

City authorities say they are working to address the problems on the IT corridor between Silk Board Junction and KR Puram, but some issues require the cooperation of business parks

Rohith BR & Christin Mathew Phillip | TNN

Officials with the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) say they understand the bane of commuting on the IT corridor stretch from Central Silk Board to KR Puram and two major projects are being executed to smoothen the transit for techies. However, they add that all such spot-fixing won't work for long and a solid mass transport sys-

ORR TRAFFIC NIGHTMARE PART 3

tem, like Metro connectivity which is under way, is the ultimate respite for the stretch.

BBMP chief engineer (major road infrastructure) S Somashekhar says they have already taken up road improvement works, with special focus on service roads, for the stretch between Lowry Memorial School Junction and Agara Junction – the stretch that is the most problematic. “The project is being executed in two packages. We want to take up other

We're fixing ORR IT stretch, but Metro rail is key: Govt

stretches along the corridor too. But Metro work will be taken up in a big way in the coming months, we are in the process of coordinating with the BMRCL about the project execution. Fixing service roads will be a priority,” Somashekhar adds.

Another project includes steps such as junction improvement, signal synchronization, and footpath development. An executive engineer associated with road works on ORR says 80% of the work under the two packages have been completed.

He says they are in the process of laying cobblestone footpaths, better streetlights, and desilting roadside and nearby storm water drains to ensure the ORR doesn't get flooded during the monsoon. “However, ORR improvement work is stuck at a few points as we are waiting for other agencies like BWSSB and Bescom to shift some utilities,” the engineer adds.

On using alternative roads to ORR, a senior official with the BBMP says, “Last year we did have deliberations on this. But most such options call for tech parks to open up space for connecting roads. If the new government rekindles interest in the initiative, things can be worked

WHAT AUTHORITIES ARE DOING

- Improving service road on the stretch between Lowry Memorial School Junction and Agara Junction
- Junction improvement, signal synchronization, footpath development
- Metro rail from Silk Board junction to KR Puram, expected to be ready by 2022

Most such options (developing alternative roads for traffic to and from tech parks) call for the parks to open up space for connecting roads. If the new government rekindles interest in the initiative, things can be worked out
– Senior BBMP official

COMPANIES, GOVT WORK TOGETHER



- Embassy Group will provide Rs 100 crore for Kadubeesanahalli Metro station on Silk Board-KR Puram line
- Intel will provide Rs 100 crore for Bellandur Metro station on this line

➤ Prestige Group and Bagmane Group too expected to contribute to development of stretch

Embassy to provide ₹150 crore towards a flyover between Thanisandra Junction and Nagawara Lake junction, with direct access to Manyata Tech Park

Embassy to build skywalk near Embassy Tech Park at cost of ₹9 crore

out. We are also working with IT companies, the traffic department and BMTC to bring in more interventions such as staggered timings, introduction of more buses, better traffic management,” he adds.

BRTS scrapped for Metro

The government has scrapped its earlier proposal of a BRTS (bus rapid transit system) project on the Outer Ring Road (Silk Board-Hebbal) in favour of Namma Metro's KR Puram-Silk Board Junction corridor. “An average of 60 buses can pass per hour, carrying around 3,000 passengers. In contrast, Metro can carry 20,000 passengers an hour with higher speed. The road length of ORR has already shrunk because of Metro work and BRTS will further reduce the road width and cause traffic congestion,” said additional commissioner of police (traffic) R Hithendra.

The 17km, Rs 4,202-crore Metro corridor connecting Silk Board Junction and KR Puram will have 13 stations, and is expected to be ready by 2022.

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