

**East Rail Line Cross-Harbour Extension to Commence Service on 15 May 2022
Century-old Railway Extends to Hong Kong Island and Takes Only Five Minutes
from Hung Hom to Exhibition Centre Station**

The MTR Corporation announces that the government approval procedures for the East Rail Line Cross-Harbour Extension have been completed today (3 May 2022) and the extension will commence service on 15 May 2022 (Sunday). The East Rail Line has been serving Hong Kong for over a century. The upcoming service commencement marks a major historic milestone for the East Rail Line as it extends across Victoria Harbour to the core business district in Hong Kong, connecting the New Territories, Kowloon and Hong Kong Island as well as increasing the coverage and connectivity of the railway network with more travelling options for the public. With the cross-harbour section, the East Rail Line will become the fourth cross-harbour railway and it will take only five minutes to travel from Hung Hom to Exhibition Centre Station.

Upon its extension across the harbour, the 46-km East Rail Line will consist of 16 stations including the new Exhibition Centre Station and the new terminus at Admiralty Station. Exhibition Centre Station is located next to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wan Chai North, while Admiralty Station will be upgraded into a mega interchange station of four railway lines (East Rail Line, Tsuen Wan Line, Island Line and South Island Line). With three other interchange stations on the line (Tai Wai, Kowloon Tong and Hung Hom stations), the connectivity of the railway network will be further enhanced.

Stations on the Cross-Harbour Extension have their own unique features, incorporating various art, history and people elements. Real time information will be provided to facilitate passengers' choices of time-saving and comfortable routes. "Train Car Loading Indicator" will be provided on all East Rail Line platforms while a brand-new "Cross-Harbour Easy" showing real time platform conditions will be launched in Admiralty Station for passengers to choose their cross-harbour routes.

"Thanks to the concerted efforts of MTR colleagues and contractors, as well as the support of relevant government departments and the community, the East Rail Line Cross-Harbour Extension is able to open and start serving passengers earlier than scheduled. The century-old railway's extension across the harbour enhances the coverage and connectivity of the railway network in Hong Kong, bringing faster and more convenient railway service to the public," said Dr Jacob Kam, Chief Executive Officer of MTR Corporation.

Following over three months of trial operations, the new extension completed all relevant statutory safety tests and has been confirmed by the relevant government departments today to be safe and sound, and ready for passenger service.

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Along with construction of the East Rail Line extension across the harbour, the Corporation has upgraded the 12 existing stations along the line and introduced a new train fleet. As it is expected there will be a further diversion effect on patronage in the railway network, train service arrangements and the passenger information system have also been enhanced to provide choices of fast and convenient journeys to passengers.

Cross the Harbour with Shorter Journey Times and Without Interchange

The East Rail Line will offer another option for cross-harbour journeys with direct access to Hong Kong Island for those who live in the New Territories. With the new train fleet and new signalling system, the journey between Sheung Shui and Admiralty stations with direct access will take only about 40 minutes. Passengers can save about 15 minutes for the same journey than now which requires interchanges. This does not only provide passengers with faster train journeys but also enhances the efficiency of the train service arrangement.

With multiple interchange stations on the East Rail Line, including Admiralty, Hung Hom, Kowloon Tong and Tai Wai stations, passengers can choose faster and more comfortable routes based on their needs. For passengers who travel across the harbour, those travelling from Central Kowloon will have the option to travel on either the Tsuen Wan Line or the East Rail Line. It will only take about five minutes to travel from Hung Hom to Exhibition Centre Station, and about seven minutes from Hung Hom to Admiralty Station, significantly cutting the existing journey time (Please refer to [Appendix 1](#) for recommended routes). Being the fourth cross-harbour railway line, the East Rail Line will bring a diversion effect on the cross-harbour ridership of other railway lines and eventually increase the carrying capacity of the railway network as a whole.

