

Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System Investment Project



Graphic illustration of a proposed multimodal hub as part of Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor

The National Capital Region (NCR) is the fastest growing urban agglomeration and the largest population cluster in India. Comprising Delhi and important cities in neighboring states, the NCR is home to over 46 million population.

The region's development, however, remains unicentric to Delhi with a few satellite towns near the capital city emerging as business hubs. This has prevented the NCR from realizing its true potential.

Contrary to the original NCR objective of taking off population pressure from Delhi with harmonized development of surrounding districts, Delhi continues to face an unprecedented growth with a large number of migrants, particularly from the neighboring states, flocking the city in search of jobs and a better life. This has increased traffic congestion, put additional pressure on the city's urban services such as water supply and sewerage, and elevated air pollution levels.

One solution identified to overcome this challenge was to improve regional connectivity by establishing a fast transit system which would link Delhi with important urban centers in surrounding states. Fast connectivity will allow workers to live with their families under better living conditions in other NCR towns where the cost of living is lower. This will help control unregulated development of Delhi, relieving pressure on the capital city leading to polycentric and sustainable urban development in NCR.

To achieve this objective, the NCR Regional Plan 2021 aims to establish eight high-speed rail transit corridors to connect the capital to important cities in neighboring states. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is supporting first of three prioritized regional rapid transit system (RRTS) corridors which links Delhi to Meerut.

Project Features:

Improve urban mobility

The project will improve urban mobility in India's National Capital Region (NCR) through constructing an efficient safe, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable rapid rail transport system (RRTS) corridor connecting Delhi to Meerut in Uttar Pradesh.

Institutional Support

The project will build institutional capacity of National Capital Region Transport Corporation in:

- Project implementation
- Developing a transit-oriented development (TOD) plan and value capture financing
- Adopting a gender-friendly workplace policy
- Capacity building to undertake public private partnership initiatives

Improve economic opportunities

The project will ensure the economic benefits of improved mobility reach women and the differently abled through:

- Trainings
- Provision of mobility aids
- Raising awareness on safe mobility and improved employability skills for women

ADB value addition

The project provides a new type of rail-based regional urban transport system in India which will have substantial demonstration effect for future corridor development. ADB will add value through:

- Developing specifications for a modern signaling technology with automatic train operation functionality and platform screen door integration for the first time in India
- Developing innovative station design incorporating inclusive features to provide universal accessibility
- Developing multimodal hubs for smooth interchange with other transport modes
- Supporting transit-oriented development plans in areas around the stations to boost local economy

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Cost and Financing:

ADB ordinary capital resources, \$1,049 million; Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction grant, \$3 million

Project approval date:

18 August 2020

Status of project implementation:

Ongoing

Executing agency:

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, National Capital Region Transport Corporation

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The other two priority corridors will link Delhi with Panipat and Alwar in neighboring states of Haryana and Rajasthan respectively.

ADB approved a \$1,049 million loan in August 2020 to build the 82-km Delhi-Meerut corridor with design speed up to 180 km per hour. Once completed, the high-speed rail corridor, that passes through densely populated sections of the NCR, will reduce the travel time between Delhi and Meerut from over 3 hours to one hour. The ADB financing will be used for building rail tracks, signaling system, multimodal hubs, station buildings, power supply, and maintenance facilities.

The project is aligned to the objectives of India's National Urban Transport Policy (2006); the National Transit-Oriented Development Policy (2017) that promotes mixed-use development around transit nodes, and the Metro Rail Policy (2017) that emphasizes benefits of mass rapid transit systems in urban areas.

Adopting transit-oriented development principles, the project will promote better land use for development of areas around key transit stations to create economic opportunities. The project will build multimodal integrated stations for smooth interchange with other transport modes such as metro lines and bus terminals, and to promote last-mile connectivity for commuters.

The RRTS will use advanced technology signaling systems based on latest standards. The design of the stations will feature and consider the needs of the elderly, women, children, and differently abled. Special provisions will be made to improve mobility and safety of women and the differently abled. This will be ensured through well-lit coaches with CCTV cameras, patrolling at stations and facilities for the differently abled.

By providing safe, clean and reliable mobility, the project will help reduce traffic congestion in Delhi and ensure sustainable development in NCR.



An under-construction section of the 82-km Delhi-Meerut RRTS corridor