

**Critical Bifurcation Works for  
the Cross-Harbour Section of the East Rail Line Commence Soon  
Temporary Suspension of Railway Service  
Between Mong Kok East and Hung Hom Stations On 10 Selected Sundays**

As an essential part of the North South Corridor of the Shatin to Central Link, critical bifurcation works will be carried out to connect the existing East Rail Line (EAL) with the new railway section in Hung Hom Station and on Hong Kong Island. To facilitate the critical works, MTR Corporation announced today (17 December 2020) that there will be train service suspension on the EAL between Mong Kok East and Hung Hom stations on ten selected Sundays between January and October 2021 (please refer to the annex for details). During the service adjustment, EAL service will terminate at Mong Kok East Station. The Corporation suggests that passengers can use other railway lines to continue their journey. To minimise the inconvenience caused to passengers, free shuttle bus service will also be provided between Hung Hom and Kowloon Tong stations.

To connect the existing EAL to the newly constructed railway section and platforms of Hung Hom Station, bifurcation works will be carried out at the section between Mong Kok East and Hung Hom stations. The works involve track re-configuration for connection to the new section, installation of overhead lines as well as modification of part of the equipment of the existing signalling system. While the project team has been making use of the two-hour golden window<sup>1</sup> of non-traffic hours to carry out concerned works, some critical works of different phases, given their complexity, must be conducted for longer hours during the non-traffic period to allow sufficient time to carry out the works prudently and safely.

“The bifurcation works are an essential step for the extension of the East Rail Line across the harbour to Admiralty Station, providing the fourth cross-harbour railway line to Hong Kong Island. The extension will form Hong Kong’s north-south railway corridor and bring further convenience to passengers. Bifurcation works on an existing running line are very challenging. After prudent assessment and planning, the works are scheduled for Sundays so as to minimise the inconvenience caused to passengers,” said Mr James Chow, Divisional General Manager – Projects Construction of MTR Corporation.

The first two Sunday closures will be on 10 January 2021 and 21 February 2021, while the remaining eight Sunday closures will be between April and October. The Corporation will announce each suspension date at least one week in advance, with reminders on alternative transportation options for passengers through advance notice and public announcements at EAL stations, the MTR website as well as the MTR Mobile.

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<sup>1</sup> The East Rail line operates for 19.5 hours daily. The goal to maintain passenger service and minimise interruption to the regular maintenance schedule in an operating railway system has proven to be extremely challenging. Upon discounting the necessary preparation time and various tests that need to be conducted before service resumes on the following day, the maintenance team could only carry out engineering works during an approximately two-hour window on a few nights each week.

During the closures, prominent signage will be posted at affected stations along the EAL with additional staff deployed to provide assistance to passengers to continue their journeys with alternative routes. Passengers commuting between Hung Hom Station and places along the EAL are advised to take alternative routes via the Tsuen Wan Line, Kwun Tong Line and West Rail Line at interchange stations including Kowloon Tong, Prince Edward, Mong Kok, Mei Foo and East Tsim Sha Tsui stations. For smoother operation, the Corporation will provide free shuttle bus service running between Hung Hom and Kowloon Tong stations because of the limited space at Mong Kok East Station for bus parking and queuing area for passengers. Moreover, considering the unpredictable road traffic conditions and the reduced capacity of shuttle buses compared to trains, passengers' journey time is anticipated to be much longer.

"We will try our best to facilitate passengers' journeys by advance announcement and on-site assistance. On those Sundays, passengers may also use the enhanced 'Trip Planner' function and personalised 'Traffic News' of MTR Mobile to plan their journeys ahead. We thank passengers in advance for their cooperation as the service adjustment may inevitably cause inconvenience to them," said Mr Sammy Wong, Chief of Operating of MTR Corporation.

The Corporation will communicate closely with the relevant government departments on providing appropriate assistance during the works. Appropriate arrangements and measures will be made to minimise impacts on passengers, whose understanding and cooperation are much appreciated.

