

## **Mass Rapid Transit System: Hyderabad agency to prepare plan**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bhubaneswar/Mass-Rapid-Transit-System-Hyderabad-agency-to-prepare-plan/articleshow/30901222.cms>

BHUBANESWAR: The state government has selected Hyderabad-based consultant Balaji Rail Road System Limited (BARSYL) to prepare detailed project report (DPR) for proposed mass rapid transit system (MRTS) between Bhubaneswar and Cuttack.

The MRTS includes mono-rail and high-speed bus service between the two cities. The project envisages an investment of over Rs 2,250 crore.

BARSYL was selected during a recent departmental tender committee meeting chaired by additional chief secretary (housing and urban development) Injeti Srinivas.

There were six bidders for the project. The department rejected the bid of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation during pre-qualification evaluation while the rest five were considered, minutes of the meeting said.

The committee zeroed in on BARSYL because it was the lowest bidder by quoting Rs 2.52 crore for the DPR. The government had invited request for proposal to select a consultant in August, 2013.

The selected consultant would prepare DPR for the road and rail-based system, connecting Jatni, Khurda, Bhubaneswar, Barang, Choudwar and Cuttack. Being referred to as Bhubaneswar Cuttack Urban Complex, the region is projected to have a population of 42 lakh by 2030.

According to Census 2011, Cuttack had a population of 6.06 lakh compared to Bhubaneswar's 8.37 lakh.

BARSYL would assess mobility, alignment, multi-modal land use integration plan, land acquisition details, transit-oriented development, cost and funding pattern.

It would also identify station locations, taking into account catchments areas, entry and exit facilities and availability of parking areas. It would suggest land acquisition needs for station areas, electric sub-stations and maintenance depots.

A 15-member committee under the chairmanship of chief secretary Jugal Kishore Mohapatra is overseeing implementation of the MRTS.

The panel would review and monitor progress of DPR and its effective implementation. It will also give advice on overall planning, design and policy matters for effective completion of MRTS.