to minimise land acquisition. The metro line will be part of the 118.9km corridor-5 that runs from Madhavaram to Sholinganallur. The metro line is expected to be at a height of about 27m from the road.

The stations planned as part of corridor-5 will run coinciding with the existing Alandur station to Inner Ring Road via St Thomas Mount as a double elevated structure.

From St Thomas Mount, CMRL proposes to follow the same alignment as that of the proposed MRTS,

to link Adambakkam. "It is proposed that the substructure for MRTS and elevated corridor-5 in this section may be constructed together with common or alternative pier arrangement to minimise land acquisition. The alignment shall continue with different heights on one side up to Adambakkam," says CMRL's detailed project report of phase-2. This would make construction easier, faster and cheaper, as CMRL is expected to takeover MRTS operations.

Land acquisition has already stalled the construction of the 500m MRTS line part of the Velachery-St

Thomas Mount corridor for the last eight years.

Talks between CMRL and Southern Railways is still under way for the takeover of MRTS operations. Once it takes over, CMRL proposes to change the rolling stock (trains) to integrate it with metro rail. In phase-2, metro stations have been planned in several locations close to the existing MRTS stations. They include Perumbur, Mandaveli, Greenways Road, Thiruvanmiyur and Thirumayilai. CMRL has planned to link the two facilities with pathways, skywalks and pedestrian subways.