

## Faridabad-Palwal Metro Expands Mass Rapid Transit Network

In a significant move to bolster connectivity and transform infrastructure in Haryana, the ambitious Faridabad-Palwal Metro project is set to become a reality. The Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) corridor, spanning from Ballabgarh to Palwal, is poised to revolutionise urban transport in the region. The project, announced by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, aims to address the increasing transportation needs and ensure better connectivity in the area.

Haryana Mass Rapid Transport Corporation (HMRTC) chairman, Sanjeev Kaushal, announced that the preparatory work for the proposed metro extension from Ballabgarh to Palwal has commenced. The extension will cover approximately 25 km, and a private company has been awarded the contract for the Techno Feasibility Study. This metro extension project holds significant importance as it serves as a test case for the Haryana Government's commitment to implementing it in the shortest possible time frame.

A team from the private company and HMRTC has already visited the proposed alignment, which will have around 10 tentative stations. Kaushal emphasised conducting a comprehensive scientific survey at metro stations to identify suitable parking locations, gather passenger feedback, and devise strategies to enhance ridership. The deputy commissioner of Palwal has been instructed to prepare a comprehensive mobility plan to ensure an integrated approach to sustainable transportation in the region.

### **Expanding the Metro Network:**

The Faridabad-Palwal Metro project entails the construction of a 25-kilometre elevated metro route, with 10 stations strategically located along the corridor. This new metro line will seamlessly connect the industrial areas of Sector 58-59, Alhapur, Baghola, Prithla, Sikri, Softa, and Palwal. Notably, existing transportation hubs such as Ballabgarh Railway Station, Ballabgarh Bus Stand, Palwal Bus Stand, and Raja Nahar Singh Metro Station will be seamlessly integrated into the upcoming project.

### **Boosting Development and Connectivity:**

The envisioned metro route holds immense potential for boosting development in the region. It is expected to facilitate the seamless movement of people and goods, thereby attracting investments and spurring economic growth. Additionally, the metro project will serve as a catalyst for the overall development of Faridabad and Palwal, contributing to the creation of job opportunities and improving the quality of life for residents.

### **Investigating MRT System Alternatives:**

To ensure the optimal alignment and design of the metro corridor, extensive consultations will be held with the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and other stakeholders. A private company has been entrusted with completing the techno-feasibility study, which will provide valuable insights into the project's implementation. A comprehensive mobility plan for Palwal is also being developed, further emphasising the commitment to holistic development.

### **Rapid Approval and Execution:**

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has directed swift action to propel the Faridabad-Palwal Metro project forward. Upon the completion of the technical feasibility assessment, the project will be submitted for approval to the Haryana Mass Rapid Transport Corporation (HMRTC). The estimated cost for the project stands at Rs 5,452.72 crore, with an approximate expenditure of Rs 180 crore per kilometre.

**Conclusion:**

The forthcoming Faridabad-Palwal Metro project holds immense promise for Haryana, with its potential to transform connectivity, stimulate development, and uplift the lives of residents.