Enhancement in Passenger Information System for Passengers to Choose Platforms and Train Cars for Boarding

The Corporation strives to enhance customer experience with technology. Smart facilities will be featured on the brand-new East Rail Line as service enhancements. The brand-new information system “Cross-Harbour Easy” will be available at the concourse and interchange platform of Admiralty Station to display real time train-waiting conditions on the Tsuen Wan Line and East Rail Line platforms and train trip information for the upcoming two trains. Based on the real time information, passengers can choose time-saving routes with fewer passengers on the platform for their cross-harbour journeys.

Following the launch on the Tuen Ma Line, the East Rail Line will also feature the popular “Train Car Loading Indicator” on platforms and on the MTR Mobile to facilitate passengers to choose more spacious train cars for boarding. Functions of MTR Mobile will also be upgraded, such as including East Rail Line information in the “Next Train” function and indoor navigation in the “In-station Finder” function for Admiralty Station, together with audio navigation service catering for the needs of visually-impaired persons and making it easier for passengers to find their way to the facilities in the station (Please refer to [Appendix 2](#) for details on service enhancements).

Fare Promotions

Fares for the new Exhibition Centre Station on the East Rail Line adopt the existing fare structure of the railway network. First class train service is also available on the railway line. Fares for the cross-harbour extension will be the same as three other cross-harbour railway lines. The minimum fare for a cross-harbour journey is at \$10.1.

“The new East Rail Line saves passengers’ travelling time and the need for interchange. To celebrate the service commencement, the Corporation will launch interchange discounts for designated franchised bus routes at Exhibition Centre Station with a saving of \$2 for each trip. ‘MTR City Saver’ and ‘Early Bird Discount’ of 35% off for regular customers will also be applicable to Exhibition Centre Station,” said Ms Jeny Yeung, Hong Kong Transport Services Director of MTR Corporation (Please refer to [Appendix 3](#) for details of fare promotions).

Exhibition Centre Station Open Day and Other Celebratory Events

In addition to the smart features, the new East Rail Line also embraces an enriched travel experience. The newly built Exhibition Centre Station features the classic mosaic style of MTR stations with artwork and exhibits including the station artwork “Water Memory” and “Remains of War” that exhibits the casing of a World War II bomb discovered during the construction of the station. There is also the “East Rail 100+ . . . into the Next Century!” historic photo display (Please refer to [Appendix 4](#) for details).

The Corporation will organise an Exhibition Centre Station Open Day on 9 May 2022 (Monday) for the public to experience the new station facilities and appreciate the artwork. For the safety and health of visitors, admission will be for open-day ticket holders only and a quota will be imposed for each session so that guests can keep an appropriate social distance from each other. Anti-pandemic measures will also be in place during the open day. Members of the public can obtain tickets for free via MTR Mobile or The GULU app starting from 5 May (Please refer to [Appendix 5](#) for details).

To celebrate the service commencement with the public, the Corporation will organise a “Run, Run Like a Train!” East Rail Line Cross Harbour Virtual Run. The event starts on 15 May, continuing up to 30 June and is free of charge. Interested runners can register in phases and groups starting from 8 May. Details will be announced on 5 May.

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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.

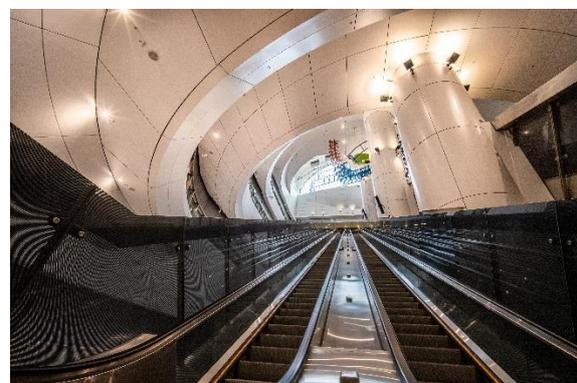
*includes our subsidiaries and associates in Hong Kong and worldwide

