

# Alandur foot overbridge set to open next month

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## FOB On Busy GST Road For Commuters' Convenience

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The facility will link the city's largest elevated transit hub at Alandur with the air-conditioned bus stop at Asarkhana

**Chennai:** More than four years after Alandur metro station was opened, commuters will get a foot overbridge (FOB) that will give them easy access to the station in November. Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) expects the facility, which has been under construction since May 2018, to be ready by the end of October.

"Finishing touches are being made to the FOB. Work is being carried out round the clock to get it ready by the end of this month," an official said.

The facility on the busy GST Road will link the city's largest elevated transit hub at Alandur with the air-conditioned bus stop at Asarkhana

and the upcoming inter-modal urban square under Kathipara grade separator.

Unlike other foot overbridges in the city with just staircases and gates, CMRL officials said the Alandur FOB will have several additional facilities such as elevators and escalators for the convenience of passengers. The iron bridge will have four escalators (two on either side) and two staircases that will land in front of Alandur

metro station on one side and Asarkhana bus stop on the other.

CMRL decided to build the FOB following complaints from commuters over the hassle while crossing GST Road to reach the station.

Since the metro station opened in June 2015, commuters were forced to risk crossing the busy GST road by jumping over the centre median. For many, it was the

only faster way to access either side of the road, as an existing pedestrian subway is more than 50 metres away and not properly maintained. Women commuters, in particular, hesitate to use the old facility as it is dimly lit.

The construction of the FOB started last year after much delay as CMRL failed to finalise a contractor twice earlier when it floated tenders. The first tender floated in 2016 did not have many takers. Tenders were again floated in 2017 with the addition of certain pedestrian-friendly features in the structure.

Alandur Metro is one of the few stations that attract an average 3,500 commuters a day as it is the transit hub linking both the corridors. Commuters from Koyambedu heading to Airport will have to change trains here if they do not board a direct service. CMRL hopes to see a rise in the footfalls at the station as the facility will give passengers easy access to the station.