

UPMRC begins prep work for East-West Corridor

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The Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (UPMRC) has commenced preparatory work for the East-West Corridor of Lucknow Metro. A survey is currently underway to ensure that once approved by the Union Cabinet, tenders can be floated promptly. A senior UPMRC official explained that a preliminary survey was conducted prior to the Detailed Project Report (DPR), and the ongoing survey includes assessing potential station locations and investigating soil conditions for construction.

"The planning phase has begun so that we can expedite the process once we receive

approval from the Union Cabinet," he stated.

A comprehensive survey will follow the project's approval. The official emphasised that the survey also addresses issues related to alignments, land acquisition, and groundwork challenges.

"The DPR outlines the concept of the East-West Corridor, but on-ground detailing is necessary to identify potential construction challenges. We have adequate resources to gather the required information," he added.

Concerning historic monuments in the city's older areas, the official assured that the planned route avoids restricted zones.

"The route has been designed

to minimise major challenges related to these monuments," he said.

However, some challenges are anticipated, such as constructing underground stations in Aminabad, Charbagh, and Chowk, which may restrict work on-site, necessitate soil shifting, and impose traffic limitations.

"We are strategising to minimise public inconvenience. This meticulous planning is essential for preparing tender documents. Additionally, discussions will be held on other systems to incorporate best practices from similar projects in India," he explained.

UPMRC managing director Sushil Kumar highlighted that groundwork is underway to

ensure readiness for immediate tendering upon receiving approvals.

The DPR for the East-West Corridor, stretching from Charbagh to Vasankunj under Phase 1B, was approved by the Network Planning Group (NPG) in a meeting on July 9 last.

Earlier, the state government had granted project clearance in March. The NPG meeting, chaired by the additional secretary of the department of Industrial Policy Promotion, was held at Vanijya Bhawan in Delhi. The meeting addressed various utilities, including water pipelines, transmission lines, and archaeological sites, confirming that no obstacles exist for the East-West

Corridor's construction.

Utilising the PM Gati Shakti portal, detailed information about potential obstructions, such as railway lines and protected monuments, was obtained prior to on-site testing. The proposed corridor will span 11.165 kilometres, with 4.286 kilometres elevated and 6.879 kilometres underground. It will consist of 12 stations, including seven underground and five elevated stations, with an estimated completion time of five years and a projected cost of Rs 5,081 crore.

The East-West Corridor will connect with the existing North-South corridor at Charbagh Metro Station, which will serve as an interchange hub.