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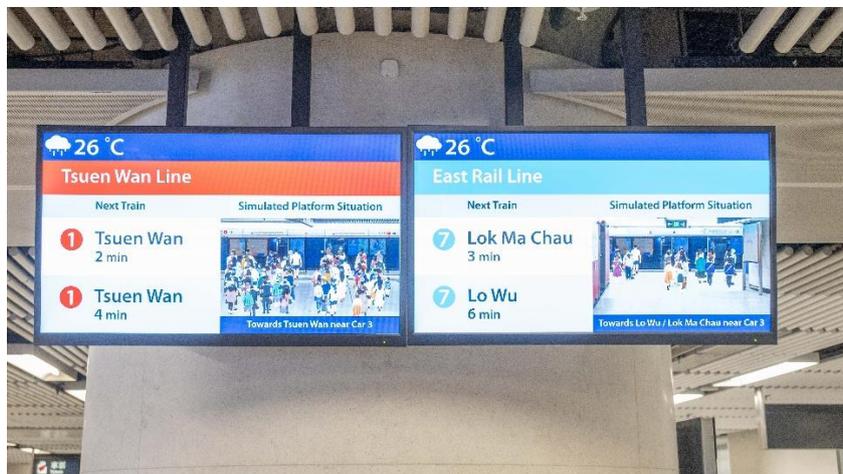
1. Ms Jeny Yeung, Hong Kong Transport Services Director and Mr Sammy Wong, Chief of Operating & Metro Segment of MTR Corporation introduce the arrangement for the East Rail Line Cross-Harbour Extension.



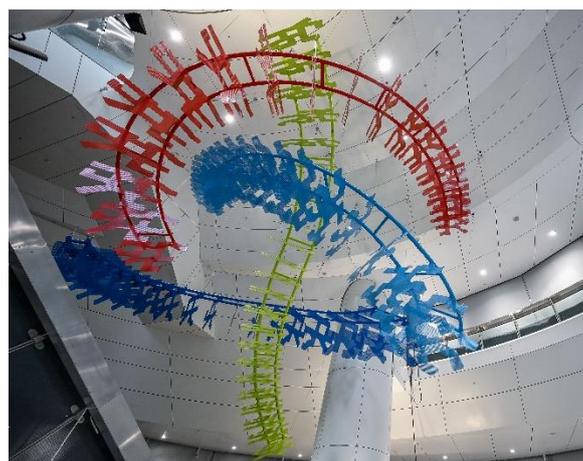
2. Admiralty Station will be transformed into a mega interchange station connecting four railway lines with escalators enabling passengers to travel between different levels and railway lines.



3. "Cross-Harbour Easy" available at the concourse and interchange platforms of Admiralty Station will display real time train-waiting conditions of the Tsuen Wan Line and East Rail Line platforms and the train trip information of the upcoming two trains. Based on the information, passengers can choose a time-saving route with fewer passengers on the platform for their cross-harbour journeys.



4. The suspended sculpture "Mapping Our Way" at the Admiralty Station Extension was designed by American artist Talley Fisher and represents the four railway lines converging at the station.



East Rail Line Cross-Harbour Extension Background Information



- With the East Rail Line extending to Hong Kong Island on 15 May 2022, the total length of the East Rail Line will be approximately 46 kilometres with 16 stations. The line will also become the fourth cross-harbour railway line after the Tsuen Wan Line, Tung Chung Line and Tseung Kwan O Line.
- With a total of four interchange stations (Tai Wai, Kowloon Tong, Hung Hom and Admiralty stations), passengers can easily make connections between the East Rail Line and five other railway lines – the Tuen Ma Line, Kwun Tong Line, Tsuen Wan Line, Island Line and South Island Line. The new extension will enhance the railway network of Hong Kong and make it more convenient.
- Admiralty Station will be the new terminus of the East Rail Line and a super interchange station of four railway lines (East Rail Line, Tsuen Wan Line, Island Line and South Island Line) in the MTR network.
- The journey time on the East Rail Line from Sheung Shui to Admiralty Station will only be about 40 minutes.

