

West Rail Line Fully Served By 8-car Trains

Starting from this Sunday (27 May 2018), the West Rail Line (WRL) will be entirely served by 8-car trains. The planned 30-month conversion of the WRL fleet from 7-car trains to 8-car trains under the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) project is now fully completed, bringing a more comfortable travelling environment to passengers with the overall capacity increased by 14%.

Chairmen of the Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, and Tsuen Wan District Councils, whose districts are served by the WRL, together with representatives of the Railway Development Office of the Highways Department and MTR Corporation were present at Nam Cheong Station yesterday to celebrate the completion of the WRL train conversion project.

“Upgrading the twenty eight 7-car trains into 8-car trains within a 30-month programme is unprecedented and notable achievement. Each 7-car train has undergone a complicated conversion process involving the disconnection and reconnection of train compartments and systems. A series of stringent tests was also conducted on the converted 8-car trains to ensure their smooth operation before they were put into passenger service,” said Mr Jason Wong, General Manager – SCL Civil East West Line and Projects Management Office, “I would like to express my gratitude to the team for their dedicated efforts and the community for their support in making a smooth and successful transition.”

The completion of the 8-car train conversion also signifies another important step for the readiness of the East West Corridor under the SCL project. When the East West Corridor commences service in mid-2019, trains will run through directly from Tuen Mun Station to Wu Kai Sha Station via the newly constructed stations in Kowloon City area, namely To Kwa Wan, Sung Wong Toi and Kai Tak. Taking into account the geographical alignment and to facilitate effective passenger communications, the East West Corridor has been named as “Tuen Ma Line” to better reflect the two terminal districts that it connects, i.e. Tuen Mun and Ma On Shan areas.

The East Rail Line, which is being extended across the Victoria Harbour from Hung Hom to Admiralty via Exhibition Centre Station under the SCL project to form the North South Corridor, will retain its current name for consistency in passenger communication.

“With the WRL now being served entirely by 8-car trains and finalisation of the new line names for the SCL project, we will continue to work closely with the MTR Corporation to gear up for the commissioning of the Tuen Ma Line next year. With the new line, passengers will be able to enjoy more convenient railway services as they travel to destinations in different parts of Hong Kong,” said Mr Frankie Chou, Chief Engineer of Railway Development Office for Highways Department.

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Dynamic testing of 8-car trains is now in full swing along the stations and tracks of the newly constructed Tai Wai to Hung Hom Section. Works along Tuen Ma Line are progressing as planned in preparation for the commissioning of passenger service in the middle of 2019.

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About MTR Corporation

MTR Corporation is regarded as one of the world's leading railway operators for safety, reliability, customer service and cost efficiency. In its home base of Hong Kong, the Corporation operates ten commuter railway lines, a Light Rail network and a high-speed Airport Express link on which about 5.8 million passenger trips are made on a normal week day. Another 6.5 million passenger trips are made on the rail services it operates outside Hong Kong in the Mainland of China, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Australia. In addition, the Corporation is involved in a range of railway construction projects as well as railway consultancy and contracting services around the world. Leveraging on its railway expertise, the Corporation is involved in the development of transit-related residential and commercial property projects, property management, shopping malls leasing and management, advertising media and telecommunication services.

For more information about MTR Corporation, please visit www.mtr.com.hk.

Photo captions:

1. Mr Leung Kin-man, BBS, MH, JP, Chairman of Tuen Mun District Council (3rd right); Mr Shum Ho-kit, Chairman of Yuen Long District Council (4th right); and Mr Wong Wai-kit, Vice Chairman of Tsuen Wan District Council (4th left) join together with Mr Frankie Chou, Chief Engineer of Railway Development Office (3rd left); Mr Jason Wong, General Manager- SCL Civil East West Line and Projects Management Office (2nd right); and Mr Allen Ding, Head of Operating- North & East Regions (2nd left); to celebrate the completion of the West Rail Line train conversion programme.



2. The Tuen Ma Line and the extended East Rail Line will connect to several existing railway lines upon commissioning. Installation of signage with the new line names has started at the interchange stations.

