

Early Opening for Circle Line from Bartley to Marymount

1. The five new MRT stations of Circle Line (CCL) from Bartley to Marymount will open for revenue service on 28 May 2009. With final testing of the electrical and mechanical systems having progressed smoothly, LTA and the CCL operator, SMRT, are pleased to announce that the new line will open two days earlier for revenue service than originally scheduled on 30 May 2009.

No change in bus routes

2. Mr Yam Ah Mee, Chief Executive, LTA, said, "We are pleased to bring forward the much-anticipated opening of this stretch of CCL, so that commuters can enjoy this additional travel option sooner. Together with the bus operators, SBS Transit Ltd and SMRT Corporation Ltd, LTA has also determined that no bus route changes are necessary for now as there is already good connection between the bus and rail networks in this area. When more stages of the CCL open progressively from 2010 onwards, the LTA as the central bus network planner will review the need to adjust bus routes to improve bus- rail integration."

Private bus service

3. A few private bus operators have expressed interest in providing bus services to some of the five CCL stations to further enhance the connectivity around the residential estates and the stations. One operator has already submitted an application to the Public Transport Council (PTC) to operate a premium bus service to link Sin Ming Estate to Marymount Station. The application is currently being processed.

About Circle Line, from Bartley to Marymount Stations

4. The Circle Line is an orbital line that will link all Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) lines running into the city, offering inter-suburban connectivity currently not provided by the MRT system. The 5.7km stretch of CCL (from Bartley to Marymount) has five stations - Bartley, Serangoon (interchange), Lorong Chuan, Bishan (interchange) and Marymount Stations. Bishan Station connects to the North South Line and Serangoon station connects to the North East Line. Three of the stations, Bartley, Lorong Chuan and Bishan, are designed as civil defence shelters.

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