

Legislative Council Panel on Transport Kowloon Southern Link Progress Update and Fares

This paper briefs Members on the project progress and fares of the Kowloon Southern Link (KSL) and invites Members' views on the withdrawal of first class premium fare from stations along the East Rail Line to East Tsim Sha Tsui Station. KSL is expected to commence service in the third quarter of 2009.

Project Progress

2. KSL enhances Hong Kong's rail network by connecting the East Rail Line and West Rail Line, with Hung Hom Station being the termini of both lines. Commuting among Hong Kong, Kowloon and the New Territories will become much more convenient. After the opening of KSL, passengers from Northwest New Territories will be able to reach Hung Hom directly and more expeditiously by railway without having to interchange with other modes of transport. Passengers of the East Rail Line can enjoy a more convenient service to the West Kowloon area.

3. The construction of the 3.8-km KSL commenced in August 2005 as an extension of the West Rail Line and connects the Nam Cheong and East Tsim Sha Tsui Stations via the new Austin Station (the location map of the new station is at **Annex I**), providing direct access to Hung Hom Station. After the opening of KSL, the journey time between Nam Cheong Station and East Tsim Sha Tsui Station will be around 6 minutes, while that between Tuen Mun Station and Hung Hom Station is about 38 minutes.

4. The new Austin Station is located at the junction of Jordan Road and Canton Road, adjacent to the Canton Road Government Offices and the West Kowloon Cultural District. The station concourse and island-type platforms are built underground. There are five entrances for Austin Station, including two at ground level at Wui Man Road and west of Austin Station North, and the remaining three connected to the

Austin Road Pedestrian Subway, the Jordan Road Pedestrian Subway, and the Jordan Road Footbridge.

5. At present, the construction of KSL is almost complete, and the civil structure and facilities of Austin Station have been largely finished. Trial run also commenced in the end of April 2009 and is progressing well. KSL and Austin Station are scheduled to open in the third quarter of 2009.

Train Operation Details

6. With the commencement of service of KSL, passengers from Northwest New Territories can travel directly to the centre of Kowloon, with total journey time shortened from 50 plus minutes to 30 plus minutes. To cope with the change in the travelling patterns of passengers, the frequency at peak hours of the West Rail Line will be enhanced to 3 minutes from 3 minutes 30 seconds, while that of the East Rail Line will be maintained at 2 minutes 45 seconds. As the Hung Hom Station will become the connection point of the East Rail and West Rail Lines and their termini, the first and last trains of the two lines will depart from Hung Hom Station (the schedule of first and last trains is at **Annex II**).

7. Four platforms of the Hung Hom Station will be allocated for use by passengers of the East Rail Line and West Rail Line: trains of the East Rail Line will stop at Platforms 1 and 4, while trains of the West Rail Line will stop at Platforms 2 and 3, to allow passengers of the East Rail and West Rail Lines to interchange. The Hung Hom Station will ultimately be developed into another transportation hub when the East Rail Line extends across the harbour to the Hong Kong Island under the Shatin to Central Link project, further benefitting residents along the East Rail Line.

8. To facilitate passengers in choosing the suitable platform to board trains, a new Passenger Information System and signage will be retrofitted at the Hung Hom Station to provide information on the new train service arrangements and train frequencies, such that passengers at the station concourses and platforms will be well informed of the departure times and boarding platforms of trains. There will also be

announcements at the platforms of the Hung Hom Station to inform passengers of the destinations that the trains are heading to.

Operational Readiness

9. The safety assessments and tests for operational readiness conducted by the Corporation are close to completion, paving the way for the opening of KSL and the new station. The Corporation has also provided comprehensive training for staff to ensure that staff provide appropriate service to passengers when the new line is opened.

10. To facilitate passengers in becoming accustomed to the new service arrangements, there will be announcements on the platforms reminding passengers that the incoming trains will terminate at the Hung Hom Station before they enter the platforms at stations along the East Rail and West Rail Lines. The same information will also be displayed at the Passenger Information Display panels on the platforms. In addition, announcements will be made inside the train compartments before trains of the two lines reach the Hung Hom Station to remind passengers that they have arrived at the terminus and they can interchange for either the East Rail Line or the West Rail Line.

11. At the initial stage of operation of KSL, the Corporation will deploy additional manpower at stations along the East Rail and West Rail Lines and trains to provide assistance to passengers in familiarizing with the new train service arrangements.