-End-

#### About MTR Corporation

Every day, MTR connects people and communities. As a recognised world-class operator of sustainable rail transport services, we are a leader in safety, reliability, customer service and efficiency.

MTR has extensive end-to-end railway expertise with more than 40 years of railway projects experience from design to planning and construction through to commissioning, maintenance and operations. Going beyond railway delivery and operation, MTR also creates and manages dynamic communities around its network through seamless integration of rail, commercial and property development.

With more than 40,000 dedicated staff\*, MTR carries over 13 million passenger journeys worldwide every weekday in Hong Kong, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Australia and the Mainland of China. MTR strives to grow and connect communities for a better future.

For more information about MTR Corporation, please visit [www.mtr.com.hk](http://www.mtr.com.hk)

\*includes our subsidiaries and associates in Hong Kong and worldwide

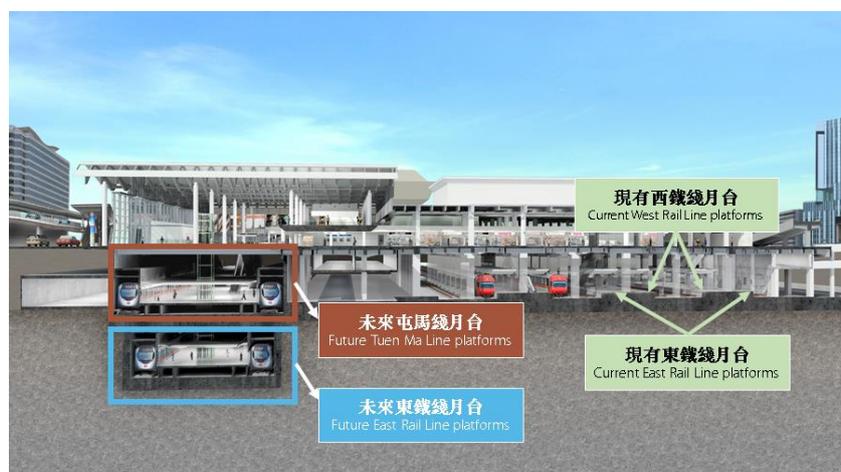
## Annex

1. East Rail Line service between Hung Hom and Mong Kok East stations will be suspended on the following dates:

- i. 10 January 2021
- ii. 21 February 2021
- iii. April 2021\*
- iv. May 2021\*
- v. June 2021\*
- vi. July 2021\* (two times)
- vii. August 2021\*
- viii. September 2021\*
- ix. October 2021\*

\* exact dates to be announced in due course

2. Bifurcation works will be carried out to connect the existing East Rail Line to the newly constructed railway section and platforms of Hung Hom Station.



- Prominent signage will be posted at stations along the East Rail Line to remind passengers on the temporary East Rail Line service suspension between Mong Kong East and Hung Hom stations.

**紅磡至旺角東站  
列車服務暫停**  
No train service between  
Hung Hom and Mong Kok East stations

**1月10日 (星期日)  
10/1/2021 (Sunday)**

**旺角東** Mong Kok East **紅磡** Hung Hom

**其他乘車資料 Alternative transport information**

**港鐵其他綫路** Other MTR lines  
**其他公共交通工具** Other public transport  
**港鐵免費接駁巴士服務\*** Free MTR shuttle bus service

**港鐵免費接駁巴士服務時間** Free MTR shuttle bus service hours

往旺角東	服務時間	往紅磡	服務時間
←	05:45 - 01:14	→	05:30 - 00:35

\* 受鐵路交收情況影響，服務時間可能會變異。A working time should be expected due to adhesion road traffic conditions.

