

Govt may 'fast-track MRT3 Project

The government may fast-track the construction of the Mass Rapid Transit 3 (MRT3) in the Klang Valley, said Transport Minister Dato'Seri Liow Tiong Lai yesterday. He said the ministry's proposal to bring forward the project's completion date was well received by Prime Minister Dao' Seri Najib Razak.

He said the proposal, if approved, would allow the government to reap the project's economic benefits. The ministry planned to complete MRT3 in 2027, but looking at the benefits that we can reap from the project, we're looking to see whether we can bring forward the completion date. It's 2027 and we don't need to wait another 10 years. We can start planning now," he said on the sidelines of the Sustainable Urban Transport Summit 2017 here yesterday.

Liow said his ministry would work with the Economic Planning Unit, Land Public Transport Commission, the Prime Minister's Office and agencies to study the proposal's feasibility. "We are looking at the benefits we can reap from the MRT lines, which will be linked to the East Coast Railway Link (ECRL) and the Kuala Lumpur - Singapore High Speed Rail (HSR).

The ECRL and HSR are scheduled for completion in 2024 and 2026, respectively. Earlier, Liow said the ministry was committed to reducing the country's carbon emissions by 45 per cent by 2030. He said road vehicles contributed 85.5 per cent of the country's carbon footprint. This is followed by the aviation industry (12.9 per cent, maritime transport (1.4 per cent) and railway system (0.4 per cent)

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