Fares

12. As KSL is an extension of the West Rail Line, the fares are set according to the existing fare structure. The fares for Austin Station to/from other stations will be the same as those of Kowloon Station. A summary of fares to/from Austin Station to certain stations of other MTR lines is shown below:

From/to Austin Station	Octopus			Single Journey Ticket	
	Adult	Concessionary	Student (Fare Promotion)	Adult	Concessionary
Hung Hom	\$5.0	\$2.8	\$2.8	\$6.0	\$3.0
Sheung Shui	\$10.9	\$5.6	\$5.6	\$11.5	\$6.0
Tuen Mun	\$15.8	\$8.0	\$8.0	\$17.0	\$9.0
Wu Kai Sha	\$9.6	\$4.9	\$4.9	\$10.5	\$5.5
Central	\$7.7	\$3.9	\$3.9	\$8.5	\$4.0
Tsuen Wan	\$8.0	\$3.6	\$3.6	\$8.5	\$4.0
Tung Chung	\$13.5	\$6.8	\$6.8	\$15.5	\$7.5
Chai Wan	\$11.2	\$5.4	\$5.4	\$11.5	\$5.5
Po Lam	\$8.0	\$3.6	\$3.6	\$8.5	\$4.0

The fare table showing fares for Austin Station to/from other MTR stations is attached at **Annex III**.

13. In order to encourage more passengers to use the new line, after KSL opens, a new “Tuen Mun – Hung Hom Monthly Pass” at a price of \$470, will be issued for travelling between the Tuen Mun and Hung Hom Stations. The promotion period of the new pass will last until 30 June 2010. The existing West Rail Line Monthly Pass and East Rail Line Monthly Pass can continue to be used for travel between Tuen Mun and Nam Cheong Stations and between Sheung Shui and East Tsim Sha Tsui Stations respectively until 30 June 2010, with their prices unchanged¹. These two monthly passes will be renamed “Tuen Mun – Nam Cheong Monthly Pass” and “Sheung Shui – East Tsim Sha Tsui Monthly Pass”.

14. After KSL opens, passengers can travel between the East Rail and West Rail Lines by using a faster and more convenient train service. As such, the new rail line will take over from the existing bus route K16

¹ The existing West Rail Monthly Pass and East Rail Monthly Pass are sold at \$400 and \$380 respectively. Passengers may purchase the “Tuen Mun – Nam Cheong Monthly Pass” and “Sheung Shui – East Tsim Sha Tsui Monthly Pass” at the same respective prices. The two Monthly Passes were sold at \$300 when they were first issued. Passengers who had purchased the Monthly Passes then and continued to purchase it every following month can continue to purchase them at the concessionary price of \$300 for the following month with the same Octopus card.

between Nam Cheong and East Tsim Sha Tsui as the connection between the East Rail and West Rail Lines. The bus route will cease serving as a free feeder connection when KSL opens for service and its operation will be suspended one month after the opening of KSL. In addition, the routing of the existing KMB route 12², which covers some areas same as those covered by K16's routing, will be adjusted with service enhanced to tie in with the above arrangement.

First Class Premium Fare to/from East Tsim Sha Tsui Station

15. Since the Hung Hom Station will become the terminus of the East Rail Line, the first class premium fare from stations along the East Rail Line to East Tsim Sha Tsui Station will no longer be applicable. The Corporation proposes the withdrawal of the relevant fares.

Publicity and Promotion

16. In order to enable the public to familiarize with the service of KSL, MTR has launched a series of promotional programmes, including visits to Austin Station by local groups, students and residents, distribution of leaflets and a slogan competition for primary and secondary school students. In addition, the Corporation will introduce features of the new station and arrange multi-channel publicity in 30 major stations of West Rail Line and East Rail Line, including Austin Station, so that passengers may know more about the service details of KSL.

Conclusion

17. Members are invited to note the KSL service and fares as set out in this paper and offer comments on the proposal set out in paragraph 15.

MTR Corporation Limited
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² The current fare of route 12 is \$4.2. Starting from the date that KSL commences service, a bus-rail interchange discount of \$1 for route 12 will be provided to adult or student Octopus users (excluding Monthly Pass holders); while the interchange discount for child or elder Octopus users will be \$0.5.

