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Corporation gears up for budget

COIMBATORE: Even as the city municipal [corporation](#) is gearing up for its [budget](#)

for 2013-14, some of the key projects announced in the previous budget of the civic body are still caught in a state of limbo. While some are in its initial stages of execution, some are yet to begin. Some of the major budget announcements that have remained on paper include construction of integrated bus stand, new council hall, vegetable markets and library in each of the 100 wards. Major infrastructure projects that figured in the 2012-13 budget of the corporation including construction of over-bridges, skywalks, multi-level car parking facilities are also still in the conceptualization stage and have been restricted to mere newspaper announcements.

"The corporation is taking measures to ensure the speedy completion of these works," said a senior city municipal corporation official.

The corporation officials claimed that a Detailed Project Report (DPR) will be prepared for the integrated bus terminus at Gandhipuram, with extensive parking space, after acquiring the nearby land available with the state home department

allotted to Coimbatore prison department. The integrated bus stand will combine the inter-state, mofussil and town bus stands that are presently installed at three different locations in Gandhipuram. The corporation is planning to set up the bus stand in 10.38 acre space and had allocated Rs 800 lakhs for bus stands in Gandhipuram, Kurichi and Vadavalli in the previous budget. The bus stands at Vadavalli and Kurichi are yet to be initialised and have been entangled in controversies.

"Only JNNURM projects are being executed in the city for the past one year. All other projects have not made any considerable progress," said S M Samy, Corporation [Councilor](#) ward no 61. The corporation had also announced the construction of a new council hall to accommodate additional councillors who were elected into the council after the expansion of the old corporation limits. The civic body has invited expression of interest for the project and tenders will be floated for the works soon, to construct a state-of-the-art corporation hall with audio and visual aids, behind the present corporation main office near Town Hall.

"The new budget should focus on improving the infrastructure facilities in the newly-added areas to ensure residents better civic facilities. Education sector should also be given a thrust in the proposed budget," said P Rajkumar, north zone chairman, Coimbatore municipal corporation.

The corporation had allocated Rs 100 lakhs in the 2012-13 civic budget for the construction of subways. It has now

announced that a [subway](#) will be constructed on NSR road near Sai Baba Colony. The previous budget had also kept aside Rs 400 lakhs for the construction of bridges at Puttuvikki on Sundakamuthur road, over Sanganoor Pallam connecting Gandhipuram 5th street and Ganesh street. City mayor SM Velusamy also announced a library in each of the 100 wards in the previous budget.