

STATE PLANS METRO-LITE PROJECTS IN FIVE MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS

Mega mobility gets ₹2k cr momentum

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

The state government made an allocation of Rs 2,068 crore for the bullet and Metro train projects for Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar, and Surat. The allocation also included Rs 1,500 crore for the Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train, for which contract has been awarded and work has also begun. This is probably the highest allocation in a single year for both bullet and metro train. Both projects are being funded by the central and state governments, and the budget allocation pertained to the state's share. Apart from these, the state government has also announced Metro Lite and Metro Neo projects for Vadodara, Rajkot, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar.

Metro for Tier II cities

The Union government had announced that the Metro Lite and Metro Neo technologies will be deployed to provide metro rail systems in tier-2 cities and peripheral areas of tier-1 cities, at much lesser costs with the same experience, convenience and safety. The state government, in line with the Centre's strategy, has announced the projects for Vadodara, Rajkot, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar cities. The Metro-Neo has already been adopted in Nasik in Maharashtra. The project will be on PPP model and funded by the Centre. State government officials said that allocation of Rs 50 crore will be for the feasibility study needed for project sanction.

₹568 crore for Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar and Surat Metros

₹1,500 crore for Ahmedabad-Mumbai Bullet train

₹50 crore for Metro Neo and Metro Lite for Vadodara, Rajkot, Bhavnagar and Jamnagar

₹3 cr for developing heliport in the state



Allocation for Metro for Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar and Surat

With the Metro phase-I connecting Vastral to Thaltej and APMC to Motera in Ahmedabad likely to be completed before the 2022 elections, the state government has now taken up the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar connectivity. The Gandhinagar Metro will relate to the phase-I from Motera station. State government officials said an allocation of Rs 568 crore also included funds for work Surat Metro, besides Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar. Work on both the stretches have already begun and hence the allocation for the year 2021-2022 was made to speed up the work. The phase-II of Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar metro will be completed by 2024.

Bullet train

The National High-Speed Rail Corporation has already issued contracts for the 325km stretch of the 508 km long Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train project. The work for construction of the pillars has begun and the work for ground

preparation for the Sabarmati depot is scheduled to begin this year. The budget stated that "the international level project of Ahmedabad-Mumbai Bullet Train is in full swing." The government has made provision of Rs 1,500 cr for share capital of state for this project of High-speed Corridor. The project is jointly funded by the state governments of Gujarat and Maharashtra at 25% each, and the remaining 50% expenses borne.

