

NCRTC plans 6-coach trains on corridor, with 9-min frequency

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The proposal prepared by the NCR Transport Corporation (NCRTC), which operates rapid rail, envisages 12 stations on the Ghaziabad-NIA link.

When trains run on this route, passengers can reach Sarai Kale Khan in Delhi, where the Delhi-Meerut line originates. The proposed Delhi-Haryana rapid rail corridor, connecting Gurgaon and with a station at IGI, will also originate at Sarai Kale Khan. When this becomes functional, the rapid rail network will connect both NCR airports.

Officials said on Tuesday they were exploring building the NIA corridor in two phases — a 37.2km stretch between Ghaziabad and Ecotech VI or Kasna by 2031 and a 35.1km route from Ecotech VI to Noida airport in another 10 years. The final time-

lines will be clear only after a detailed project report is prepared. Sources said viability remains a concern because a line all the way to Jewar, where NIA is located, is unlikely to see significant footfall in the short term.

The stations on the NIA corridor, besides Ghaziabad, are likely to be Ghaziabad South, Greater Noida West (Sector 4), Greater Noida Sector 2, Knowledge Park V, Surajpur, Pari Chowk, Ecotech VI, Dankaur, YEIDA North (Sector 18), YEIDA Central (sectors 21, 35) and NIA GTC (ground transportation centre). A rapid rail station near the Aqua Line station at Pari Chowk has been proposed with an interchange planned to connect the two.

A feasibility report on the connectivity plan was discussed at a meeting chaired by chief secretary DS Mishra on Monday. Officials of NCRTC, the civil aviation department and the Greater Noida and Yamuna Expressway authorities attended the meeting.

NCRTC has now been

tasked with preparing a detailed project report over the next two months and getting it approved by the state government.

The proposed route, officials said, is a combination of two alignments planned earlier. While the first corridor was a 70.4km stretch from the airport to Ghaziabad rapid rail station via Knowledge Park V, the second route was via Pari Chowk. They said integrating the rapid rail and metro routes at Pari Chowk was crucial for the ridership.

NCRTC is planning to induct six-coach trains on the proposed corridor, with a frequency of nine minutes initially. With an increase in ridership, the frequency may be brought down to five minutes in the future.

The project is likely to cost Rs 16,189 crore to be built. While the UP government will bear half the project cost, the Centre will contribute 20%. The Greater Noida and Yamuna Expressway authorities will bear the remaining 30% cost.

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