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Soon, foot-over-bridge with lifts near Saidapet court

CHENNAI: The Chennai Corporation will soon build a foot-over-bridge (FOB) with lifts on two sides in front of the Saidapet court complex on Anna Salai.

According to official sources, the [civic](#) body has already called for tenders for the FOB and lifts. While the FOB is estimated to cost Rs 34 lakh, the lifts are expected to cost Rs 21 lakh each.

"We have been hold discussions to see whether we should provide escalators or lifts to the FOB. In all probability, we will instal lifts since escalators will occupy a lot more space on the road. Each lift will be able to carry 15 persons at a time. However, it has not yet been decided if operators will be appointed for the lifts," official sources in the [Corporation](#) told The Times of India. The contractor selected to take up the construction of the FOB will be expected to complete the work in three months.

The corporation's decision to construct a FOB in front of the Saidapet court complex has evoked a welcome response from many road-users. Pedestrians have been finding it difficult to cross the road, particularly after it was made a one-way stretch.

"Since the road here is too wide and is always busy with the almost continuous movement of huge vehicles, we have to be cautious while crossing the road. Though a traffic police constable has been deployed at the spot to help the

pedestrians, speeding vehicles do not bother to stop and care about the safety of pedestrians. A FOB here will certainly help pedestrians, particularly elderly people and children," said Chandran, a resident of Saidapet.

In March this year, a 27-year-old man when his two-wheeler was hit by a [car](#) was killed along the stretch. The motorist was thrown into a pit on the roadside after the car rammed his two-wheeler from behind. The car also fell into the pit.

The Chennai Corporation is already working to instal lifts to the existing FOB at Nungambakkam High Road and they are likely to be inaugurated in a week or two.

In Chennai, about 600 pedestrians were injured and around 130 pedestrians lost their lives in road accidents from January to June this year. During the period from January to December 2008, the number of victims was 1,373 and 231 respectively. The traffic police have requested the Corporation to construct FOBs at 10 to 12 places in the city.