

Metro to switch to digital mode for better maintenance of tracks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

AT A GLANCE

Chennai: As the city's metro rail network is expanding, Chennai Metro Rail Limited is planning to use mobile applications to monitor periodic maintenance of ballast-less tracks, men and material.

The agency has floated a tender to design, develop and implement a web-based and mobile-based track maintenance management system application. Officials said the app is a technology-based solution to replace manual records and information related to tracks, to minimise errors, optimise maintenance and easy monitoring. The move comes at a time when CMRL is adding a 9km line from Washermenpet to Wimco Nagar in January to its existing 45km network and another 118.9km line in phase-2 project in the next six years.

"This app will help minimise errors that may otherwise happen while registering information manually in a record, prevent generating false reports about work completed, track and monitor periodic maintenance easily and know the overall performance of tracks," said an official.

According to the tender invite, officials would be able to

➤ CMRL has floated a tender to design and develop web-based and mobile-based track maintenance management system (TRAMMS) application

➤ The app will digitise all works related to maintenance of tracks like generate work order, record work completed and generate reports, SMS alerts and emails as well as generate billing for the work completed

➤ It will also help maintain database on material, inventory,

track assets and the workers involved

➤ At present, all information related to tracks are registered manually and later fed into a computer to generate monthly billing

➤ The app will minimise errors, encourage transparency, timely maintenance and easy monitoring

➤ Indian Railways has a similar application to maintain all data related to railway track infrastructure



use the app on a tablet. It will have a maintenance management system where a work order, to repair or conduct maintenance of tracks, could be generated. The app could be updated with information on the work completed and generate reports, SMS alerts, emails as well as payment of bills. Officials said it could also help in alerting about periodic maintenance of tracks or a fault that needs to be addressed immediately and help officials conduct inspection at the site based on the reports generated in the application. The app will also enable management of materials in stores, items used and returned after maintenance and

keep a record of all track assets.

At present, the track maintenance staff manually record track information or site data in a register book and the same is later fed into a computer based on which manual monthly billing is generated.

Officials said using a mobile app through which the regular upkeep of tracks can be remotely monitored makes it easy as the city's metro rail network expands in the next half a decade. Indian Railways has been using a track management system for the last few years. Officials said CMRL may be the first in the metro network in the country to adopt a similar system.