

growingfurther

As the Tung Chung Cable Car reaches its final stages, we are turning our attention to Tseung Kwan O South Station and the West Island Line

Hong Kong network expansion projects

Two significant expansion projects were completed and came into service in 2005, with the opening of DRL in August and the new AsiaWorld-Expo Station in December. Construction of the Tung Chung Cable Car is in its final stages, the provision of Tseung Kwan O South Station has been committed, the Government has approved the taking forward of the West Island Line three stations extension, and discussions continue with the Government on further extensions of the network in Hong Kong.



The South Island Line (East) will serve the residents of Ap Lei Chau and Wong Chuk Hang and visitors to Ocean Park



Tung Chung Cable Car

The Tung Chung Cable Car construction continued to progress. Combined with a cultural themed village, the project, branded "Ngong Ping 360", will add a major new tourist destination to Lantau Island accessible from both the airport and urban areas of Hong Kong via the MTR network.

Works on the superstructures at Ngong Ping Skyrail Terminal, Tung Chung Skyrail Terminal, Airport Island Angle Station and Nei Lak Shan Angle Station were all substantially completed, together with the cable car towers and the installation of the electrical and mechanical equipment. All 112 Cable car cabins were delivered to Hong Kong by January 2006. All sections of rope pulling were substantially completed in February 2006, including the first rope pull over the 1.5-kilometre stretch of water in Tung Chung Bay covered by the cable car route. Managed by Skyrail-ITM (Hong Kong) Ltd., whose Australian parent company built and operates the famous Skyrail Rainforest Cableway in Cairns, "Ngong Ping 360" is expected to open in mid 2006.

Airport projects

The AsiaWorld-Expo Station at the end of AEL at Hong Kong International Airport was opened to the public in December. Situated a mere one-minute ride away from the airport by AEL, and with trains running every 12 minutes, the station provides direct access to Hong Kong's newest and largest exhibition centre.

Following the signing in July of a provisional agreement with the Airport Authority for construction of a connection to the Skyplaza retail development at the airport, fit out works for the second

platform at the departure level of Airport Station are under way with completion anticipated in the second half of 2006.

Tseung Kwan O South Station

Following commencement of the Area 86 property development at the Tseung Kwan O South Depot site, the Company has committed to a programme to complete the station to serve the development by 2009. Detailed design has been completed and construction tenders invited. The work scope will include Government entrustment of the Area 86 Northern Access Road to the Company.

Network extensions under consideration

In February, MTR Corporation submitted to the Government revised proposals for WIL, South Island Line (East) and South Island Line (West).

Under the proposals, WIL will extend the Island Line from Sheung Wan to Kennedy Town via Sai Ying Pun and University stations. Following the Government's request to the Company in June to proceed with further planning and preparation work for WIL, preliminary design work, geotechnical investigation and environmental impact assessment began in October. The line is targeted to open in 2012. Discussion meanwhile has continued with the Government over detailed scope, cost and implementation as well as funding issues.

The South Island Line (East) is envisaged as a medium capacity system that will run from the South Horizons on Ap Lei Chau, via Lei Tung, Wong Chuk Hang and Ocean Park to Admiralty, where it will



interchange with the Island Line. This new line will serve not only the resident population in the south of Hong Kong but also passengers heading to the major tourist attractions in the southern part of Hong Kong island, including the recently approved redevelopment of Ocean Park.

The South Island Line (West) will be another medium capacity system running from University, where it will interchange with the West Island Line, through Cyberport, Wah Fu and Aberdeen to Wong Chuk Hang, where it will connect with South Island Line (East). As such, it will serve all major population and employment centres in Hong Kong's Southern District. Additional stations may also be constructed at Queen Mary Hospital and Tin Wan.

The Government's decision on the proposals for South Island Line (East) and (West) awaits completion of a review on the planning of tourism and commercial development in Hong Kong's Southern District. A decision is expected in early 2006.

In February 2004, the Company had submitted proposals for an extension of the Kwun Tong Line to Whampoa Gardens, for review by the Government. Following the announcement of the possible merger of MTR Corporation and KCRC, the two companies undertook a revised study of the new Shatin to Central Link that included the Kwun Tong Line Extension as an option. In 2005 the Company further proposed to the Government that it was prepared, subject to agreement on funding, to progress this extension in advance of a merger decision. The proposal remains under Government consideration.

Pedestrian links

Work on pedestrian links to enhance the attractiveness and ease of access of MTR stations has continued throughout the year.

Excavation of the main tunnel for the Queensway subway linking Admiralty Station with Three Pacific Place is now almost complete and tunnel lining concrete work is in progress. The link is planned to open in the third quarter of 2006. The Government has also issued authorisation for a subway at Sai Ying Choi Street connecting the Pioneer Centre to Prince Edward Station, and work is planned for early 2006, with completion by 2008. Another scheme to improve access to Lai Chi Kok Station from developments south of Lai Chi Kok Road was gazetted in July and work is expected to begin in 2006.

In April, a conceptual proposal was submitted to the Government to extend Causeway Bay Station below Hennessy Road to incorporate the underground pedestrian-cum-retail link scheme proposed by the Planning Department, and MTR Corporation has begun a feasibility study in January 2006. The Company is also in talks with developers on new subway links to Tsim Sha Tsui Station.

