

MTR East Rail Line Targeted to Extend Service to Hong Kong Island by June – July 2022

MTR Corporation announces today (22 October 2021) the latest progress assessment of the remaining works of the Shatin to Central Link project, with the East Rail Line (“EAL”) cross-harbour extension service targeted for commissioning in June – July, 2022.

With the efforts of the projects and operations teams, the two critical works at EAL, namely the bifurcation works north of Hung Hom Station and introduction of new signalling and new trains have both progressed smoothly. The works at Admiralty Station and Exhibition Centre Station have also progressed well. The Corporation will focus on completing the remaining works smoothly, whilst coordinating with relevant government departments to carry out the necessary testing and trial operations, with an aim to launching the cross-harbour service as soon as practicable.

The EAL cross-harbour extension will provide railway services from Hung Hom Station to Admiralty Station, via the new Exhibition Centre Station at Wan Chai North. With the new extension, EAL will become the fourth cross-harbour railway line, directly connecting the Northeast New Territories, Central Kowloon and Hong Kong Island. EAL passengers will be able to reach the commercial, convention, exhibition and financial hubs in Wan Chai North and Admiralty areas without having to change lines.

“Thanks to the concerted efforts of the team in the past months, we have made substantial progress on the critical works for the project. As we enter the phase of full line testing and trial operations, tests and drills will be carried out for different operational scenarios and there may require additional time for fine-tuning of the systems and facilities or additional drills. Yet we will continue to work hard to ensure the remaining works and the upcoming testing and trial operations of the EAL cross-harbour extension proceed smoothly, and fulfil the Government’s rigorous requirements for safe and sound operation of the railway service, so that the EAL can extend its service across the Victoria Harbour as soon as practicable,” said Dr Jacob Kam, Chief Executive Officer of MTR Corporation.

“Following the successful commissioning of the Tuen Ma Line in June this year which connects the east and west of New Territories, East Kowloon and four existing railway lines for a more convenient railway network, the public is very much looking forward to the opening of the EAL cross-harbour extension. The extended EAL will further enhance the connectivity of Hong Kong’s railway network and provide passengers with more comprehensive railway services,” added Dr Kam.

Meanwhile, the bifurcation works, which commenced in January this year have been reported good progress. The EAL mainline has been successfully connected to the new EAL platforms at Hung Hom Station, making use of six Sunday closures when train service was suspended between Hung Hom and Mong Kok East stations. The seventh and last Sunday service suspension is scheduled for 31 October 2021 during which the remaining bifurcation works will be concluded.

The success of the bifurcation works to date is testament to careful planning, strong project and risk management, and close collaboration among the Corporation's Capital Works and Hong Kong Transport Services teams as well as the contractors involved, which has enabled the originally planned ten Sunday service suspensions between January and October to be reduced.

For the last Sunday service suspension on 31 October, the Corporation calls on passengers to plan their journeys ahead with MTR Mobile and make use of other alternative MTR routes, such as the Tuen Ma Line during the service suspension between Hung Hom and Mong Kok East stations on that day. As with the previous Sunday service suspensions, MTR will provide free shuttle buses to commute between Hung Hom and Kowloon Tong stations, implement a special fare arrangement and deploy additional staff at relevant stations to assist passengers (Please refer to the annex for details).

After completion of the bifurcation works, full line dynamic train tests and reliability tests will be conducted to be followed by trial operations and eventually the commencement of passenger service.

The EAL cross-harbour extension from Hung Hom to Admiralty is a project of high complexity. Upon completion, it will connect the northeast New Territories, central Kowloon and Hong Kong Island, as well as linking five existing railway lines with four interchange stations. This, together with the Tuen Ma Line which connects with four existing railway lines, will further enhance the connectivity of Hong Kong's railway network and provide more transport options to the public.

-End-

About MTR Corporation

Every day, MTR connects people and communities. As a recognised world-class operator of sustainable rail transport services, we are a leader in safety, reliability, customer service and efficiency.

MTR has extensive end-to-end railway expertise with more than 40 years of railway projects experience from design to planning and construction through to commissioning, maintenance and operations. Going beyond railway delivery and operation, MTR also creates and manages dynamic communities around its network through seamless integration of rail, commercial and property development.

With more than 40,000 dedicated staff*, MTR carries over 13 million passenger journeys worldwide every weekday in Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Australia and the Mainland of China. MTR strives to grow and connect communities for a better future.

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

*includes our subsidiaries and associates in Hong Kong and worldwide

Annex

Arrangements for the Seventh Sunday Closure (31 October 2021)
between Hung Hom and Mong Kok East Stations on the East Rail Line

- Prominent signage will be posted on East Rail Line trains and at affected stations to remind passengers of the temporary service suspension.