繼續為你做好-多謝體諒

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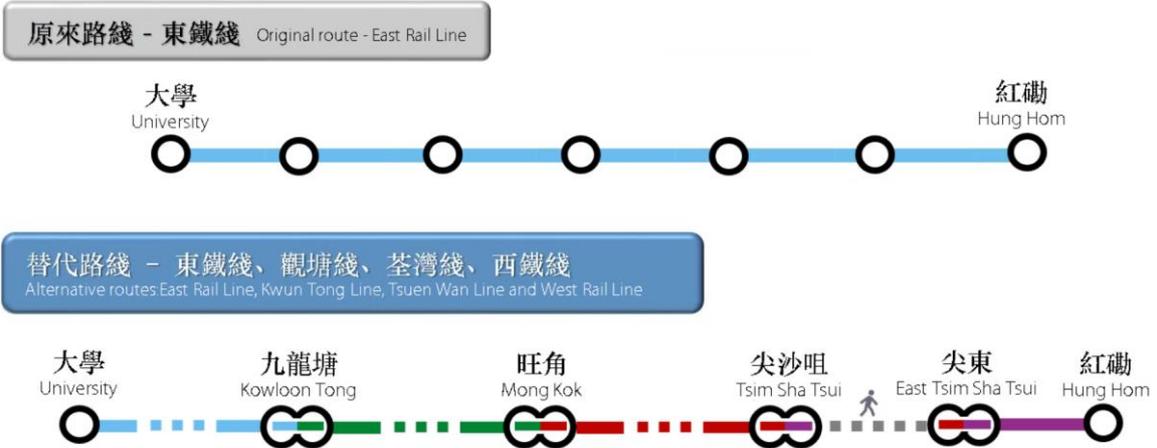
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**1月10日 (星期日) 10/1/2021 (Sunday)**

下次日期將視乎進度再作公布 The next date will be announced based on updated work schedules

4. Passengers are advised to take alternative routes during the service adjustment :

Example 1: From University Station to Hung Hom Station



Example 2: From Tsuen Wan West Station to Sha Tin Station

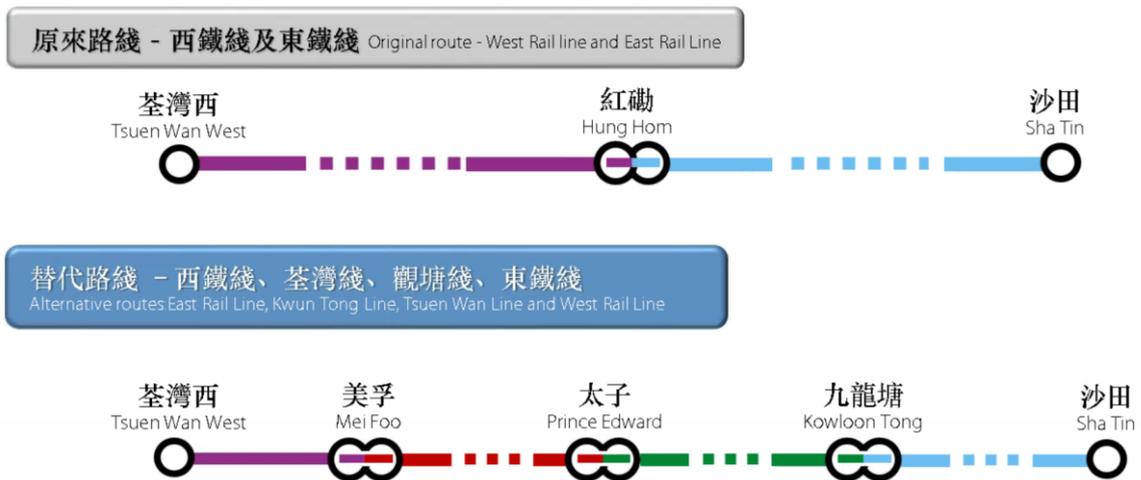


Photo captions

1. Mr James Chow, Divisional General Manager – Projects Construction (left), and Mr Sammy Wong, Chief of Operating (right), of MTR Corporation explain the bifurcation works and highlight the assistance and information to be provided to passengers during the service adjustment. They also appeal to passengers to reserve enough time for their journey and make advance journey planning with MTR Mobile for alternative routes on those Sundays.

