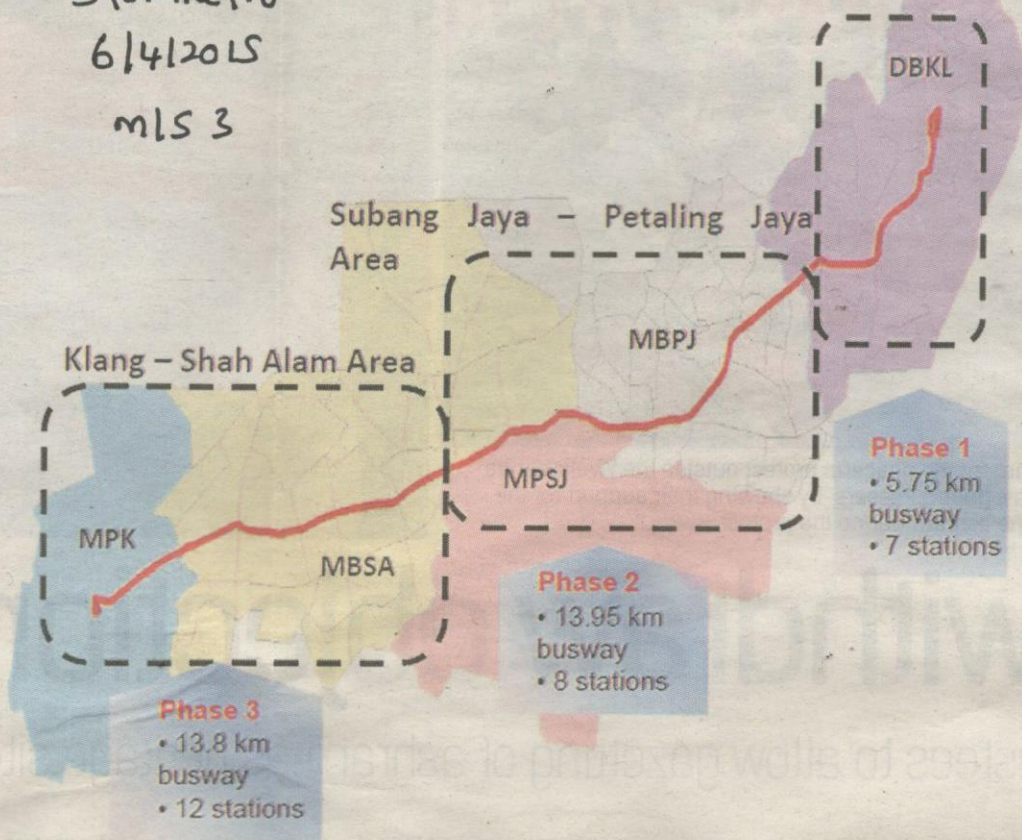


KL-Klang BRT Alignment

Star metro
6/4/2015
m/s 3

Kerinci - Pasar Seni Area



System to cost an estimated RM1bil

> FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Azharuddin said.

Bus driver shortage

Mohd Azharuddin agreed that feeder buses must be excellent, comfortable, reliable and on time.

However, he said the industry faced a shortage of about 500 drivers.

He added that Prasarana had taken measures to solve the problem by hiring former army personnel and women drivers, but the demand had still not been met.

"We are looking at structural issues such as remuneration of the bus drivers.

"We do not even want to call them bus drivers, instead we want to call them bus captains.

"Their welfare must be looked into as being a bus driver is a tough job," he said.

He added there were arguments that if the profession was to be seen as respectable, salaries must be increased.

"This is a technical job and you need skills.

"It also involves the passengers' safety and good customer service and we are looking at ways to manage the costs.

"At the moment, the bus drivers take home about RM2,200 compared to express bus drivers, who could take home more than RM3,000, as that sector is more market driven," he said.

Stage bus network

Mohd Azharuddin said some bus stops did not have route maps because most private bus companies focused on busy routes.

"There are eight corridors to Kuala Lumpur and these are the most profitable, hence the private bus companies want to pick up passengers in those areas.

"However, Prasarana has been told by the government to also serve routes that are less profitable.

"SPAD divided the routes and created a more systematic network. With enforcement in place, these buses will be reaching out to more routes.

"We are in talks with the private operators and we may launch the network in the third quarter of this year," he said.

