

Remove obstacles before making BRTS operational: Citizens Forum

26 Mar 2016

ST CORRESPONDENT
reporters@sakaaltimes.com

Pune: Association of Nagar Road Citizens Forum has demanded that the Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) should remove all obstacles before kicking off bus operations on the Ahmednagar Road BRTS corridor.

The senior members of the outfit, Qaneez Sukhrani and Ashish Mane, have written to Mayor Prashant Jagtap and Municipal Commissioner Kunal Kumar on the issue.

The PMC plans to start bus operations in that corridor on April 15.

"We hope that the PMC has scrutinised the infrastructure required to be in place according to standard features to roll out BRTS services on that corridor. One glaring obstacle in that route is the 9BRD gate and portion of the wall that still juts onto the main carriage width of Ahmednagar Road. In fact, the BRTS bus shelter in the median at that



spot has still not been completed," the duo said.

According to them, earlier, 9BRD had demanded that they would hand over the portion that was in the DP 1987 road width, provided the PMC build new administrative and residential blocks and shift the outer retaining wall at their expense.

"The PMC agreed to this proposition and work started in mid 2013. So far, a total of Rs 7.49 crore has been spent on construction of buildings and other infrastructure for shifting of 9BRD retaining walls so that the PMC gets a straight and equal width road on the Ahmednagar Road

BRTS corridor," said Mane adding that however, 9BRD has still not allowed shifting of the main gate and portion of the wall that dangerously juts out on the main Ahmednagar Road.

The forum members said that they had written to Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar in January this year appealing to him to direct 9BRD to co-operate with the PMC on the issue. But there has been no response.

"If BRTS roll out on Ahmednagar Road corridor starts on April 15, the PMC must ensure that there are no obstructions for smooth and safe flow of traffic," said Sukhrani.



AHMEDNAGAR
BRTS: A view of the portion of 9BRD jutting on Ahmednagar Road.