

Madhavaram to get largest metro depot

Will Maintain Driverless

Trains Used On Phase 2 Lines

U:Tejonnayam
@timesgroup.com

Chennai: Madhavaram will house the city's largest metro rail train maintenance depot, transforming into the nodal centre for the upkeep of driverless trains that will operate across the 118.9km of phase-2 in a few years. Chennai Metro Rail Limited (CMRL) has invited bids for the construction of the depot expected to come up across a

69-acre plot in Madhavaram Milk Colony. The depot, whose area will surpass the existing 64-acre Koyambedu depot, is likely to come up in less than three years. With the latest tender invite, CMRL has floated 19 tenders for the construction of the 118.9km phase-2 lines and two depots.

CMRL chose Madhavaram for the new depot as it could service and maintain a majority of the 112 driverless trains operated on corridor-3 from Madhavaram to SIPCOT and corridor-5 from Madhavaram to Sholinganallur. This also includes trains that will operate on the planned circular route comprising Madhavaram-MMBT-CMBT-Sholinganallur-Adyar-Madhavaram. This route would entail a

The depot is expected to come up on a 69-acre plot in Madhavaram Milk Colony and is likely to be completed in less than three years. With this, CMRL will have four depots, including ones at Koyambedu, Wimco Nagar and Poonamallee

driverless train covering northern and southern suburbs at one go within 150 minutes. In January, CMRL invited bids for the construction of a depot at Poonamallee, which will maintain the fleet operated on the Lighthouse-Poonamallee corridor-4.

According to the detailed

project report of phase-2, the depot at Madhavaram will have 37 lines for stabling or parking trains, six inspection lines for six-car trains and another six workshop lines for six-car trains. CMRL plans to procure 70 of the 112 driverless trains for the 118.9km phase-2, while the rest will be operated on lease. The depot will handle all major repair and maintenance work.

"The depot will have infrastructure to maintain the rakes with necessary facilities, including workshop for overhaul, unscheduled maintenance, including major repairs, wheel profiling, heavy interior, under frame, roof cleaning etc. for the rolling stock (trains) operational on the corridor as well as mainte-

nance facilities for civil - track, buildings, water supply, electrical - traction, signalling & telecommunication, automatic fare collection," officials explained in the DPR.

With two depots planned in phase-2, CMRL will have a total of four depots, including ones at Koyambedu and Wimco Nagar. The depot under construction over a 3.8-acre plot in Wimco Nagar will maintain the existing fleet operated on the Wimco Nagar-Airport corridor. It is expected to be ready by mid-2021. CMRL has also planned property development on an eight-acre land around the Wimco Nagar depot and on a 29-acre land around the planned Madhavaram depot.