The map of Austin Station



Annex II

First and Last Trains of East Rail and West Rail Lines upon opening of KSL

		First Train	Last Train
East Rail Line			
Hung Hom to	Sheung Shui	0530	0025
	Lo Wu	0530	2307
	Lok Ma Chau	0535	2135
Sheung Shui	to Hung Hom	0540	0035
Lo Wu		0555	0030
Lok Ma Chau		0638	2255
West Rail Line			
Hung Hom to Tuen Mun		0553	0008
Tuen Mun to Hung Hom		0545	0015

Fare information to/from Austin Station

From/to Austin Station	Octopus			Single Journey Ticket	
	Adult	Concessionary	Student (Fare promotion)	Adult	Concessionary
West Rail Line					
Hung Hom	\$5.0	\$2.8	\$2.8	\$6.0	\$3.0
East Tsim Sha Tsui	\$3.6	\$2.3	\$2.3	\$4.0	\$3.0
Nam Cheong	\$4.4	\$2.3	\$2.3	\$5.0	\$3.0
Mei Foo	\$6.6	\$3.3	\$3.3	\$7.5	\$4.0
Tsuen Wan West	\$7.5	\$3.8	\$3.8	\$7.5	\$4.0
Kam Sheung Road	\$14.9	\$7.6	\$7.6	\$16.0	\$8.5
Yuen Long	\$15.8	\$8.0	\$8.0	\$17.0	\$9.0
Long Ping	\$15.8	\$8.0	\$8.0	\$17.0	\$9.0
Tin Shui Wai	\$15.8	\$8.0	\$8.0	\$17.0	\$9.0
Siu Hong	\$15.8	\$8.0	\$8.0	\$17.0	\$9.0
Tuen Mun	\$15.8	\$8.0	\$8.0	\$17.0	\$9.0
East Rail Line					
Hung Hom	\$5.0	\$2.8	\$2.8	\$6.0	\$3.0
Mong Kok East	\$5.7	\$3.0	\$3.0	\$6.5	\$3.0
Kowloon Tong	\$5.4	\$2.8	\$2.8	\$6.0	\$3.0
Tai Wai	\$8.0	\$4.0	\$4.0	\$8.0	\$4.0
Sha Tin	\$8.0	\$4.0	\$4.0	\$8.0	\$4.0
Fo Tan	\$8.4	\$4.3	\$4.3	\$8.5	\$4.5
Racecourse	\$14.2	\$7.2	\$7.2	\$16.0	\$7.5
University	\$8.9	\$4.5	\$4.5	\$9.0	\$4.5

Tai Po Market	\$9.7	\$5.0	\$5.0	\$11.0	\$5.5
Tai Wo	\$9.7	\$5.0	\$5.0	\$11.0	\$5.5
Fanling	\$10.9	\$5.6	\$5.6	\$11.5	\$6.0
Sheung Shui	\$10.9	\$5.6	\$5.6	\$11.5	\$6.0
Lo Wu/Lok Ma Chau	\$36.7	\$18.5	\$34.1	\$39.0	\$19.5
Ma On Shan Line					
Che Kung Temple	\$8.1	\$4.1	\$4.1	\$8.5	\$4.5
Sha Tin Wai	\$8.1	\$4.1	\$4.1	\$8.5	\$4.5
City One	\$8.1	\$4.1	\$4.1	\$8.5	\$4.5
Shek Mun	\$8.1	\$4.1	\$4.1	\$8.5	\$4.5
Tai Shui Hang	\$9.6	\$4.9	\$4.9	\$10.5	\$5.5
Heng On	\$9.6	\$4.9	\$4.9	\$10.5	\$5.5
Ma On Shan	\$9.6	\$4.9	\$4.9	\$10.5	\$5.5
Wu Kai Sha	\$9.6	\$4.9	\$4.9	\$10.5	\$5.5
Island Line					
Sheung Wan	\$7.7	\$3.9	\$3.9	\$8.5	\$4.0
Central	\$7.7	\$3.9	\$3.9	\$8.5	\$4.0
Admiralty	\$7.7	\$3.9	\$3.9	\$8.5	\$4.0
Wan Chai	\$7.7	\$3.9	\$3.9	\$8.5	\$4.0
Causeway Bay	\$9.5	\$4.8	\$4.8	\$10.5	\$5.0
Tin Hau	\$9.5	\$4.8	\$4.8	\$10.5	\$5.0
Fortress Hill	\$9.5	\$4.8	\$4.8	\$10.5	\$5.0
North Point	\$9.5	\$4.8	\$4.8	\$10.5	\$5.0
Quarry Bay	\$9.5	\$4.8	\$4.8	\$10.5	\$5.0
Tai Koo	\$11.2	\$5.4	\$5.4	\$11.5	\$5.5
Sai Wan Ho	\$11.2	\$5.4	\$5.4	\$11.5	\$5.5
Shau Kei Wan	\$11.2	\$5.4	\$5.4	\$11.5	\$5.5
Heng Fa	\$11.2	\$5.4	\$5.4	\$11.5	\$5.5

