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Corporation speeds up work to begin mono rail project

COIMBATORE: Coimbatore is finally on its way to joining the league of growing urban metropolises in the country with its own urban mass transit, expected to be a monorail network in the city. The state government had announced that the monorail network will be introduced in the city soon after it came to power last year. The [Union Urban development Ministry](#) has already included Coimbatore as one of the tier two cities in eligible for mass public transport systems like metro rail.

With the growing number of vehicles on city roads, implementing a mass transport corridor has become essential. "We should not waste any more time on the monorail project. The city is facing massive traffic congestion and an effective alternative mode of transport like monorail has to be introduced in the city. Apart from reducing the vehicular congestion, it will also help reduce pollution levels," said RR Balasundharam, President, Indian [Chamber of Commerce](#) and Industry, Coimbatore.

City Mayor SM Velusamy and Corporation Commissioner TK

Ponnusamy were subject to a presentation on the need for a mass public transport system in the city. A comparative study was also shown in which Coimbatore was compared with other tier II cities like Kochi which have already made headway in implementing proposals for Metro rail and Monorail respectively. The presentation was conducted based on the Kozhikode Monorail proposal which is to be inaugurated on September 15, 2012. It was prepared by Residents Awareness Association of Coimbatore (RAAC). "The presentation was an attempt to get the government to speed up the process without any further delay.

Such projects will take a long time to implement," said R Raveendran, Secretary, [RAAC](#). Three separate monorail networks were suggested, two circular routes, in the northern and southern parts of the city and a dual linear line connecting the Eastern and Western parts. The northern route was designed from Gandhipuram via Ganapathy, Sivananda Colony, Saibaba Colony, Rs Puram, Town Hall, Railway Station and Gandhipuram. The southern route suggested was from Podanur via Trichy Road, Sungam, red Fields, Race Course, Railway Station, Ukkadam and finally looping through Podanur. A linear line was also proposed from Chinniampalayam, Airport, CODISSIA, PSG tech, Lakshmi Mill Junction, Gandhipuram, North Coimbatore, Cowley Brown Road and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University.

"We have to conduct a detailed study based on which the routes and other requirements for implementing the project were decided. We have to consider several aspects including infrastructure and land requirements," said TK Ponnusamy, Commissioner, Coimbatore Municipal Corporation. The city municipal corporation had earlier conducted a feasibility study to implement Bus Rapid Transport System through Wilbur Smith Associates a few years ago. They had proposed to implement the BRTS corridor starting from Avinashi Road and ending at Mettupalayam Road. The total extent of the corridor was to be about 17.6km out of which 6.87 km was to be an elevated pathway with three elevated bus stops and 14 bus stops on the ground level. But the project never materialised due to lack of space to accommodate the infrastructure requirements.