



TRIVANDRUM CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

Affiliated to FICCI - Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, New Delhi
Member ASSOCHAM - Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, New Delhi.

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PRESS RELEASE

TCCI and key Stakeholders advocate for inclusive and strategic Metro Development represented by Dr. Shashi Tharoor MP, Trivandrum.

Urges Stakeholder Engagement and Smart Route Planning

As India takes significant strides in developing Mass Transit Systems across its Cities, the Trivandrum Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI), and other key Stakeholders, underscore the critical importance of a well-planned and Stakeholder-inclusive approach to the proposed Trivandrum Metro Rail Project under the aegis of Kochi Metro Rail Limited (KMRL).

With India emerging as a global player in urban transportation, Stakeholders emphasize that a robust and efficient mass transit system is not only a necessity for sustainable urbanization but also a catalyst for economic development. Trivandrum, however, faces challenges in catching up with its counterparts, being over a decade behind in implementing a Mass Transit System.

Concerns Raised by stakeholders

Lack of Stakeholder Engagement and Transparency

Absence of meaningful engagement with various Stakeholders, including Elected Representatives, Industry Groups, and Residents' Associations.

Limited transparency in the preparation of the Comprehensive Mobility Plan (CMP) and Alternatives Analysis Report (AAR).

Apprehensions over the Proposed Route and Technology

Lack of clear substantiation for the chosen routes.

Inadequate connectivity to vital areas such as the Medical College cluster and Technopark Phases 1-3.

Unclear technology recommendations, with previous iterations relying on elevated viaducts, present challenges in terms of land acquisition and environmental impact.

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Proposed Solutions and Next Steps

TCCI recommends a strategic reassessment to address these concerns and ensure the long-term success of the Trivandrum Metro Project, as follows.

Pause DPR Preparation

Conduct a comprehensive Stakeholder engagement exercise to share AAR findings and gather feedback in a charrette format.

Review and Prioritise Route

Prioritize routes that maximize return on investment by connecting major origin/destination points early on.

Propose revised Line 1 and Line 2 alignments to enhance connectivity to key areas and transport hubs.

Adopt Underground Tunnelling Technology

Use underground tunnelling technology in the core city area for enhanced efficiency and reduced environmental impact.

Going underground will make sure that vehicle movement, trade, and above all, normal life, are not disrupted.

Pillars in the city will turn out to be an eye-sore for Trivandrum which is known for its heritage value and beauty.

Do Cost-Benefit Analysis

KMRL/DMRC should provide a detailed cost-benefit analysis for each proposed line and explore alternative routes.

Relocate Head Office

Consider relocating KMRL's Head Office to the seat of the State Government for enhanced coordination and efficiency.

Conclusion

TCCI emphasizes the urgent need for a thorough reconsideration of the current Trivandrum Rail Metro development plan. TCCI aims to ensure that the Project not only meets the highest efficiency standards but also gains the support of the ordinary taxpayer and future commuters.

S N Raghuchandran Nair
President



Ranjit Karthikeyan
Treasurer

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Key Stakeholders

1. Sri. V K Mathews, Group of Technology Companies (GTech)
2. Dr. Sahadulla, Private Hospitals Association
3. Dr. Vijaykrishnan, Indian Medical Association (IMA)
4. Dr. B Govindan, All Kerala Gold and Silver Merchant Association (AKGSMA)
5. Sri. E M Najeeb, Chairman, Confederation of Kerala Tourism Industries (CKTI)
6. Adv Punchakkary Ravi, Federation of Residents Association of Trivandrum
7. Wg Cdr Ragashree D Nair, Trivandrum Management Association (TMA)
8. Sri. K Srikanth, Trivandrum Agenda Task Force (TATF)
9. Sri. P Ganesh, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
10. Arch. Sudheer, The Indian Institute of Architects
11. Dr. Manoj, Janapaksham
12. Sri. Advait R S, Builders Association of India (BAI)
13. Sri. R Anil Kumar, Secretary, Awake Trivandrum
14. Sri. M R Narayanan, South Kerala Hoteliers Forum (SKHF)
15. Sri. G Suresh Kumar, Trivandrum Film Fraternity
16. Sri. V Sunil Kumar, Federation of Kerala Hotels Association
17. Sri. Y Vijayan, Vyapari Vyavasayi Ekopana Samithi
18. Sri. Adv Anayara Shaji, Trivandrum Bar Association
19. Sri. Sabari Rathen, CREDAI