

URBAN INFRA

Metro commuters will need to walk

■ Parking zones are 200 to 500 metres away from stations

KANIZA GARARI | DC, HYDERABAD, AUG. 26

People will have to walk to the Metro stations to board the train, even in the 32 stations where parking facilities are available because there will not be any parking close to the station. The parking areas are 200 metres to 500 metres from the station. Seventeen parking facilities are being developed by Larsen and Toubro and 15 by Hyderabad Metro Rail.

The number of stations are 67 of which 54 are simple stations, three interchange stations, four special stations and six terminal stations across the 72 kilometres stretch of Metro rail.

Mr N.V.S. Reddy, managing director of Hyderabad Metro Rail, said, "As the stations are on the middle of the road, parking can't be provided just below them. Commuters will have to walk to the station to board the train. Parking will be provided in 32 main stations but at a distance. The tariff has not yet been decided as the facility is not ready." The option of street parking in a few stations in the city areas is only being looked at but it will depend on the response of people to the Metro rail and the travelling pattern that they will adapt.

Commercial spaces being developed by Larsen and Toubro in Ameerpet, Panjagutta, Parade Grounds, Malakpet, L B Nagar, Rasoolpura and other areas will have parking space for the Metro rail commuters, too. Mr Reddy said, "We can't block the road by providing parking everywhere. Wherever it is possible, it is going to be provided. Internationally, the stress is on public transport and decongestion of the city. But in the Indian scenario parking facilities are being created for the people to opt for the new system and get accustomed to it."

To say that the city will get decongested once Metro rail starts is not correct. Mr Reddy says, "Traffic is increasing with more and more people coming to the city for work, business, education and many other reasons. Some will opt for the Metro rail for longer distances where travel becomes easy and pollution free.

For shorter distances, we see a challenge as people will opt for private vehicles or other forms of public transport."

But for the Metro rail to succeed, the last mile connectivity of feeder services is very important and will

SPACE CREATED TO PARK VEHICLES

AREAS WHERE PARKING IS BEING CREATED BY LARSEN AND TOUBRO NEAR UPCOMING COMMERCIAL COMPLEXES:

1)	Ameerpet	Chalees Makaan	1.69 acres
2)	Panjagutta	Govt Quarters	4 acres
3)	Parade Grounds	GHMC office	1 acre
4)	Miyapur	open terminal station	5 acres
5)	Balanagar	HUDA Truck Terminal	2 acres
6)	Irrum Manzil	Govt Quarters	4 acres
7)	Malakpet	Govt Quarters	3.65 acres
8)	L B Nagar	near indoor stadium	1.66 acres
9)	Falaknuma	open land	4 acres
10)	Hi-tech city	NIFT/ATDC land	2 acres
11)	Nagole	Terminal station	4 acres
12)	Raidurg		15 acres
13)	Yousufguda Gallery		0.80 acres
14)	Old Gandhi Hospital		5.05 acres
15)	Dhobighat land at MGBS station		0.65 acres
16)	Kukatpally	school land	1 acre
17)	Rasoolpura	(Police Quarters Land)	1.50 acres

HYDERABAD METRO RAIL LIMITED IS DEVELOPING THESE PARKING FACILITIES

- Uppal
- Secunderabad East
- Paradise
- Begumpet
- Madhura Nagar
- Jubilee Hills check post
- Madhapur
- Yousufguda
- Bharat Nagar
- Nampally
- Gandhi Bhavan
- MGBS
- Victoria Memorial
- Narayanguda station
- Putlibowli in Sultan Bazaar



have to be established effectively. When the Metro train of three coaches ferrying at least 250 people will be operational every 5 minutes than feeder services have to match that time-table. There has to be well-planned and properly timed feeder services which will get people to the station. While there are plans for bicycle services, feeder bus services upto four kilometres and also e-rickshaws it is still on paper and till that is established starting the metro rail services will be difficult.

Traffic will continue to increase with more and more people coming to the city for work, business, education and many other reasons.

— N.V.S. REDDY, MD, Hyderabad Metro

People looking for attractive service

DC CORRESPONDENT, HYDERABAD, AUG. 26

Three surveys were carried out last year by Hyderabad Metro Rail to understand whether the new Metro system will be adapted by the people of Hyderabad. Of the more than 1,800 people who were interviewed at traffic junctions of Rasoolpura, Nampally, Panjagutta, Ameerpet, Nagole, Uppal, Tarnaka, Secunderabad, Madhapur and Miyapur it was found that they were willing to switch if the services were well-connected. An approximate 50 per cent of the two-wheeler and car-owners said that for longer distances they would be willing to switch to the Metro to save time.

According to senior officer who carried out the survey, "We spoke to those

people who are travelling on an everyday basis and understood their preference and choice. While most of them showed preference for longer distances, for shorter distances they were not sure whether it would help them."

But the internal surveys which are being regularly carried out when the phases are being completed have shown that people are looking up to the mode of transport. The internal reports are showing that the existing system from Uppal to Mettuguda has been appreciated by the select travellers who have opted for the system and they state that opening up in phases to the masses will give them a better idea to deal with people management and also accustom them to the new mode of transport.