

Missing Concrete Road Median

In order to ensure pedestrian safety, residents from Perambur have been asking the Greater Chennai Corporation officials to re-install the median on Perambur High Road right opposite to the Perambur Railway Station (Ward 70, Zone 6). The existing Road Median made up of Concrete Blocks had carpeted with the level of the Road due to repeated resurfacing of the Road without proper milling.



Petitions were filed in 2015 with the Greater Chennai Corporation to have the Temporary Median Made up of Concrete Blocks replaced with a Raised Permanent Concrete Road Median similar to the one installed opposite to the Rail Kalyana Mandapam on Perambur High Road:



The Existing Median was removed entirely when the Bus Route Roads were resurfaced just before the 2016 Tamilnadu Assembly Elections. In the absence of the Road Median there are issues of crossing and adds to the lack of discipline among motorists. Speeding cars, Auto's, Two Wheeler's often cross the median line without proper indication. Many vehicles can be seen taking a "U" turn in a haphazard manner causing a lot of inconvenience to fellow commuters and pedestrians.

After repeated complaints a Median made up of Concrete Blocks was erected partially and was later replaced with a median made up of Metal Barricades and the length of the Road Median has also been subsequently reduced significantly. Several petitions have been filed over the last few years with the Greater Chennai Corporation as well as the Chennai City Traffic Police and nothing has been done till date to address the concerns of the Residents in the neighborhood.



The Officials from the Greater Chennai Corporation say that a written permission to erect a Raised Permanent Concrete Road Median has been issued by the Chennai City Traffic Police, however at the same time they have been asked to go slow on this matter.

Foot Paths are entirely encroached upon by the Commercial Establishments and used as a Parking Space and the Pedestrians are forced to wade through a chaotic traffic.



A significant portion of the Road is used as a Parking Space for Two Wheelers and Auto Rickshaws during the peak hours and erection of a Concrete Road Median in the Location we are told could Obstruct the free flow of Traffic.



The Missing Road Median makes the entire stretch a “Free for All” causing a lot of discomfort for those who want to follow the rules. Here is a link to the Video uploaded on You Tube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_CyqQwFsWIk

“Most pedestrians do not cross in gaps; they cross in a perceived series of gaps, or a "hole." A gap occurs when a walker can step into the roadway and reach a place of safety before any Vehicle crosses the pedestrian path. A "hole," on the other hand, occurs when there is still traffic in the middle or far lanes in front of the pedestrian when the pedestrian enters the street, or when a Vehicle passes behind the pedestrian before he or she completes the crossing. As long as motorists behave as the pedestrian expects, a crossing in a "hole" in traffic may be made without incident. If conditions change—for example, if a Vehicle changes lanes—the expected "hole" begins to close and a "second threat" type crash can occur. Road Medians are especially important at transit stops. Transit stops are frequently located along busy arterials at uncontrolled crossing locations. Providing medians can make these crossings safer and more appealing to existing and potential transit users. “

Road Medians and Refuge Islands reduce the potential “second threat” type crash by minimizing the traffic flows and allowing a “time cushion” for the pedestrians to predict. The Road median re-installation through this segment therefore seems to be the right thing to do.

Here below are a few Advantages of erecting a Road Medians:

- Have been found to reduce motor vehicle crashes by 15 percent.
- Decrease delays (>30 percent) for motorists.
- Have resulted in increase in capacity (>30 percent) of roadways.
- Have been shown to reduce vehicle speeds on the roadway.
- Provide space for landscaping within the right-of-way.
- Provide space to install additional roadway lighting, further improving the safety of the roadway.
- Provide space to provide supplemental signage on multi-lane roadways.

Installing a Raised Concrete Permanent Road Median will presumably prevent head-on collisions and other crossover accidents along the stretch.