

PRESS CLIPPINGS

Accent on sustainable urban mobility

Rules and regulations of UMTA Act being formulated

Staff Reporter

CHENNAI: Setting up of a unified institutional framework for all modes of public transport will be the key for sustainable urban mobility in the Chennai Metropolitan Area, said Susan Mathew, Vice-Chairperson, Chennai Metropolitan Development

Authority. Speaking at a seminar on 'Towards sustainable Urban Mobility' here on Friday, she said the rules and regulations of the Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority Act 2010 are being formulated. The UMTA is expected to improve the share of mass transit modes and optimise the utilisation of urban transport infrastructure.

Other strategies identified for sustainable urban mobility include promotion of transit options such as Light Rail Transit System, Bus Rapid Transit System and Monorail, segregation of freight traffic from passenger traffic, prioritising non-motorised transport, putting a parking policy in place and redefining the role of para-transport.

The UMTA could be used as focal point for initiating seamless ticketing in CMA, said K.Rajaraman, Managing Director, Chennai Metro Rail Limited. Preparation of a seamless card based ticketing plan for public transportation in Chennai would be ready by 2011, he added.

He also suggested the merger of Metro Rail and Mass Rapid Transit System for better delivery of services. The study on zone of influence of metro rail stations was under way and the results would throw light on the need for more walkways, underground passages and walkthroughs near the proposed stations, said Mr.



Minister for Urban Development Parithi Ellamvazhuthi in discussion with CMDA vice-chairperson Susan Mathew at a seminar in Chennai on Friday. CMDA member secretary, Dayanand Kataria is in the picture.

— PHOTO: N. SRIDHARAN

attracted to Chennai on account of better infrastructure.

At the same time, the government has also implemented various welfare measures for the poor, he added.

"The right balance between transport infrastructure and welfare measures have contributed towards higher economic growth for Chennai," he added.

International Monorail Association president Sumitra Iyengar said Chennai has the potential for transit options such as monorail and BRTS.

Central Institute of Road Transport director R. Balasubramaniam stressed the need for more buses under JNNURM scheme for Chennai to tackle traffic congestion. Retired professor of Anna University T. Anantharajan suggested safety audit for roads in the city. Dayanand Kataria, member secretary, CMDA, spoke.

New monorail routes mooted

DC CORRESPONDENT

CHENNAI

Feb. 25: To meet the growing transport demand of Chennai's increasing population and attract users of private vehicles to public transport systems, the Chennai Comprehensive Transportation Study has proposed that the government introduce a monorail system that covers stretches including Pallavaram-Koyambedu, Sriperumbudur-Porur-Luz-Lighthouse and Ambattur-Puzhal-Madhavaram.

Speaking at a one-day seminar 'Towards Sustainable Urban Mobility' organised by the CMDA on Friday, Wilbert Smith vice-president R. Krishnamurthy,

noted that in 1970 the share of public transport (bus and train) in the city was 53 per cent. This figure dropped drastically to 42 per cent and 31 per cent in 1993 and 2008. The share of two-wheelers grew from 1.7 per cent in 1970 to 25 per cent in 2008.

Chennai Metro Rail Ltd managing director K. Rajaraman said a study is underway to come up with a system which will allow commuters who reside within 500 metres of a Metro station to be able to catch a train without any difficulty. "Keeping this in mind, developmental control rules could be modified as in Hong Kong and efforts can be made to avoid congestion on the roads near stations."

THE ISSUE DATED 26-2-2011 OF DAILY THANTHI

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