Park n Ride

Meanwhile, Park n Ride facilities are on track to accommodate the existing rail lines as well as the extensions.

Currently, there are more than 5,000 parking bays in the stations of the LRT and KTM rail lines and this would increase to 9,000 by 2017.

Among the new Park n Ride facilities at LRT stations are Gombak (1060 bays), Sungai Besi (214 bays), Bandar Tasik Selatan (1024 bays), Ampang (1140 bays) and Asia Jaya (607 bays).

New parking facilities are also

available at KTM Kajang, Batu Tiga, Padang Jawa, Kepong, Bangi, Batang Benar, Salak Selatan, Petaling, Seremban, Shah Alam and Padang Jawa.

There would be more such facilities at the LRT extension line stations of Kelana Jaya, Express Rail Link (ERL) at Salak Tinggi and KTM at Klang, Pelabuhan Klang, Rawang and Nilai.

"We have more than 5,000 parking bays at the LRT and KTM Komuter stations with minimal parking charges at a maximum of RM4 a day," he said.

Integrated Transport Terminal (ITT)

There has been progress on the initiative to decongest the central business district in the city with the Integrated Transport Terminal (ITT). Through the Bandar Tasik Selatan ITT, 500 south-bound buses have been diverted from the city centre, helping to free the city routes.

Pudu Sentral welcomes some 1,000 buses daily and has been refurbished and re-designated for inter-urban use. The Gombak ITT, set to commence in 2016, will serve as terminal for eastbound buses, further easing the traffic in the central business district.

"The Gombak ITT will be connected to the Kelana Jaya LRT line and this will help to integrate the public facilities," said Mohd Azharuddin.

Journey Planner

The Journey Planner would be in the form of an application that will help to integrate existing static information, online maps and the Performance Monitoring hub System (PMhS) to provide real-time data to commuters.

"We will work with app providers to create such journey apps that will help the public plan their public transport routes," he said.

Milestones

Mohd Azharuddin also discussed some of the successes of the Urban Public Transport NKRA achieve-



Adding value: The proposed BRT will augment other transportation networks in the Klang Valley such as the Monorail

ments, including the free Go-KL City Bus service used by 35,000 people daily.

He said the purple line, from Pasar Seni to Bukit Bintang, and the green line which covered KLCC and Bukit Bintang began operations in August 2012.

Some 16 buses are deployed daily with a five-minute waiting time during peak hours and 10 minutes during non-peak hours.

Two new lines, red and blue, started operations in May last year, covering KL Sentral-Jalan Tuanku Abdul Rahman and Medan Mara-Bukit Bintang, respectively.

The ridership of the two new lines is around 18,000 daily and the waiting time is just five minutes during peak hours.

He added that 1,544 bus stops had also been refurbished in 12 local authorities in Kuala Lumpur and Selangor.

Mohd Azharuddin also said the first two Hentian Akhir Bandar (HAB), which integrated different bus and rail services, in Pasar Seni since August 2012 and in Wira Damai, Selayang since Nov last year, had proved successful and more such stops were in the pipeline.

The Bus Expressway Transit had also received a lot of positive feedback from the public.

"These routes will provide direct

connectivity between two points and reduce travelling time due to not stopping at multiple bus stops," said Mohd Azharuddin.

Among the BET routes are Kota Damansara-Pasar Seni, Bandar Sg Long-Pasar Seni, Subang Mewah-Pasar Seni, Taman Sri Muda-Pasar Seni, Bandar Tasik Puteri-Medan Pasar, Bukit Beruntung-Pasar Seni, Sri Nilam-Munshi Abdullah, Semenyih Sentral-Pasar Seni and Rawang-Pasar Seni.

He added that new train cars on KTM Komuter — 38 six-car trains — and the Kelana Jaya LRT line — 35 four-car trains in 2010 — had improved efficiency drastically with shorter wait-times experienced by commuters.

Other achievements under the NKRA include the The MRT Line 1 from Sungai Buloh to Kajang with 31 stations, estimated to be completed by July 2017 and Phase 1 of the Ampang LRT line extension, which is expected to be completed by March next year. The extension of the Kelana Jaya LRT line to Putra Heights is expected to be completed in June next year.

Aside from buses and trains, Mohd Azharuddin said 875 new Proton Exora taxis had been launched under the Teksi 1Malaysia scheme (TEKS1M) in 2013 and these taxis are benchmarked against the ASEAN best-in-class standards.