Chuen					
Chai Wan	\$11.2	\$5.4	\$5.4	\$11.5	\$5.5
Tsuen Wan Line					
Tsim Sha Tsui	\$3.6	\$2.3	\$2.3	\$4.0	\$3.0
Jordan	\$3.6	\$2.3	\$2.3	\$4.0	\$3.0
Yau Ma Tei	\$3.6	\$2.3	\$2.3	\$4.0	\$3.0
Mong Kok	\$3.6	\$2.3	\$2.3	\$4.0	\$3.0
Prince Edward	\$4.4	\$2.3	\$2.3	\$5.0	\$3.0
Sham Shui Po	\$4.4	\$2.3	\$2.3	\$5.0	\$3.0
Cheung Sha Wan	\$5.4	\$2.8	\$2.8	\$6.0	\$3.0
Lai Chi Kok	\$5.4	\$2.8	\$2.8	\$6.0	\$3.0
Mei Foo	\$6.6	\$3.3	\$3.3	\$7.5	\$4.0
Lai King	\$6.6	\$3.3	\$3.3	\$7.5	\$4.0
Kwai Fong	\$8.0	\$3.6	\$3.6	\$8.5	\$4.0
Kwai Hing	\$8.0	\$3.6	\$3.6	\$8.5	\$4.0
Tai Wo Hau	\$8.0	\$3.6	\$3.6	\$8.5	\$4.0
Tsuen Wan	\$8.0	\$3.6	\$3.6	\$8.5	\$4.0
Kwun Tong Line					
Shek Kip Mei	\$4.4	\$2.3	\$2.3	\$5.0	\$3.0
Kowloon Tong	\$5.4	\$2.8	\$2.8	\$6.0	\$3.0
Lok Fu	\$5.4	\$2.8	\$2.8	\$6.0	\$3.0
Wong Tai Sin	\$6.6	\$3.3	\$3.3	\$7.5	\$4.0
Diamond Hill	\$6.6	\$3.3	\$3.3	\$7.5	\$4.0
Choi Hung	\$6.6	\$3.3	\$3.3	\$7.5	\$4.0
Kowloon Bay	\$6.6	\$3.3	\$3.3	\$7.5	\$4.0

Ngau Tau Kok	\$6.6	\$3.3	\$3.3	\$7.5	\$4.0
Kwun Tong	\$6.6	\$3.3	\$3.3	\$7.5	\$4.0
Lam Tin	\$6.6	\$3.3	\$3.3	\$7.5	\$4.0
Yau Tong	\$6.6	\$3.3	\$3.3	\$7.5	\$4.0
Tiu Keng Leng	\$8.0	\$3.6	\$3.6	\$8.5	\$4.0
Tseung Kwan O Line					
Po Lam	\$8.0	\$3.6	\$3.6	\$8.5	\$4.0
LOHAS Park	\$8.0	\$3.6	\$3.6	\$8.5	\$4.0
Hang Hau	\$8.0	\$3.6	\$3.6	\$8.5	\$4.0
Tseung Kwan O	\$8.0	\$3.6	\$3.6	\$8.5	\$4.0
Tiu Keng Leng	\$8.0	\$3.6	\$3.6	\$8.5	\$4.0
Yau Tong	\$6.6	\$3.3	\$3.3	\$7.5	\$4.0
Quarry Bay	\$9.5	\$4.8	\$4.8	\$10.5	\$5.0
North Point	\$9.5	\$4.8	\$4.8	\$10.5	\$5.0
Tung Chung Line					
Hong Kong	\$7.7	\$3.9	\$3.9	\$8.5	\$4.0
Kowloon	\$3.6	\$2.3	\$2.3	\$4.0	\$3.0
Olympic	\$3.6	\$2.3	\$2.3	\$4.0	\$3.0
Nam Cheong	\$4.4	\$2.3	\$2.3	\$5.0	\$3.0
Lai King	\$6.6	\$3.3	\$3.3	\$7.5	\$4.0
Tsing Yi	\$8.0	\$3.6	\$3.6	\$8.5	\$4.0
Sunny Bay	\$11.3	\$5.7	\$5.7	\$12.5	\$6.0
Tung Chung	\$13.5	\$6.8	\$6.8	\$15.5	\$7.5
Disneyland Resort Line					
Disneyland	\$16.2	\$8.1	\$8.1	\$18.0	\$9.0