

Aqua Line branch linking Botanical Gdn may have 10 new stations in city

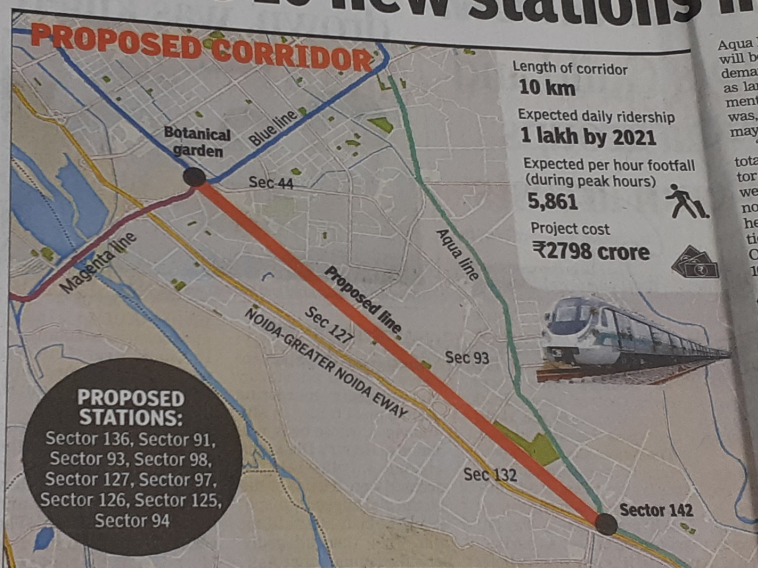
Magenta, Blue Line Link To Benefit Gr Noida, E-way Sectors

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Noida: The newly approved Aqua Line corridor in Noida from Sector 142 to Botanical Garden may have around 10 stations and could see a daily ridership of about 1 lakh commuters, according to a detailed project report (DPR) drawn up in 2017.

Ridership has been a problem for the Aqua Line since its launch earlier this year, primarily because there is no interface with Delhi metro. The new corridor, which will branch out from the original corridor at Sector 142, is expected to solve that as it will provide direct connectivity from Greater Noida and the expressway sectors to the Blue and Magenta Lines of Delhi Metro, which converge at Botanical Garden. It also reduce distance and travel time for commuters from Greater Noida who wish to go to Delhi as they would not have to pass through all Noida sectors.

The new corridor was approved by the Greater Noida Authority in its board meeting on May 31, and it was decided that Noida



cost of the new line. The final approval from the state cabinet and Centre is expected within three months, after which the DPR will be revised.

"Those coming from Greater Noida areas are still using buses to Botanical Garden and take

the metro from there towards Delhi. Most Aqua Line users are those travelling between Noida and Greater Noida. This is why the need was felt to start this new line to cater to Greater Noida and Delhi connectivity," said P D Upadhyay, executive director of Noida Metro

Rail Corporation (NMRC).

NMRC runs feeder buses along 11 routes in Noida and Greater Noida, all of which terminate at Botanical Garden. With more comfortable options available, most commuters between Greater Noida and Delhi use buses instead of the

Aqua Line. Officials said the DPR will be revised as per the current demand and traffic flow, as well as land requirements. The alignment of the line may remain as it was, but the number of stations may be reduced.

"The earlier DPR suggested a total of 11 stations, including Sector 142, which is already built. However, 11 stations within 10km may not be required, especially as another metro station is already functional around some of these areas. One station itself costs around Rs 100 crore," said Upadhyay.

The existing DPR suggests Sector 142, Sector 136, Sector 91, Sector 93, Sector 98, Sector 127, Sector 97, Sector 126, Sector 125, Sector 94 and Botanical garden as the stations along this line. The total proposed cost was Rs 2,798 crore with daily ridership of one lakh commuters by 2021. However, the footfall will also be revised keeping in view whether the line can be made functional by 2021.

Anticipating this line, the NMRC has left an extension point at Sector 142 metro station from where the new line will be connected. "We have an extension of the track, which is also beneficial for us as a shunting space. In case of a breakdown the train can be parked in this area away from the platform and without disturbing the track. Starting construction from here will also save cost," Upadhyay said.