

# To boost housing, biz till Chengalpet

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A metro rail line from airport to Kilambakkam will not only ease traffic on GST Road, but also offer better and faster connectivity to residents and those who work in IT companies.

Those who travel in packed suburban trains and by buses will be able to switch to metro rail, albeit for a premium. The new line may persuade those now taking cars to the city to choose public transport.

Metro rail has begun groundwork to extend its airport line to Kilambakkam, via Vandalur, where a bus terminus for south-bound buses is being planned by the state government.

Similar to CMBT, a metro station will come up inside the new terminus.

Residents of southern suburbs such as Pallavaram, Tambaram, Irumbuliyur, Perungalathur and Vandalur will have another option to travel. Already, several multi-storeyed apartment complexes have come up off GST Road. The new line could lead to a boom in housing and office units along the new line and further south beyond Kilambakkam. With Chengalpet set to become the headquarters of a new district carved out of Kancheepuram, a metro rail line will give fillip to development.

At present, people living in the southern suburbs beyond the airport depend on suburban trains and MTC

buses to reach the city. While the arterial road is congested, suburban trains are packed.

Illango, a representative of Ganesh Nagar Residents Welfare Association at Iyyencherry in Urapakkam, said metro services will improve connectivity from their locality. "The EMU services are hit by signal issues and the trains get delayed," he said.

S Sridharan, chairman of CREDAI, Tamil Nadu chapter, said metro connectivity will help people from southern suburbs to reach core Chennai in an hour. "In the event of preliminary works commences, it will push the demand for office space and residential apartments as commuting by metro will be comfortable," he said.