



n making public rail transport the preferred mode of transport, it has become inevitable to constantly upgrade and improve the level of service and existing facilities to meet commuters' expectations.

To date, various improvements have been initiated to:

- Expand the current rail network
- Upgrade existing stations
- Improve bus ticketing system
- Provide convenient car parks for

LRT RIDERSHIP

Average daily ridership for both Kelana Jaya & Ampang Line (weekdays for March 2011): Kelana Jaya = 210,000 and Ampang = 161,000.

Projected annual ridership by 2012 (Kelana Jaya & Ampang Line): Kelana Jaya = 66.4 million Ampang = 57.9 million

Waiting time during peak hours (7am-9am) (current peak hour headway/frequency) Kelana Jaya Line = 2.4 minutes Ampang Line = 2.9 minutes

SOURCE: SYARIKAT PRASARANA NEGARA BHD

KTM KOMUTER RIDERSHIP

Current:

Jan-April 2011 = 11.61 million Forecast (2011) = 35.9 million

Projection

2012 = 61.71 million 2013 = 89.6 million

Waiting time during peak hours (7am to 9pm)

Current = 15 minutes Jan-June 2012 = 10 minutes July-Dec 2012 = 7.5 minutes

SOURCE: KTM BHD

KTM Komuter/LRT commuters

- Embark on fleet expansion to improve service frequency
- Create station integration for seamless travel

Line extension

Under the expansion plan announced in November 2010, the proposed Kelana Jaya LRT (formerly PUTRA LRT) extension

line will commence from Lembah Subang-Kelana Business Centre. through Subang, USJ, Alam Megah and end at the hub in Putra Heights. The proposed line will consist of 13 new stations and about 17 km of guideway.

At 29 km long and comprising 24 stations when it was first launched in September 1998, the system is today the world's second longest fullyautomated driverless metro system as well as the longest self-powered metro in Asia.

Meanwhile, the proposed Ampang LRT (formerly STAR LRT) extension line will commence from the present Sri Petaling station, passing through Puchong, Kinrara and ending at the hub in Putra Heights. The proposed line will consist of 13 new stations and is 17.7 km long.

Commencing operation in September 1998 with a 27-km network, the system has 25 stations transporting passengers from the northern, north-eastern, and southwestern suburbs of the Klang Valley.

Both lines are expected to be commissioned by end-2014. All stations will have facilities such as lifts, escalators, public telephones, suraus and toilets. The stations will also be equipped with facilities for the physically disabled such as ramps, lifts, tactiles, low-ticket counters and toilets.

Image change

As for loyal commuters of the KTM Komuter service, they can be rest assured that disruptions encountered from frequent train breakdowns will soon be a thing of the past.

In May last year, KTM Bhd embarked on the procurement of 38 new six-car train sets for its commuter service under the NKRA programme to improve public transportation.

These new sets are expected to double the capacity of the existing commuter trains. With the 38 new train sets, KTM will be able to increase its frequency to every 7.5 minutes compared to the current 15-minute headway.

These commuter trains are expected to arrive by end of this year and are expected to be put into service progressively by early next year. With a peak-hour interval of every 7.5 minutes, KTM expects its ridership to show a three-fold increase from the current level.

Terminal integration

All 25 LRT Ampang Line stations are to be upgraded and be made disabled-friendly by end-2011. The total cost of station upgrading and integration of the 24 LRT stations is RM70 million. To date, upgrading works on six stations have been completed, while the remaining 19 are scheduled for completion by year-end.

As for the Kelana Jaya Line, 26 sets of four-car trains are currently operating with the balance nine sets scheduled to be delivered by the third quarter of 2011. The total project cost is RM1.3 billion.

In line with the Gombak LRT Park & Ride (P 'n R) project to encourage people to leave their vehicles behind, a multi-storey car park with 1,200 bays is under construction at a cost of RM29 million.

The project is due for completion by the third quarter of this year. A similar P'n R project with 1,000 parking bays has also been planned at the Ampang LRT Station, with the project currently at the tender stage.