

A bridge to nowhere

Built to beat the traffic, it has turned out to be a blunder

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BANGALORE: A bridge over a storm water drain (SWD) built by the BBMP to ease traffic congestion appears to have gone 'down' into the drain.

The construction of the bridge at Deepanjalinagar on West of Chord Road connecting Mysore Road which was proposed in 2006 to ease the bottle neck at the junction, has now been stalled over a technical fault that was identified



The bridge construction work at Deepanjalinagar on West of Chord Road connecting Mysore Road has been stalled. DH PHOTO

only after compelling close to 90 per cent of the project! According to experts, the bridge is likely to increase the waterlogging of Gali Anjaneyaswamy temple, which the BBMP, ironically, has been trying to avert.

The commuters' dream of avoiding the nightmarish traffic snarls at the junctions may

remain just that, with the project now under the scrutiny of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on account of a design flaw. The fate of the bridge now hangs in balance with only a few meters left for the completion of the project adjacent to the temple.

» **Bridge, Page 13**

A bridge to nowhere

Bridge, from Page 1

The bridge, which was to have evaded the SWD by being at a height of 30-35 feet at the chord road end, dips into the SWD as it approaches the Temple towards the end of the ramp, resulting in the possibility of the water and sewage accumulated in the Vrishabhavathi valley overflowing onto the carriage way.

A source in BBMP said the project is under review at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on account of the design flaws. "There is also a possibility that the TAC is currently considering the change in alignment of the bridge to avoid the coming directly over the SWD during the last phase of construction," said the source. A realignment would defeat the very purpose of the bridge.

The project was awarded to NPCC Limited at a cost of Rs 18.30 crore in November 2006. It was slated for completion in February 2008, but slippage in work and change in foundation saw it delayed for close to three years. Finally, after completing 90 percent of the project, the design flaw dawned on the BBMP.

Dr TV Ramachandra, Senior Scientist, Energy and Wetland Research Centre (EWRC), Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, who published a paper on City's floods recently, said the flyover would worsen the situation at Gali Anjaneya temple which is witnessing floods during rainy days.

Speaking to *Deccan Herald*, Dr Ramachandra said the flooding at the temple is due to encroachment of storm water drains that is using it for sewage and construction of fly over. "The flooding is happening in and around the temple due to alteration in topography...he said.

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