Soon, get metro rail timings at bus stops

Display Systems To Be Set Up In Six Months

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Chennai: Metro train or MTC? Soon, large electronic display boards — similar to those at airport terminals — would help passengers decide the quickest mode of transport to their destination, as Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) will install display systems with train timings and platforms at all MTC bus stops near metro stations.

The facility is part of efforts for an intermodal transport system which would provide commuters information on the fastest and comfortable commuting options. Two passenger information display systems were installed at the Chennai Airport by CMRL and the Airports Authority of India on Saturday.

"In six months, bus stops near metro stations will have these passenger information systems with real-time information on metro train time and the platforms they would arrive," an official said.

Once the systems are set up in the MTC stands, passengers heading to a metro station or alighting buses may decide on the mode of transport to their destination by checking the arrival time of the next train. Almost all of the 32 metro stations have been built closer to bus depots like Saidapet or major bus stops like DMS where buses

SHOWING THE WAY: Passenger information display systems (left) with metro train timings and platforms installed near the walkalator connecting Airport metro with international and domestic terminals to assist air travellers who use the metro service

to southern suburbs halt. The display system is also a step towards syncing both metro and MTC bus timings.

On Saturday, CMRL installed two such electronic passenger information display systems in the walkalator linking airport metro with the international and domestic terminals. Similar systems have been planned in other metro stations as well.

"The system will display metro timings on a real-time basis. It will help international and domestic passengers arriving at the airport to plan their journey by metro train," said a release from CMRL. The installation of the display systems was the result of an extensive survey CMRL conducted with its passengers on the facilities they would require, to make commuting easy and comfortable. "During the survey, passengers suggested the kind of information and the best location for putting up

these boards," an official said. "For instance, our passengers wanted these boards to be put up right outside the entry points of Central metro, so that those leaving Central railway station or alighting an MTC bus would know the next train available."

While the information displayed in these systems may be similar to those shown on the platforms of metro stations, officials said the systems to come up in other stations and at bus stops will follow a different format with information on all routes, trains, time and platform.

As part of providing seamless connectivity with a multimodal transportation, CMRL will also launch a uniform app-based feeder share cab service before mid-2020 where commuters may book a cab, reserve a seat, mark their pick up location and either pay online or swipe their smartcards.