Beijing subway traffic: The combanition of Line 1 and Line Batong is a long journey

The subway is an important part of urban rail transit in Beijing. And also, it’s the first choice for most people to travel. However, the transfer between Line Batong and Line One always brings about a lot of unnecessary trouble, especially during the peak traffic time.

In fact, the transfer rate between line Batong and Line One is almost 100 percent. All passengers will get off at Sihui East station and transfer to Line One. This directly leads to the congestion at the transfer station, thus wasting passenger’s time. JianXiang Xu, a senior at Communication University of China, agrees with it deeply.

“There are so many people transferring in the transfer station, so if you want to go to work on time, you have to go out very early and hurry up. Else you will be trapped in the transfer station.”

Xu is now an intern at a company near the Olympic Sports Center. He needs to commute between the school and the company for an hour and a half every day, and he is required to arrive at the company before 9.30 a.m.. Therefore, the commute time is very tight for him. If he encounters traffic problems, he might be late.

“It is really a waste of time to transfer between these two lines. I need at least three to five minutes on transferring.” He believes that the setting of the meaningless transfer station will do harm to his riding experience. It not only wastes his time but also affects his mood in the morning.

Actually, HongYing Zhang, the Beijing Municipal People’s Congress, had already proposed to cancel the transfer in 2009; however, the subway company insisted that the conditions were not yet ripe. But in 2020, the merger of Line Batong and Line One has been officially put on the agenda, and construction will start soon.

“There are two technical conditions for the connections of Line One and Line Batong. One is that the signal system needs to be connected, and the other is the integration of station equipments and facilities.” Metro Practitioner, Tian Wang, believes that the subway station nowadays already has mature technical conditions to connect these two lines, but it will still take a while to complete.

“The connection of these two lines is definitely necessary, for it can save time.” Xu expressed his support, but he also raised his concerns. “ The congestion in these two lines have not been solved yet. Will there be more people on Line One after the connection? I don’t think that will be comfortable.”

The connection of Line Batong and Line One is a necessity for people, and it is expected that the merger will be completed in 2020 or 2021. But there are still many issues for the railway sector to think about. The possible overcrowding of Line One after the connection and the impact of railway line changes in the social and economic life of the surrounding communities are issues that residents are very concerned about, but have not yet been answered.