Journey Time and Number of Interchanges Saved with New Routes of the East Rail Line



	轉車次數 Number of interchanges required	車程 (對比原有路線) Journey time (compared with previous route)
<p>上水 (Sheung Shui) → 金鐘 (Admiralty)</p>	<p>2 次 ➔ 毋須轉車</p> <p>No need to interchange compared with interchanging twice previously</p>	<p>55 分鐘 > 40 分鐘</p> <p>55 to 40 minutes</p> <p>快 15 分鐘</p> <p>15 minutes faster</p>
<p>沙田 (Sha Tin) → 金鐘 (Admiralty)</p>	<p>2 次 ➔ 毋須轉車</p> <p>No need to interchange compared with interchanging twice previously</p>	<p>31 分鐘 > 20 分鐘</p> <p>31 to 20 minutes</p> <p>快 11 分鐘</p> <p>11 minutes faster</p>
<p>紅磡 (Hung Hom) → 金鐘 (Admiralty)</p>	<p>2 次 ➔ 毋須轉車</p> <p>No need to interchange compared with interchanging twice previously</p>	<p>19 分鐘 > 7 分鐘</p> <p>19 to 7 minutes</p> <p>快 12 分鐘</p> <p>12 minutes faster</p>

Smart Facilities added to the East Rail Line

“Cross-Harbour Easy” in Admiralty Station

To facilitate passengers to choose their cross-harbour route, the brand new “Cross-Harbour Easy” will be on display at the concourse and interchange platform of Admiralty Station, providing images simulating the real-time train-waiting conditions of the Tsuen Wan-bound platform of the Tsuen Wan Line and Lo Wu/Lok Ma Chau-bound platform of the East Rail Line as well as the train trip information of the upcoming two trains on the two lines.



“Train Car Loading Indicator” on the East Rail Line, and East Rail Line added to “Next Train” Function of MTR Mobile

The “Train Car Loading Indicator” will be available on East Rail Line platforms and on MTR Mobile. Passengers can choose to board train cars with more space by following the real time indicators in green, amber and red.

The East Rail Line will be added to the “Next Train” function of MTR Mobile, providing real time arrival information of trains for passengers’ journey planning.



Enhanced “In-station Finder” for Admiralty Station on MTR Mobile

The “In-station Finder” function of MTR Mobile will be enhanced covering the new Admiralty Station extension. This indoor navigation services with audio function will continue to facilitate the needs of visually-impaired persons, making it easier for passengers to navigate in Admiralty Station. Upon commissioning, the time-limited “GO Cultural Tour” programme will also be launched to delight customers with fun facts of various cultural dimensions related to Admiralty and MTR Points rewards.



Fare Concession**MTR Interchange Discount**

Five additional franchised bus routes will be included in the MTR Interchange Discount. Passengers can save \$2 when travelling with Octopus between MTR and these routes when interchanging at Exhibition Centre Station. Details are as follows:

Transport mode	Routes	Saving for Every Trip
		Adult Octopus
New World First Bus	1M, 722	\$2
CityBus	25A, 780, 788	\$2

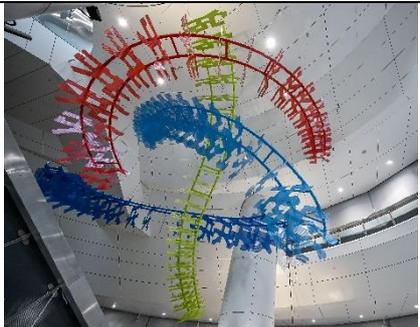
MTR City Saver

The coverage of MTR City Saver will be extended to Exhibition Centre Station. Commuters can take 40 single journeys within 40 days for just \$435 and save more for cross-harbour journeys.

Early Bird Discount

Passengers who exit the MTR gates between 7:15 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. on weekdays (except Public Holidays) using Adult Octopus at any of the designated stations will enjoy an automatic 35% discount. The discount is also applicable to passengers exiting from Exhibition Centre Station.

