

Kilambakkam metro line to bring southern suburbs closer

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The new line metro rail is planning from the airport to Kilambakkam will soar over five flyovers and grade separators on ever-busy GST Road and run parallel to the suburban line. Construction for the 15.3km line with 15 stations at an estimated ₹3,500cr is expected to begin in 2021.

The line will be a crucial link to mofussil bus terminals at Kilambakkam (under construction) and Madhavaram (operational) via the airport as well as to far-flung suburban localities that have poor access to public transport.

A metro rail official said the stations and their locations may change when the detailed project report (DPR) is prepared, for which tenders will be floated. The DPR will have the exact number and location of stations, design of the stations and corridors.

When the line comes up, it will be a roller-coaster ride for commuters from Vandalur, Perungalathur and Tambaram to Central or Anna Nagar as the train will reach a maximum altitude of 21m above the Kathipara junction and enter a tunnel at a minimum depth of 18m underground.

“The elevated line may be at an altitude of 14m to 15m as there are many flyovers along the route. It may look similar to the corridor near Vadapalani where the line runs above a flyover,” an official said. “It may take a year for the DPR to be ready. Construction may begin soon after.”

CONNECTING CORNERS

The line is likely to be ready by the time a portion of phase 2 linking Madhavaram to Sholinganallur and Madhavaram to CMBT is completed by 2025.

While the line may run parallel to the suburban line, CMRL has planned to link localities such as RMK Nagar and Irumbuliyur that are far away from suburban stations. These localities will get a metro station each. Stations will come up within 1km to make them accessible.

For people like Marshall Cyril Alexander of Urappakkam, who travels for 90 minutes to reach his workplace at Mannadi, the metro may cut travel time by half. “I take a suburban train to Central and switch to metro to reach Mannadi. When the new line comes, I can take a direct metro train to my workplace and reach in 45 minutes,” he said. “I don’t mind paying for the metro service given the time it saves and the facility metro provides.”

Commuters can travel from Kilambakkam to Central, Anna Salai or Anna Nagar via airport, Alandur and CMBT by a single train. When phase-2 corridors come up, commuters arriving at the bus terminus in Madhavaram and proceeding towards Kilambakkam or the airport may have to switch corridors at Thirumangalam or CMBT. Commuters from Perambur, Adyar, Sholinganallur, Porur or Poonamallee can access the Kilambakkam bus terminus when the phase-2 corridors become operational.

The new line will connect IT offices in Perungalathur and the Vandalur zoo. “Vandalur suburban station is at least a kilometre away from the zoo. I pay Rs 100 to autos to reach the zoo. If a metro station comes up near it, I can take a direct metro train,” said S Narayanan, a resident of Ashok Nagar, who visits the zoo regularly with his two children.



ON TRACK

METRO RAIL HAS FLOATED TENDERS FOR A DETAILED PROJECT REPORT TO FINALISE LOCATIONS AND SPECIFICATIONS OF STATIONS



Route | Airport to Kilambakkam

Distance | 15.3km
Stations | 15

Height of line | 15m



Budget | ₹3,500cr

Construction | May begin in 2021

Status | Tenders to prepare project report floated

Line to connect | Pallavaram, Chromepet, Tambaram, Perungalathur, Vandalur and Kilambakkam

Landmarks | Tambaram railway station, Shriram Gateway Office Parks, Arignar Anna Zoological Park, Vandalur, Kilambakkam bus terminus

LINE TO SOAR ABOVE

Pallavaram flyover under construction | Chromepet twin grade separator | Foot over-bridge at Chromepet and Tambaram Sanatorium | Grade separator in Perungalathur | Flyover under construction at Vandalur | Twin flyover near Vandalur railway station

TRAVEL TIME

Airport to Kilambakkam | 15.3km, 40 minutes

Central to Kilambakkam via Airport | 33.4km, 1 hour and 10 minutes

Egmore to Kilambakkam via Airport | 34.9km, 1 hour and 15 minutes

Madhavaram to Kilambakkam via CMBT and Airport | 43.8km, 1 hour and 30 minutes

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METRO RAIL OFFICIAL