



## Downtown Line 1: The Beginning

Part 1 of Connect's series on the Downtown Line 1 (DTL1), which is opening at the end of this year, goes back to its beginnings in 2001. DTL1 consists of six stations: It will connect existing stations at Bugis, Promenade, Bayfront and Chinatown, to new stations at Downtown and Telok Ayer. The 4.3km line is fully underground and will open by the end of 2013.

LTA's Deputy Group Director, Policy and Planning Ms Lina Lim talks about how the idea for the line came about.

### **When and why was the idea of DTL1 first mooted?**

To meet Singapore's growth and travel demand, we recognised that additional radial lines were required to bring commuters from residential areas such as Bukit Timah and Bedok more directly to the City. At the same time, there was a need for greater connectivity within the City itself. Hence, the DTL was conceptualised as a central loop within the City supported by radial extensions towards the East and West. The idea behind DTL arose from the 2001 Concept Plan.



## Were there any concerns which were expressed at the time?

As DTL1 would run within the densely built-up city central, there were concerns on the construction challenges and the need to minimise impact to existing land uses.

## Why was this particular route chosen for DTL1? What was the thinking behind the exact station locations?

The DTL1 alignment was planned to link up major activity nodes within the City, such as Chinatown, Bugis and Marina Bay. In addition, the DTL1 provides interconnectivity with other lines within the City like the East-West Line, Circle Line and North East Line. In deciding on the station locations, we wanted to maximise the connectivity benefits to commuters. For example, the new Marina Bay business district is served centrally by the Downtown station, which is located close to developments like the Marina Bay Financial Centre.

## In the overall train network, what role does DTL1 play?

With DTL1, places in the city will become more accessible than ever. Areas like Telok Ayer and the Marina Bay financial district would have an MRT station at their doorstep. Commuters would be able to travel directly from Bugis to Chinatown without transferring, making it even easier to eat, shop and work in the City. Together with the other rail lines envisioned in the Land Transport Master Plan by 2020, the DTL will help to achieve LTA's vision for commuters within the Central Area to be able to access an MRT station within a five minute walk, on average.

