

## With year-end deadline, September trial runs for Phase 2 of Mumbai Metro 2A, 7

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MUMBAI: The trial runs for Phase 2 of Line 7 (Andheri-east to Dahisar) and Line 2A (Dahisar to Andheri-west) will commence in September as Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) is now keen on opening this stretch before year-end.

Phase I of both these lines were opened for commuters on April 2. The average daily ridership on this corridor that runs between Aarey-Dahisar-Dahanukarwadi is 27,000. Metropolitan commissioner SVR Srinivas said, "We plan to initiate trial runs for the balance stretch of line 2A and 7 in September." The trials will be monitored by Research, Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO). The teams will check the entire integration system, including civil works and signalling. Therafter, MMRDA will invite commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CRS) for final certification before the corridor is thrown open for commercial run.

While Metro 2A is 17.5-km long, Metro 7 that runs between Dahisar and Western Express Highway metro station is 18.6-km long. When Phase I of both these lines (20 km) were opened in April, MMRDA had expected the work to be completed on the balance portion by August 15. However, the work has stretched beyond this deadline.

MMRDA had hoped to open these lines by October 2019. But later the deadline was revised to December 2020, and work came to a standstill due to the pandemic. MMRDA has estimated per day ridership to touch a maximum of 6.7 lakh each on both the lines after it runs on the entire stretch. An MMRDA official said, "The ridership will increase because line 7 will get connected with Line 1 at Andheri East on Western Express Highway station and DN Nagar Metro station on Andheri West on Line 2."

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