

Rail to link Velachery with Tambaram soon

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ON A FAST LANE



> The line will come up along Velachery Main Road, which was one of the routes proposed to be linked by monorail

Chennai: Residents of areas between Tambaram and Velachery may soon have a faster and comfortable mode of transport for daily commute, with the government planning a transit system, most probably a metro rail or a light metro (CMRT), which now operates a 45km rail network in the city. It will conduct feasibility studies and prepare a detailed project report.

In his customary address on the floor of the assembly on Monday, governor Banwarilal Purohit said, "To address increasing traffic congestion on the Tambaram-Velachery corridor, the government will establish a rail-based transit system for a total of 15.5km and Chennai Metro Rail Limited will prepare a feasibility report." Sources said the line will come up along Velachery

Centre participation for phase-2 project sought

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ed a comprehensive study on the passenger flow along the route and found that the high traffic density between Forur and Poonamallee could only be handled by metro rail. The governors said the state had decided to extend the metro rail corridor by 15.5km from Chennai Airport to Kilambakkam, where a new motassil bus stand is coming up.

On the three-corridor 118.9km phase-2 project, which is estimated to cost ₹69,180 crore, the governor said JICA had agreed to fund a stretch of 52.01km and the first tranche of the loan agreement has been signed. Multilateral assistance from Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank is being availed of for the remaining stretches. "I urge the Government of India to accord early approval for their participation in the phase-2 project on a 50:50 equity share and Karayanchavadi are now part of phase-2. The decision to build a metro rail network on the planned monorail after CMRT conduct-

ing a part of KathiPara-Poonamallee corridor, suggested for monorail, the 118.9km metro phase-2. While KathiPara is linked to Alandur in phase-1, the remaining areas like Porur, SRMG Hospital, Iyyappanthan-gal, Kattupakkam, Kumananchavadi and Karayanchavadi are now part of phase-2. The decision to build a metro rail network on the planned monorail after CMRT conduct-

However, the decision to operate a rail service may depend on the investment the government is ready to make as well as the potential passenger traffic along the corridor. The feasibility study will involve collecting extensive data on public transporters and private vehicles on the route. Based on the existing passenger traffic, a forecast for the coming decades and peak hour traffic will be assessed before the type of rail system suitable for the stretch is decided.

CMRT had earlier proposed linking a part of KathiPara-Poonamallee corridor, suggested for monorail, the 118.9km metro phase-2. While KathiPara is linked to Alandur in phase-1, the remaining areas like Porur, SRMG Hospital, Iyyappanthan-gal, Kattupakkam, Kumananchavadi and Karayanchavadi are now part of phase-2. The decision to build a metro rail network on the planned monorail after CMRT conduct-

He also said the phase-1 extension line up to Thiruvottiyur/Wimco Nagar will be completed by mid-2020