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RRTS project gets a fillip of ₹400 crore

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GHAZIABAD: In a major boost for the regional rapid transit system (RRTS), the Uttar Pradesh government, in its budget announced Thursday, approved ₹400 crore for the project being developed by the NCR Transport Corporation (NCRTC).

In its previous budget presented in February, 2018, the UP government had allocated ₹250 crore for the RRTS project.

The funds allocation by the state came after the Union government, in its interim budget announced on February 1, allocated ₹1000 crore for the RRTS project. The previous allocation by the Centre was ₹659 crore, as per the revised estimate for 2018-19. "The allocation of ₹400 crore by the UP government and ₹1000 crore by the Centre will provide much needed emphasis to the regional connectivity," said a NCRTC spokesperson.

The project is awaiting

approval from the Public Investment Board.

Under the project, the NCRTC has proposed movement of high speed trains, which will reduce the travel time between Delhi and Meerut to about 55 minutes.

The air-conditioned trains under the RRTS project are designed to travel at a speed of 180kmph and will be available at a frequency of 5-10 minutes.

Of the eight identified RRTS corridors, the Planning Commission-appointed task force has prioritised three corridors for implementation in the first phase. The three routes are Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut, Delhi-Sonapat-Panipat and Delhi-Gurugram-Alwar.

Sources said the NCRTC has also planned a major loan to the tune of 60% of the project cost of ₹32,000 crore. The sources said the remaining 40% will be borne by the Centre and the UP government and some part of around ₹1,150 crore is the expected share of Delhi. "The procedure is underway," said an official.