

Suburban rail to run below Metro at Benniganahalli

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Bengaluru: Two mass transit agencies that are often at loggerheads are finally coming together, at least in one location.

According to sources, BMRCL and K-RIDE, which is executing the suburban rail project, reached a common ground for better coordination at Benniganahalli, near KR Puram.

BMRCL decided to allow K-RIDE's suburban rail corridor below the Namma Metro section at Benniganahalli. Amit Garg, MD of K-RIDE, said, "The Heelalige-Yelahanka-Rajanukunte suburban rail corridor (Kanakan Line) will run below Namma Metro's KR Puram-Kempegowda International Airport (Blue Line) corridor at Benniganahalli. Both run parallel for around 500m there. This will save us a minimum of Rs 150 crore in terms of land acquisition. Both agencies are working in coordination in public interest."

BL Yashwanth Chavan, chief PRO of BMRCL, said: "Suburban rail will run below the Namma Metro viaduct for a length of 500m adjacent to Benniganahalli flyover. While the KR Puram-KIA airport Metro corridor's rail-level height will be 18-20m above ground, suburban rail will be around 12m. But there will be no double-decker structure as each one will be independent."

Earlier, K-RIDE had proposed to create a double-decker line at Benniganahalli for a 3km stretch. According to the K-RIDE proposal, the stretch alone was expected to save the government no less than Rs 300 crore in land acquisition cost as Metro pillars and land could be used to build the suburban rail corridor.

TOI had published an article, 'Double-decker plan mooted to cut acquisition costs for Bengaluru suburban rail', on June 20, 2021.

However, BMRCL sources said integration of two different systems would be complex as the pillars would have to be redesigned to accommodate the weight load of both.