

Metro lines taking shape, slowly but surely

Besides the city's first underground Colaba-SEEPZ Metro, two lines 5, 6 are more than 60% ready

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Whenever a topic of traffic congestion pops up during general talks, there is one or at times several persons who will assert that the Metro construction is one of the main causes of traffic snarls. Well, at times, others in the group are clueless about how much Metro construction works have really progressed.

To help you solve the niggling doubts, The Free Press Journal will now update you about the latest status of more than dozen Metro projects, including those still on paper. So, hold onto a seat and alight after the final stop of punctuation mark is reached.

Let's start with the Metro 1 or blue line which runs between Versova and Ghatkopar. It has been in operation for over eight years now and became more crucial after the closure of Gokhale bridge. As reported in the Nov 8 edition of The FPJ, the city's first Metro is seeing a ridership surge as people find rail commute convenient to travel between Andheri's east and west sides as Gokhale's closure.

From April 2 this year, two more lines were partially opened to the public; Aarey Colony to Dahisar (line 7) and Dahisar to Dahanukarwadi (line 2A). Operation on these two lines is scheduled to be extended further later in December. The Dahisar-Aarey Colony line will be extended right up to Andheri Western Express Highway and Dahisar-Dahanukarwadi will be extended till D N Nagar in Andheri West.

The civil works on line 2B, connected with Dahisar-DN Nagar, which would ply between D N Nagar and Mandale in Mankhurd, is 27% done. Similarly, work on Metro line 7A between Andheri East and Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport as well as Dahisar East-Mira-Bhayandar is only 25% ready. These two lines are extensions to line 7.

Besides these three corridors, the routes in the advance stages of construction are Metro 3 (aqua line) of Colaba-Bandra-SEEPZ, first phase of Thane-Bhiwandi-Kalyan metro 5 (orange line) and Swami Samarth Nagar-Vikhroli Metro 6 (pink line).

The underground aqua line is 76.6% ready and the Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation is looking at opening the line between SEEPZ and Bandra Kurla Complex in December 2023 and Bandra Kurla Complex to Colaba in July 2024.

The orange line has been divided into two phases of Thane-Bhiwandi and Bhiwandi-Kalyan. "The first phase, which is 65% complete, is expected to be operational in a couple of years," shared an official from the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA).

Though civil work on the pink line is 62% through, it's still a long time before it's opened for public use as the metro depot is to be finalised. Significant progress has been made in building Wadala-Ghatkopar-Kasarvadavali Metro line 4 with 41% civil works through and 45% of 4A works between Kasarvadavali and Gaimukh also done. A week ago, the MMRDA had invited tenders to create a car depot at Mogharpada, off Kasarvadavali.

For Gaimukh-Shivaji Chowk (Mira Road) and Kalyan-Taloja Metro lines, the MMRDA has appointed a general consultant. The next step will be to float tenders to get the corridors constructed.

