

Bids soon for plot on which footbridge to link Blue, Aqua lines will come up... But footpath connecting 2 stations to be ready in June

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Noida: The Noida Authority will soon call for bids to take up commercial development of a plot between Sector 51 and 52 metro stations that is supposed to have a foot overbridge (FOB) connecting the two stations on Aqua and Blue lines.

While Sector 51 station is on Aqua Line of Noida Metro Rail Corporation (NMRC), Sector 52 is part of Blue Line under Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC). The absence of a connector is cited as one of the main reasons for less footfall in Aqua Line. Once built, the FOB is likely to help increase ridership in the corridor, officials said.

According to sources, currently, around 17,000 commuters use Aqua Line daily.

"We have prepared the documents and will follow the due procedure to auction the property very soon. A couple of large groups, including a developer and a multinational furniture retailer, have expressed their interest in the property," said R K Singh, the officer on special duty, Noida Authority.

The 48,000 sqm plot will be auctioned at a reserve price of



Rs 1.59 lakh per sqm, taking the total reserve cost of the property to more than Rs 760 crore. While the price of commercial property is high, the Noida Authority cannot reduce the reserve price, according to officials.

Sources said the Noida Authority has not been able

to sell over 80 commercial properties across the city because of high reserve cost.

The Authority's contract with a group that bids for the 48,000 sqm plot will include construction of the FOB as a compulsory clause.

"We know that the FOB is required for connecting both



The plot will be auctioned at a reserve price of Rs 1.59 lakh per sqm

the stations and it is in the interest of the commuters of Noida. Therefore, it will be mentioned in the tender document beforehand that the bridge needs to pass through the property," Singh said.

Officials from the NMRC said many commuters have complained that the absence of a connector between NMRC and DMRC lines is their biggest concern and is the reason that many are not using Aqua Line at present.

"We have been interacting with commuters and Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) to get feedback on metro usage and how we can improve the network. The

most common grievance is that Sector 51 and 52 metro stations are not linked. We are hoping that the FOB is built soon so that the issue can be resolved," said Rajneesh Pandey, the additional general manager, NMRC.

Constructed at a cost of Rs 5,503 crore, the 29.7km Aqua Line corridor has 15 stations in Noida and six in Greater Noida.

The Greater Noida Authority is now planning an extension of Aqua Line that will have an interchange at one of the Blue Line stations.

This will help facilitate commute between Greater Noida and Delhi.

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Noida: Work on the nearly 300-metre-long footpath connecting Sector 51 and 52 metro stations is not yet complete and NMRC officials said the walkway is likely to get ready only by June 15. The passage-way was supposed to be ready by March.

The footpath with overhead galvalume sheets will eventually be turned into a vending zone with furniture and snack sellers on both sides so that people can use it as a plaza. Officials said the passage is the only link between the NMRC and the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) lines till the proposed foot overbridge is constructed, which may take a few years.

"The footpath will be completed soon as work has started and pillars have already been installed to provide shade. It is a three-minute walk between both the stations. Commuters can also use the free e-rickshaw service," said Manoj Vajpayee, general manager, NMRC.

Officials said the galvalume sheets on the passage would be installed with the support of pillars and plants will be added for landscaping and



The footpath will eventually be turned into a vending zone

keeping the stretch cool.

The cartway for e-rickshaws is ready and NMRC has already started free e-rickshaw services with 10 vehicles that ply between the stations through the day.

"The e-rickshaws make it convenient for people to travel between the two stations. It is free and takes a little more than a minute to cover the distance. The problem is that most people are not aware of the service and prefer using other modes of transportation to avoid walking in the heat," Vajpayee said.

Although some people are using the walkway now, officials said as both Sector 51 and 52 stations are on elevated corridors, it is inconvenient for commuters to come down to the footpath and then climb up to the other station after the walk.

NMRC officials are meeting local resident's welfare associations and other organisations to increase awareness about the free e-rickshaw service. According to officials, that it has been noticed that most people do not know about the service.