

SMC Commissioner: Land acquisition for Surat Metro Rail project to begin soon

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SURAT MUNICIPAL Commissioner M Thennarasan was on Thursday appointed Executive Director of Surat Metro Rail Corporation (SMRC) at a high-level meeting organised in Gandhinagar. He said land acquisition for the project would be initiated soon.

At the meeting, Principal Secretary Mukesh Puri, officials of the Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation and SMC Commissioner Thennarasan was discussed how to speed up the project and prioritise the works.

"To execute the work, we have fixed priorities," SMC Commissioner Thennarasan said. "We first have to open an office for the Surat Metro Rail project and later we have to execute the plan. On the basis of a Detailed Project Report, which has been approved by the Central government, we have done a survey of the areas and lands to be acquired. In the coming days, we will start acquiring the land first from Dream City to Kadarshahnaal and later in other areas. We will organise weekly meetings with officials of the metro rail corporation to review the work

completed and decide what is left and how to do it."

In March, the Central government approved the Surat Metro Rail project, which would cost an estimated Rs 12,000 crore and entrusted the Gujarat Metro Rail Corporation with implementing the project.

The Surat Metro Rail project will be carried out in two phases. In the first phase, an area of around 21.61 kilometres from Sarthana to Dream city in Khajod will be completed and the second phase area will cover around 18.74 kilometres from Bhesan near Jehangirpura to Saroli.

Around seven kilometres of the first phase will be underground, and on the elevated corridor there will be 20 metro stations. The second phase would be completely elevated with 18 stations, sources said. Tenders will be floated in the coming days to select consultancy firm for the project.

Lakhs of people are expected to benefit from the metro rail project. It would reduce air pollution from vehicles and traffic congestion if more people used the metro. Thennarasan said metro stations will be linked to city and BRTS bus services to provide streamlined connectivity to commuters.