

Facilities To Have Spartan Interiors; No Compromise On Commuter Comfort, Says Metro Rail

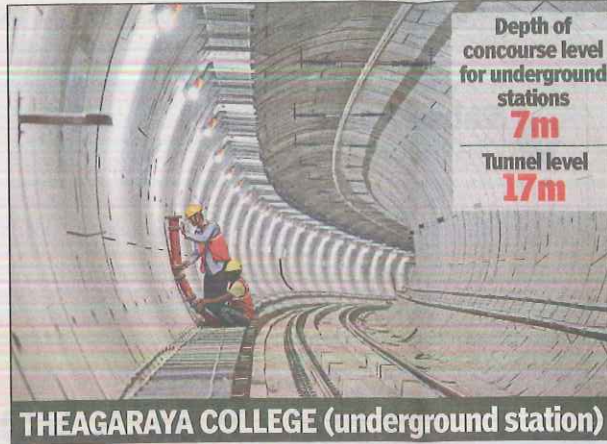
Pics: L R Shankar



Height of elevated corridor
13m to 17m

GOWRI ASHRAM (elevated station)

- No concourse level
- This will allow a temple chariot to pass under the corridor
- A 24m link bridge will connect station entry point to platform level



Depth of concourse level for underground stations
7m
Tunnel level
17m

THEAGARAYA COLLEGE (underground station)

- Station built under college playground unlike other facilities under main road
- Two underground passages from main road to give commuters access to station
- College can build structures above station box



OTHER DESIGN CHANGES

- Open-to-sky entry points
- Vertical exhaust fans near shafts to save space
- Underground stations to have raw look with no false ceiling

Public demand, cost-cutting make metro rail tweak design of stations in N Chennai

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40% more passengers," said a metro rail official.

The line will have six elevated and three underground stations. Changes were made to the stations because of protests by locals for various reasons. For instance, commuters will directly walk on to platforms of the elevated Gowri Ashram station built at a height of 17m as CMRL did away with concourse or ticketing level and raised the elevation of the corridor to ensure the line does not hinder the movement of a temple car during festivals. The average height of the elevated corridor is 13m while the height was increased only at Gowri Ashram station, making it the tallest station on the stretch.

Access to this station will be through a foot over-bridge with stairs and escalators sandwiched between a row of shops on the narrow and congested Thiruvottiyur High Road.

At the Theagaraya College underground station it's a quid pro quo. Metro rail officials



TAKING SHAPE
Toll Gate station

Expected to open by mid-2020

ALL ABOUT PHASE 1 EXTN

Distance
9km

Budget
₹3,770cr

Route
Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar

Average height of concourse level from road | **7.8m**

Status **75%** work completed

NINE STATIONS

➤ Underground stations at Washermenpet, Theagaraya College, Korukkupet

➤ Elevated stations at Tondiarpet, Toll Gate, Thangal, Gowri Ashram, Tiruvottiyur and Wimco Nagar



said they would give the college access to the columns of the station to raise another structure. The station is being built under the college playground about 100m from the main road with an 80m underground passage for commuter entry. The college students protested against CMRL tak-

ing over their college land for construction of the station. "If the college plans to build a four-storey building above our station box, they could raise pillars from our columns. Our station already has a foundation to hold the structure," said an engineer at the site.

While construction on top

of underground station boxes is otherwise not allowed, those in north Chennai have been built with a four-level shopping area.

The interiors of the stations will have a raw design with no false ceiling but black painted roofs holding the cables and air-conditioning

ducts. "We were able to make stations 25% smaller than those in phase-1 by incorporating changes in the equipment like procuring smaller vertical exhaust fans that would now be installed in the shaft jutting out to the road level instead of keeping them in a separate room," an official said.