

## ET QUICK FIX CAUVERY THEATRE JUNCTION

In 2008, the BBMP installed a 'magic box' at the Cauvery Theatre junction, to decongest traffic on Ballari Road. It took authorities about 35 days and the exchequer Rs 1.5 crore to put up the narrow and claustrophobic underpass, made with precast boxes. Clearly, the facility has not served its purpose of allowing linear movement for vehicles going from the junction towards Mekhri Circle.

### 'Redesign Cauvery Junction Sans Magic Box'

Rathi, a specialist in integrated land use transport, says the magic box was a quick-fix solution to render connectivity to the airport. But the ill-conceived design of the junction, she says, is not only a nuisance to vehicles but also exposes pedestrians to potential danger as a result of the prevailing junction operation.



**Sujaya Rathi,**  
Principal Research  
Scientist at CSTEP

#### STEPS

- Conduct a comprehensive area-wide planning study including Sankey Tank Road, CV Raman Road, Ballari Road, Mekhri Circle, Cauvery Junction and Bhashyam Circle. This should include future projections based on land-use. The study may cost about Rs 30-40 lakh, and it can be done within 4-6 months
- The junction needs to be redesigned without the magic box
- Introduce a signalised junction with a 2-phase signal operated on a protected mode. First phase allowing vehicles heading north, north-west and south, and second phase for traffic going east. This can clear maximum traffic
- Restrict traffic going south and turning right. Redirect this traffic to go below the bridge before Windsor Manor and/or be diverted at Mekhri Circle



### 'Extend Elevated Road Beyond the Junction'

#### STEPS:

- Palace Grounds is under litigation. Still, authorities should request the Wadiyars to allow widening of the Ballari Road by 3-4 metres
- The existing elevated road starting from the BDA head office should be extended so that it descends past the Cauvery Junction towards Mekhri Circle
- The extension of the elevated road can be done through precast concrete structures at a cost of about Rs 10 crore in 4-5 months
- Once this is done, the magic box underpass will become redundant. It should be closed and traffic coming from Sadashivanagar can take a turn on surface.



**MN Sreehari**  
traffic advisor to  
government

The magic box at the Cauvery Junction gets inundated during rains creating problems for commuters, Sreehari points out. The slope for the magic box is too much, given how narrow the carriageway is. "The magic box was a wrong-sighted decision. It should be closed down," he says.