紅磡至旺角東站列車服務暫停
No train service between Hung Hom and Mong Kok East stations

10月31日 (星期日)
31/10/2021 (Sunday)

旺角東 Mong Kok East
紅磡 Hung Hom

車程終止點站 End of the East Rail Line
屯馬綫服務正常 Normal service on the Tuen Ma Line

其他乘車資料 Alternative transport

屯馬綫及其他綫路 Tuen Ma Line and other Lines
MTR Mobile 行程指南 Trip Planner

港鐵免費接駁巴士服務 Free MTR shuttle bus service
九龍總站 旺角東站 紅磡站
有關條款及細則 Terms and Conditions apply

其他公共交通工具 Other public transport

繼續為你做好-多謝體諒
We are striving to improve - thank you for your understanding

旺角東 Mong Kok East
紅磡 Hung Hom

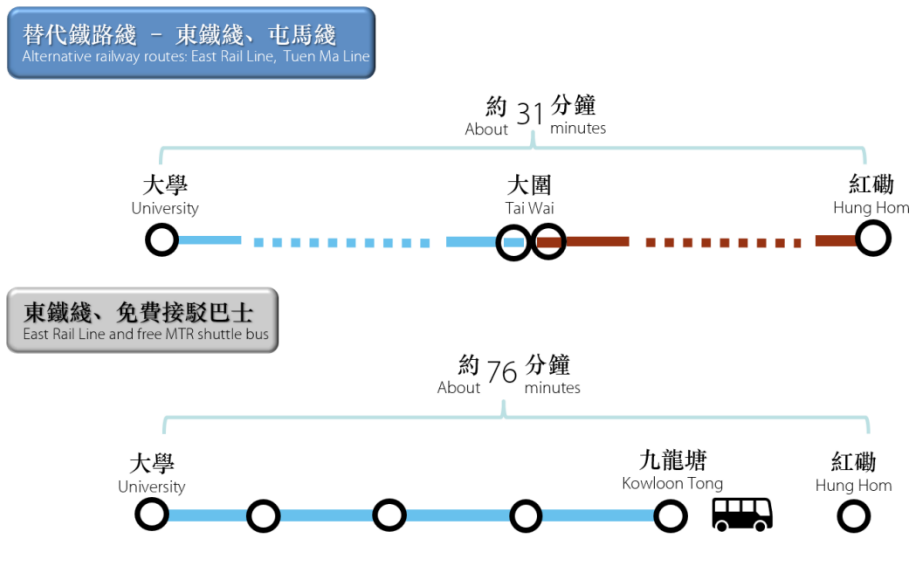
紅磡至旺角東站列車服務暫停
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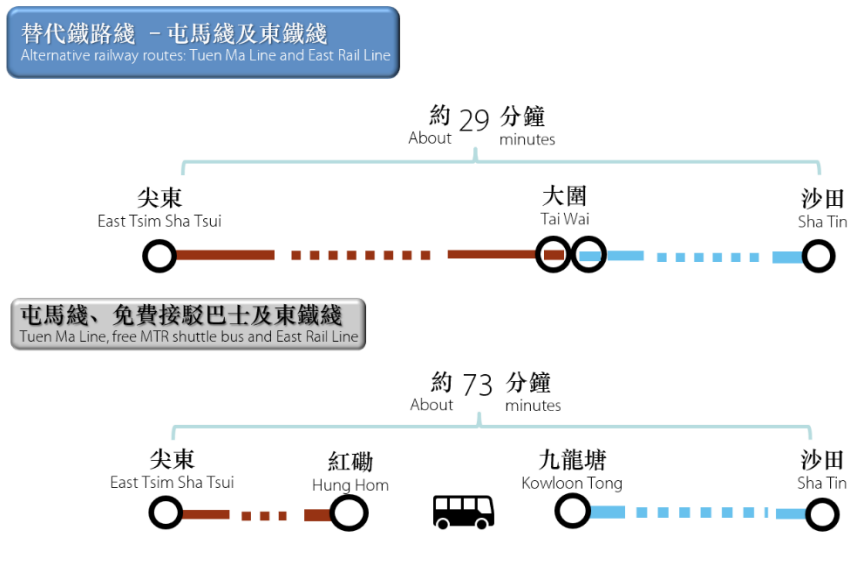
MTR Mobile 行程指南 Trip Planner

- The Corporation will provide free shuttle buses to run between Hung Hom and Kowloon Tong stations during the service suspension on 31 October. Since the capacity of shuttle buses is limited and the operational efficiency may be affected due to unpredictable road traffic conditions, the journey time could be longer than the time under normal circumstances.
- During the service suspension, passengers are advised to plan their journeys with MTR Mobile and take alternative routes via the Tuen Ma Line, Kwun Tong Line or Tsuen Wan Line.

Alternative routes example 1: From University to Hung Hom stations



Alternative routes example 2: From East Tsim Sha Tsui to Sha Tin stations



Alternative routes example 3: From Kowloon Tong to Hung Hom stations

替代鐵路綫 - 觀塘綫、屯馬綫
Alternative railway routes: Kwun Tong Line, Tuen Ma Line



免費接駁巴士
Free MTR shuttle bus



- Additional staff will be deployed at relevant stations to help passengers in need
- A special fare arrangement will be in place on that day and passengers who encounter any fare issues can approach the Customer Service Centres at MTR stations for assistance.
- The Corporation will monitor the situation closely and take appropriate operations adjustments and measures to facilitate passengers' travel.

Photo Captions:

1. Dr Jacob Kam, Chief Executive Officer of MTR Corporation (middle), Mr James Chow, General Manager–SCL&HSR (left), and Mr Sammy Wong, Chief of Operating & Metro Segment (right) announce the East Rail Line cross-harbour extension service is targeted for commissioning in June -July, 2022.



2. With the new extension, East Rail Line will become the fourth cross-harbour railway line, extending the railway service to Admiralty Station via a new Exhibition Centre Station at Wan Chai North.



3. The bifurcation works at north of Hung Hom Station has been reported good progress. The East Rail Line mainline has been successfully connected to the new EAL platforms at Hung Hom Station.



4. The works at Admiralty Station and Exhibition Centre Station have progressed well. Statutory inspection is in progress.



