

# Soon, Metro 3 to have pvt subways for pedestrians

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**Mumbai:** Metro 3 will soon provide private subway access linked from the metro stations to malls etc, for pedestrians. The project has garnered the interest of 8 private entities that will act as developers. Of the 26 stations, six stations, Marol Naka, BKC, Dharavi, Dadar, Worli and Science Museum, have developers interested across the 32 km long underground corridor.

These private entities will have exclusive rights that will allow their employees as well as



Lulu mall in Kerala has a subway that connects the metro station to the mall

clients to use the subway that will be connected to the sta-

tions. Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC), which is ex-

File pic

ecuting this corridor, has plans to open Phase I (Aarey to BKC) by December 2023 and the entire network upto Cuffe Parade from July 2024.

A senior MMRC official said, "We came up with this concept after a visit to South Korea where similar access in the form of a subway is provided to connect Metro stations to private entities. We thought of implementing this in Mumbai and the response has been extremely encouraging."

He said that several private entities have shown interest in the project for subways connecting their businesses with the

Metro stations. The subways being underground can provide a shorter commute between the Metro stations and the private entity.

The official said, "The private access corridor will be built by MMRC but the entire cost will have to be borne by all the private entities. In case multiple developers are sharing a common subway the operations and maintenance (O&M) cost will be borne by the developers proportionately."

MMRC said that it will be devising a foolproof plan to ensure that there is no financial burden on it. The official expla-

ined, "The developer shall furnish an irrevocable bank guarantee equivalent to four quarters of projected O&M costs. In the event that the developer fails to make the said payment, MMRC shall enforce the bank guarantee to recover monies due towards O&M costs."

In addition to the above costs, MMRC shall charge a one-time access fee of Rs2 crore as a premium for granting direct access to its metro stations. These funds, along with other sources of finance, will be utilised by MMRC to bridge the financing gap for the overall Line 3 public infrastructure project.