

Come July, Metro to run till Wimco Nagar

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THE nine-km Chennai Metro Rail Phase-1 extension, between Wimco Nagar and Washermenpet, at a cost of ₹3,770 crore, is expected to be operational from July.

Almost 80 per cent work is over and tracks have been laid. "All 10 rakes for the stretch have reached the depot and a trial run is likely in May," an official said.

The extension is expected to benefit lakhs of commuters, especially those in suburbs such as Ennore, Minjur, Manali and Ernavoor. Officials said there is a high potential for commuters using metro from areas beyond Wimco Nagar. "Current-



The nine kilometre phase 1 metro rail corridor between Wimco Nagar and Washermenpet is set to be operational by July 2020 | P JAWAHAR

ly, MTC buses and local trains from Tiruvottriyur are the main mode of transport for north Chennai to con-

nect with other parts of the city. Metro will be a game changer," an official said.

To reach airport, MTC route 1B is the only direct bus from Thiruvottriyur, while people also reach Beach station by share auto or MTC buses from where they take suburban to Tirusulam. Either way, travel consumes two hours during office hours. Officials said the duration will be cut short to one hour via metro.

CMRL is likely to introduce adequate feeder services to interior areas to increase patronage. Meanwhile, work on the 47-km Phase-II between Sholinganallur and Madhavaram is likely to start by mid 2020.