

CMRL floats tender for 11.6km Puzhuthivakkam-Elcot stretch

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Chennai: The ambitious three-corridor phase-2 metro rail project seems to be picking up steam with CMRL floating a tender to construct an elevated corridor to link southern suburban areas between Puzhuthivakkam and Elcot, covering 11.6km. These areas are otherwise poorly linked, by public transport, with far flung areas in the northern suburbs. The stretch is part of corridor-5 linking Madhavaram in the north with Sholinganallur in the south via localities on northwest and southwest of the city. CMRL had earlier floated nine separate tenders to construct different portions of phase-2 corridors. Construction for the phase will begin early 2021 and is expected to be ready by 2026.

According to the tender invite, the contractor will have to build an elevated viaduct between Puzhuthivakkam met-



ro station and beyond Elcot metro station covering 11.61km linked by 11 elevated stations and all associated works. The stations will come up at Madipakkam, Kilkattalai, Echanguddu, Kovilambakkam, Vellakkal, Medavakkam Koot Road, Kamaraj Garden Street, Medavakkam junction, Perumbakkam, Global Hospital and Elcot. The corridor ends with Elcot connecting to Sholinganallur station which is also part of corridor-3 from Madhavaram to Siruseri Sipcot.

When a metro line comes up in these interior localities, residents can reach areas like Anna Nagar, CMBT, Villivakkam, Kolathur and even Madhavaram on the other end of the city in a single train ride or switch corridors at Alandur to board a train towards Airport or Central. A train ride could also take commuters in these localities to IT areas in Porur or they could shift corridors to board a train to Poonamallee, which is part of corridor 4 or switch at Sholinganallur to proceed along OMR to Siruseri Sipcot.

CMRL has floated at least nine construction tenders for various sections of all three corridors in the phase, which are under various stages of bidding process. "Paperwork for floating the tenders was prepared during the lockdown period. Tenders for the rest of the phase will be floated one after the other soon," an official said.