High fares, weak last-mile links curb Bengaluru Metro Yellow Line's full benefits: IISc study

Pedestrian gaps, parking shortages and frequency issues risk limiting adoption even as 83 percent show willingness to shift

MONEYCONTROL NEWS | APRIL 24, 2026 / 13:40 IST

Bengaluru Metro's Yellow Line

AI Powered Summary

Barriers such as high fares, inadequate last-mile connectivity, unsafe pedestrian access, limited parking and gaps in train frequency could restrict the full potential of Namma Metro Yellow Line, according to an IISc community survey assessing its impact on public health and quality of life.

The study, conducted along the 19-km RV Road-Bommasandra corridor with 16 stations, says that while Metro can improve physical activity, mental wellbeing and productivity, gaps in supporting infrastructure and policy remain critical constraints.

Also, read: 19 km, 32 minutes: First-hand account of Bengaluru Metro's RV Road–Bommasandra ride

Yellow Line, connecting Electronics City, was inaugurated on August 10, 2025, and serves major companies such as Infosys and Biocon. The report was revealed by Indian Institute of Science's transportation engineering research lab led by Ashish Verma at Biocon Electronics City campus, where a corporate commute nudge under Toyota Mobility Foundation and WRI India's STAMP project was also unveiled to ease congestion and cut emissions on April 23.

Also, read: Biocon facilitates end-to-end public transport for employees to shift from private vehicles

RELATED STORIES

Ceasefire offers hope but fuel costs cloud recovery, says travel firm Wego's Ross Veitch

Biocon facilitates end-to-end public transport for employees to shift from private vehicles

Affordability and access remain key concerns

Fare affordability has emerged as a major deterrent, with commuters paying Rs 60-70 for a 10-20 km journey-around four to five times higher than fares in comparable cities. This is particularly significant given that 27 percent of respondents earn below Rs 30,000 per month.

Last-mile connectivity continues to be a weak link. Commuters located more than 2 km from stations tend to rely on private vehicles, while awareness of feeder bus services remains low. Pedestrian infrastructure also remains inadequate, with broken footpaths, waterlogging and insufficient footbridges forcing commuters onto roads.

Station-level infrastructure gaps add to the problem, as the lack of secure parking discourages users who depend on personal vehicles for first-mile connectivity. Post-implementation feedback also points to dissatisfaction with train frequency, with longer gaps affecting reliability perception.

Strong shift potential despite private vehicle dominance

The survey indicates strong latent demand for metro usage, with 83 percent of respondents expressing willingness to shift. At present, however, private vehicles dominate commuting patterns, accounting for 84 percent of trips, while only 13 percent of respondents use public transport.

Metro commuting offers measurable public health benefits, with users gaining an estimated 50-75 minutes of moderate physical activity per week through access and egress walking. This is significant given that over 58 percent of respondents reported zero physical activity at baseline.

The study also highlights stark differences in health outcomes, with inactive commuters showing higher rates of hypertension and diabetes compared to those who are physically active. In environmental terms, Metro travel records the lowest exposure to PM2.5 and near-zero thermal stress due to air-conditioned conditions, unlike high exposure levels faced by two-wheeler users and pedestrians.

Also, read: Travellin' Blues: Congested Bengaluru now has the costliest Metro fare in India

Wellbeing, productivity improve with reliable commute

Travel satisfaction and accessibility emerge as strong predictors of mental wellbeing, while commute stress has a significant negative impact. Improved reliability post-metro reduces fatigue, enhances punctuality and allows better planning of daily routines, the report said.

The survey also finds a strong link between social wellbeing and productivity, with Metro commuting enabling better work-life balance, reduced stress and improved efficiency at work.

Quality of life gains hinge on fixing gaps

The findings suggest that Metro travel directly improves travel wellbeing-one of the strongest determinants of overall quality of life-while increased physical activity contributes to broader health outcomes.

However, the study cautions that these benefits can only be realised at scale if systemic gaps are addressed. Strengthening last-mile connectivity, improving pedestrian infrastructure, rationalising fares and integrating feeder services will be crucial to translating Metro investments into tangible public health and economic gains.