

**Passenger Loading on East Rail**

Population in NENT

The population in the Northeast New Territories (NENT) falling within the catchment areas of the KCRC East Rail is projected to grow to 1,195,000, 1,236,000 and 1,394,000 by the years 2004, 2006 and 2011 respectively. Comparing them with the 1996 By-census figure (1,094,000), this represents an increase of 101,000, 142,000 and 300,000 in the respective years.

Forecast East Rail Patronage

2. The population growth in the NENT will generate additional passenger loading on the East Rail. The projected opening of the Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line (Spur Line) in 2004 will also bring additional passengers on to the East Rail.

(a) Average Daily Patronage

3. Using the latest population data, the KCRC has estimated that the average weekday patronage for the East Rail, the MOS Rail and the Spur Line for the years 2004, 2006 and 2011 is shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Average Weekday Patronage Forecast

Year	East Rail	MOS Rail	Spur Line
2004	1,032,000	264,000	81,000
2006	1,082,000	284,000	111,000
2011	1,232,000	295,000	195,000

4. Comparing with the 1996 average weekday patronage of 730,000, the East Rail is forecast to have an additional patronage of 332,000, 382,000 and 532,000 in the years 2004, 2006 and 2011 respectively.

(b) Peak Hour Loading

5. The most critical section on the East Rail in terms of passenger loading is the section between Tai Wai and Kowloon Tong during the morning peak hours in the southbound direction. The forecast peak hourly flows of this section for the years 2004, 2006 and 2011 are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 2 - Morning Peak Hourly Flow (Southbound direction)

Year	Additional no. of passengers from MOS Rail	Additional no. of passengers from Spur Line	Total no. of passengers for Tai Wai-Kowloon Tong section
2004	10,000	2,000	60,000
2006	19,000	2,000	69,000
2011	18,000	4,000	78,000

Capacity of the East Rail

6. With signal upgrading and train car refurbishment, the capacity of the East Rail has been increased by more than 35%. The above forecast peak hourly flows are within the capacity of the East Rail of 90,000 passengers per hour per direction. The KCRC is considering further increase in the capacity of the East Rail in future vis-à-vis advancement of signalling technology. The patronage growth of the East Rail would be closely monitored as part of the on-going planning process for railway development.

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