

Press Release

Chandigarh, January 22:- The people of Chandigarh will be able to travel on Metro in future as Government of India has approved Grade Separated Metro for Chandigarh.

This decision was taken at a Meeting held under the Chairmanship of Secretary Urban Development, Government of India, Mr. M. Ramchandran recently.

Many vital decisions were taken in this regard in the meeting. A detailed Project Report (DPR) for Grade Separated Metro will be prepared by Chandigarh Administration. Initially, the Metro would be along the two corridors, for which the expert committee had earlier suggested 'at surface Light Railway Transport'. In Chandigarh, Metro will be underground in most of the areas. The Metro stations would be provided with enough space for parking and fare integration will be planned with other modes of public transport.

A High Power Group chaired by the Governor Punjab and Administrator of UT Chandigarh, General (Retd.) S.F. Rodrigues and consisting of Adviser to Administrator Chandigarh, Chief Secretary of Haryana and Punjab would guide and coordinate the entire process for finishing of the project timely. This empowered Committee would deal with all issues relating to planning and implementing of the Metro and other MRTS initiatives relating to whole Chandigarh Urban complex. An organization on the line and pattern of National Capital Region Planning Board would be set up for the Chandigarh Urban Complex.

The decision was also taken to develop a Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) and a region wide mass transport network parallel to Metro Project. There would be mix of modes for network connectivity and phasing up of investment. CMP would also cover connection up to Baddi in Himachal Pradesh.

Decision for setting up of a modern city bus service to provide seamless connectivity across the entire Chandigarh Urban Complex which will also start operating on the 7 corridors suggested for MRTS network. The routes would be modified after the commencement of Metro. Bus Road Transport System, Dedicated Bus lanes in certain stretches for full time or peak time only will also be explored subsequently.

Government of India has also accepted the views and recommendations of the Expert Committee regarding improving pedestrianisation, non motorized transport, orbital

roads around Chandigarh to by pass Chandigarh and restraining private transport etc. These suggestions would also be implemented in time bound manner.

Urban Development Secretary, Government of India
Mr. M. Ramchandran complimented Chandigarh Administration for thinking of Mass Rapid Transport Solution much in advance rather than being reactive like many other cities. He also emphasized the need for unified Metropolitan Transport Authority for the whole Urban Complex.

Adviser to the UT Administrator, Mr. Pradip Mehra, Chief Secretary Haryana, Ms. Promila Issar, Chief Secretary Punjab, Mr. Ramesh Inder Singh, Director, Urban Transport Mr. S.K. Lohia, Chief Planner, TCPO, Mr. J.B. Kshirsagar, UT Home Secretary, Mr. Krishna Mohan, UT Finance Secretary, Mr. Sanjay Kumar and other senior officers of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, RITES also attended the meeting.