Station Artwork and Features of East Rail Line Cross-Harbour Extension

Exhibition Centre Station	Admiralty Station	Hung Hom Station
		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the only newly built station on the East Rail Line Cross-Harbour Extension, Exhibition Centre Station is located in the Wan Chai North core business area and is adjacent to the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. • Station Artwork - “Water Memory” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Created by local artist Mr Leung Chi-wo. ○ “Water Memory” is composed of about 1,200 photographs capturing the seascape right in front of the station at different moments, as if submerging the station in variations of waves, hues and reflections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon the commissioning of the cross-harbour extension, Admiralty Station will become a mega interchange station for four lines, connecting the East Rail Line, Tsuen Wan Line, Island Line and South Island Line. • Station Artwork (located in the Admiralty Station Extension) - “Mapping Our Way” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Suspended sculpture designed by American artist Talley Fisher ○ It represents the four railway lines converging at Admiralty Station. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hung Hom Station has long been a railway hub for travel to the Northeast New Territories and intercity services. Tuen Ma Line passengers will be able to interchange to take the East Rail Line to cross the harbour at Hung Hom Station, enjoying a more direct and convenient connection. • Station Artwork - “Lost and Found” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Designed by local artist Jaffa Lam. ○ Featuring sculptures of luggage from different eras and glass patterns inspired by classic nylon bags.

Other features of Exhibition Centre Station

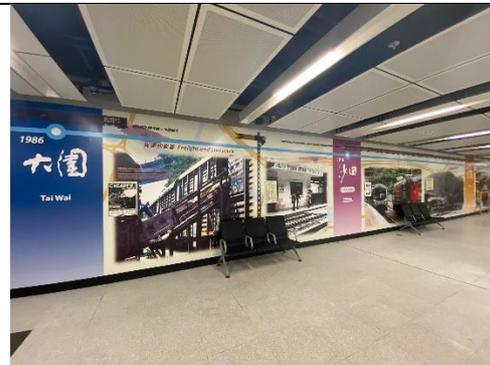
Station colour

- The interior design of Exhibition Centre Station follows the classic mosaic style, a characteristic of MTR stations, with turquoise green mixed with grey as the main colour tone symbolising the sea water in Victoria Harbour in front of the station.



"East Rail 100+ . . . into the Next Century!" Historic Photos Display

- To commemorate the extension of the centennial railway to Hong Kong Island, a historic photos display on the station platform records important historical moments and the evolution of the East Rail Line.



"Remains of War"

- Three bombs dropped during World War II were discovered by the construction team during the construction of the station. Thanks to the professionalism of the Police Explosive Ordnance Disposal Bureau, the bombs were safely defused and removed.
- Remnants of one of the bombs are on display on the station platform, through which passengers can learn more about the history of the station's location and stories from the construction period.



Exhibition Centre Station Open Day

- MTR Exhibition Centre Station will be opened to the general public on 9 May 2022 for the first time before service commencement of the East Rail Line Cross-Harbour Extension. Members of the public are welcome to visit and familiarise themselves with the new station facilities. Participants can also appreciate the remarkable station artwork entitled “Water Memory”, as well as a series of long wall stickers on the new platforms featuring the 100 years evolution of the East Rail Line and the construction history of the Exhibition Centre Station. Remnants of one of the bombshells discovered during construction is also displayed in the station which further enriches participants’ understanding of the new station.
- In view of the pandemic, the station open day is divided into seven sessions with a limited number of participants for each session. The Corporation appeals to participants to maintain a safe social distance while regular cleaning and disinfection of the visiting areas will be arranged.
- Members of the public can register via MTR Mobile and THE GULU to obtain tickets. Each ticket is valid for a maximum of four participants to enter the station at the same time. First come, first served.
- Please visit the MTR website (<https://mtr.eastrailinecrossharbouextension.hk/en/news/openday>) for details of the station open day. For enquiries, please contact MTR Hotline (2881 8888).

	Open Day Sessions	Date of Obtaining Ticket	Channel of Obtaining Ticket
Exhibition Centre Station Open Day (9 May 2022)	10:00 am – 11:00 am 11:15 am – 12:15 pm 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	From 2:00 pm on 5 May 2022 onwards	Morning sessions: Via MTR Mobile Registered users can obtain tickets through registration on the MTR Mobile “My Reward” page  
	2:30 pm – 3:30 pm 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm 6:15 pm – 7:15 pm	From 3:00 pm on 5 May 2022 onwards	Afternoon sessions: Via THE GULU app 