

新聞稿

Press Release

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19 August 2026

MTR Launches Downtown Autonomous Vehicle Trial to Enhance Airport Express Connectivity for High Speed Rail Passengers Advancing Rail-Air Intermodal Service with Targeted Launch Next Year

MTR Corporation today (19 August 2026) commenced road trials of an autonomous vehicle (AV) connection service in West Kowloon, paving the way for the service launch in the second quarter of next year. The innovative service will provide a connecting service for passengers travelling between the High Speed Rail (HSR) and Airport Express Kowloon Station. As demand for transit service between HSR and air services ("Rail-Air Intermodal Service") continues to grow, the planned AV service will offer an additional transfer option. It will complement the existing pedestrian link between the two stations and further enhancing passenger experience for HSR and air services, fostering the development of the "Rail-Air Intermodal Service". MTR and the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AA) are preparing for the service, with details of the service and target passenger groups to be announced in due course.

Following the granting of a pilot licence for autonomous vehicles by the Transport Department (TD), the Corporation will deploy four sixth-generation Baidu Apollo autonomous private cars for the trial. The vehicles will operate along designated road sections between the two stations. During the initial trial period, no passengers will be carried. Each vehicle will be accompanied by a backup operator provided by the contractor, who will continuously monitor the operation and intervene when necessary. To ensure safe and reliable operation, MTR will work closely with the contractor to advance the project and review the trial results, with a view to progressively moving towards a driverless trial with passengers on board, subject to approval from TD.

Mr Wilson Kwong, Hong Kong Transport Services Director of MTR Corporation, said, "MTR is dedicated to applying innovative technology to promote 'Smart Mobility'. With HSR being a popular choice for cross-boundary travel, enhancing the travel experience of HSR passengers connecting to the airport by taking the Airport Express will further strengthen the synergy of the 'Rail-Air Intermodal Service', and contribute to the long-term development of Hong Kong. We will collaborate closely with AA to complete the road trial as scheduled and work towards launching the service upon obtaining the necessary approvals from relevant departments."

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Currently, passengers arriving via HSR can walk from Hong Kong West Kowloon Station to the adjacent Kowloon Station through ELEMENTS and continue their journey to the airport by taking the Airport Express. MTR and AA are working closely on the autonomous vehicle connecting service, which will provide visitors arriving by HSR with a convenient option for transit and luggage transfer. Upon service launch, visitors can choose to ride the autonomous vehicle to connect between Hong Kong West Kowloon Station and Kowloon Station, and use the in-town check-in and baggage drop-off services at the newly established counter inside Hong Kong West Kowloon Station of HSR. With an aim to launch the service in the second quarter of next year, this initiative will further enhance the two-way travel experience for HSR passengers transferring to flights, as well as air travellers connecting to the HSR, thereby encouraging more passengers to travel via HSR and Hong Kong International Airport. During the road trials, the Corporation will formulate the operational arrangements of the future service, including the target passenger groups. Details will be announced in due course.

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About MTR Corporation

To Keep Cities Moving, MTR makes encounters happen and rendezvous for a more connected tomorrow. 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 over 45 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 46,000 dedicated staff*, MTR carries over 13 million passenger journeys worldwide every weekday in Hong Kong, Chinese Mainland and beyond. Together, we Go Smart and Go Beyond.

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

*includes our subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures in Hong Kong and worldwide

Annex

West Kowloon “Rail-Air Intermodal Service” Autonomous Vehicle (AV) Road Trial

The project involves four sixth-generation Baidu Apollo AVs, each undergoing trials along designated routes between the High Speed Rail Hong Kong West Kowloon Station and the Airport Express Kowloon Station:

- **Phase One:** The AVs will operate in self-driving mode along the designated routes. During this phase, no passengers will be carried except for engineering personnel. A backup operator from the contractor will be stationed in the driver's seat at all times and will take manual control of the vehicle if necessary.
- **Phase Two:** Non-commercial passenger-carrying trial, with a backup operator from the contractor stationed in the driver's seat throughout the journey. The AVs will be monitored by remote backup operators in the remote control centre.
- **Phase Three:** Driverless road trial, with no passengers nor backup operator on board. The AVs will be monitored by remote backup operators in the remote control centre.
- **Phase Four:** Driverless and non-commercial passenger trial with no backup operator on board. The AVs will be monitored by remote backup operators in the remote control centre.

Testing Hours:

Monday – Sunday (Full Day)

Designated Trial Routes:

Wui Man Road, Jordan Road, Nga Cheung Road, Station Loop Road South, Station Loop Road East, Station Loop Road North

AV Designed Trial Route:

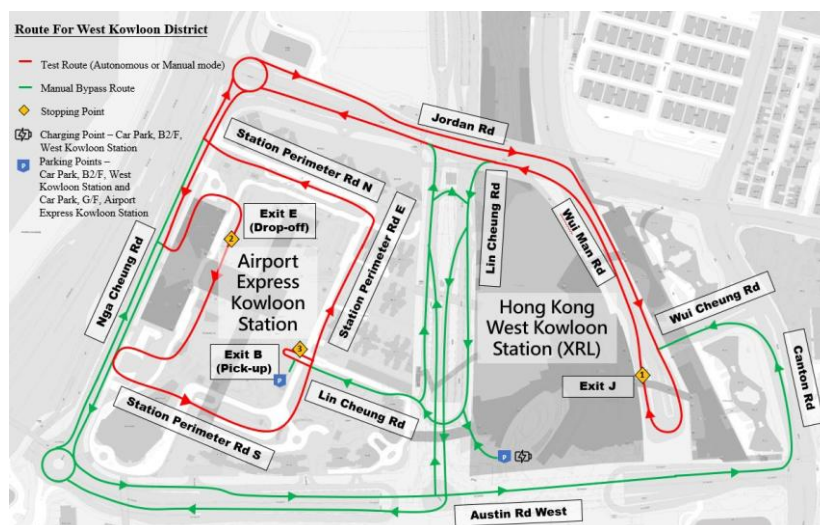


Photo Caption:

1. The autonomous vehicle road test was conducted smoothly this morning between the High Speed Rail Hong Kong West Kowloon Station and the Airport Express Kowloon Station. In the initial phase, the autonomous vehicle will operate without passengers and will be continuously monitored by a backup operator on board to take manual control immediately if necessary.

