



Metro-III project to include two stations at airport

STAFF REPORTER

Mumbai

In a boost to the city's first underground Metro corridor, the Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) has approved funds of Rs 518 crore for the construction of two stations of the corridor. The two stations at the domestic terminal (T1) and international terminal (T2) will help Mumbaikars reach the airport faster. The third station, Sahar Road, will be financed by Mumbai International Airport Ltd (MIAL).

Mumbai Metro Rail Corporation (MMRC) — the project implementing agency of the 33.5-km corridor — had signed an MoU with MIAL on September 16, 2015 whereby it was agreed to fund the construction cost of the Metro-III stations to the tune of Rs 777 crore subject to the approval of AERA. "It's a very positive step by AERA. The MMRC has secured financial commitment under the

stakeholders funding. It will give a boost to the project," said Ashwini Bhide, managing director, MMRC.

However, with the construction of the stations, flying from the Mumbai airport will become costly. Commuters will be bearing the 'development fee' to recover the cost. According to sources, AERA has suggested levying "an additional Development Fee (DF) of Rs 15 for each embarking domestic passenger and Rs 75 for each embarking international passenger towards the metro connectivity project." MIAL currently levies a DF of Rs 600 from an international passenger and Rs 100 from a domestic passenger flying out of Mumbai airport.

Metro-III, to be built at a projected cost of Rs 23,136 crore, will have 27 stations, of which three stations fall under the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (CSIA) area. The construction of the corridor is likely to start by March 2016.