

Joint News Release

Date of Issue: 27 February 2009

BLE Pioneer and Joo Koon stations to commence operation tomorrow

1. The Land Transport Authority (LTA) and SMRT are pleased to announce that the Boon Lay Extension (BLE), consisting of the two new stations at Pioneer and Joo Koon, will commence operation from tomorrow, 28 February 2009 at 5.28 am.
2. The 3.8km BLE links the residential and industrial areas of Pioneer and Joo Koon to the existing East-West Line from Boon Lay Station, making it possible for more commuters to have direct access to the MRT system. With the opening of the BLE, commuters living and working in the Pioneer and Joo Koon areas will enjoy savings in travel time of as much as 15 minutes.
3. Costing S\$436 million, construction of the BLE started in August 2005. With the opening of the BLE, the current East-West Line will be extended to 49.2km and 31 stations.
4. The Minister for Transport and the Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Raymond Lim was guest-of-honour at the opening ceremony of the BLE. Grassroots leaders, residents and representatives of businesses located along the BLE alignment were also present.
5. “This is indeed a joyous occasion as it signifies that the wait is finally over for those living and working in the Joo Koon and Pioneer areas. Many will now enjoy the convenience of having direct MRT access to homes or offices without having to transfer to a feeder bus at the Boon Lay interchange. The challenges of the BLE construction require not only close and stringent management of the project to ensure it is within schedule and budget, but also that the construction must be carried out safely. I am proud that the project team had taken great care to ensure minimal environmental impact and inconvenience to the community. LTA would like to express our sincerest appreciation to the Advisers, grassroots and community for their support and understanding during the construction period,” said Mr Yam Ah Mee, LTA’s Chief Executive.
6. SMRT Corporation President and CEO Ms Saw Phaik Hwa said, “SMRT is happy to serve commuters living and working around Pioneer and

Joo Koon MRT stations. Our staff have been preparing for revenue service in the past few months to ensure that we are ready to provide a safe, reliable and pleasant travel experience to commuters. We believe residents and workers will enjoy greater convenience of direct travel with the opening of these two new stations.”

7. For those who work in the vicinity, this extension will offer an added travel option and convenience. Mr Joel Khoa, who works at the Singapore Discovery Centre said: "I stay in Yishun and have to leave my house at 7am to take the MRT to Jurong East Station to transfer to my company shuttle bus. I would like to try out the new route of coming to work. If it is faster to get to work from Joo Koon Station, I may change my travelling pattern.”

BLE Photography Competition

8. To commemorate the completion of BLE, LTA organised a photography competition from 9 January to 2 February 2009.

9. The competition attracted some 102 entries from local residents aged 14 to 40 years old. The theme “*Closer to Home*” resulted in many entries depicting the integration of transport nodes, which is how the public see their transport network. The winning entries were selected by an independent panel of judges. The first, second and third prize winners won cash prizes of \$1000, \$500 and \$300 respectively. Merit award winners won \$100 each.

10. The Minister for Transport and the Second Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Raymond Lim presented the prizes to the 10 winners. The winning entries will be displayed as posters at the two BLE stations for three months.

Attached:

Annex 1 - BLE Factsheet

Annex 2 - BLE Location Map

For enquiries, please contact:

For matters pertaining to the Boon Lay Extension project:

Land Transport Authority: Penny Chua

Deputy Manager, Media Relations

DID : 6396 1964 HP 9651 7055

Email : media@lta.gov.sg

For matters pertaining to train operations:

SMRT:

Bernadette Low

Manager, Corporate Marketing & Communications

SMRT Corporation Ltd

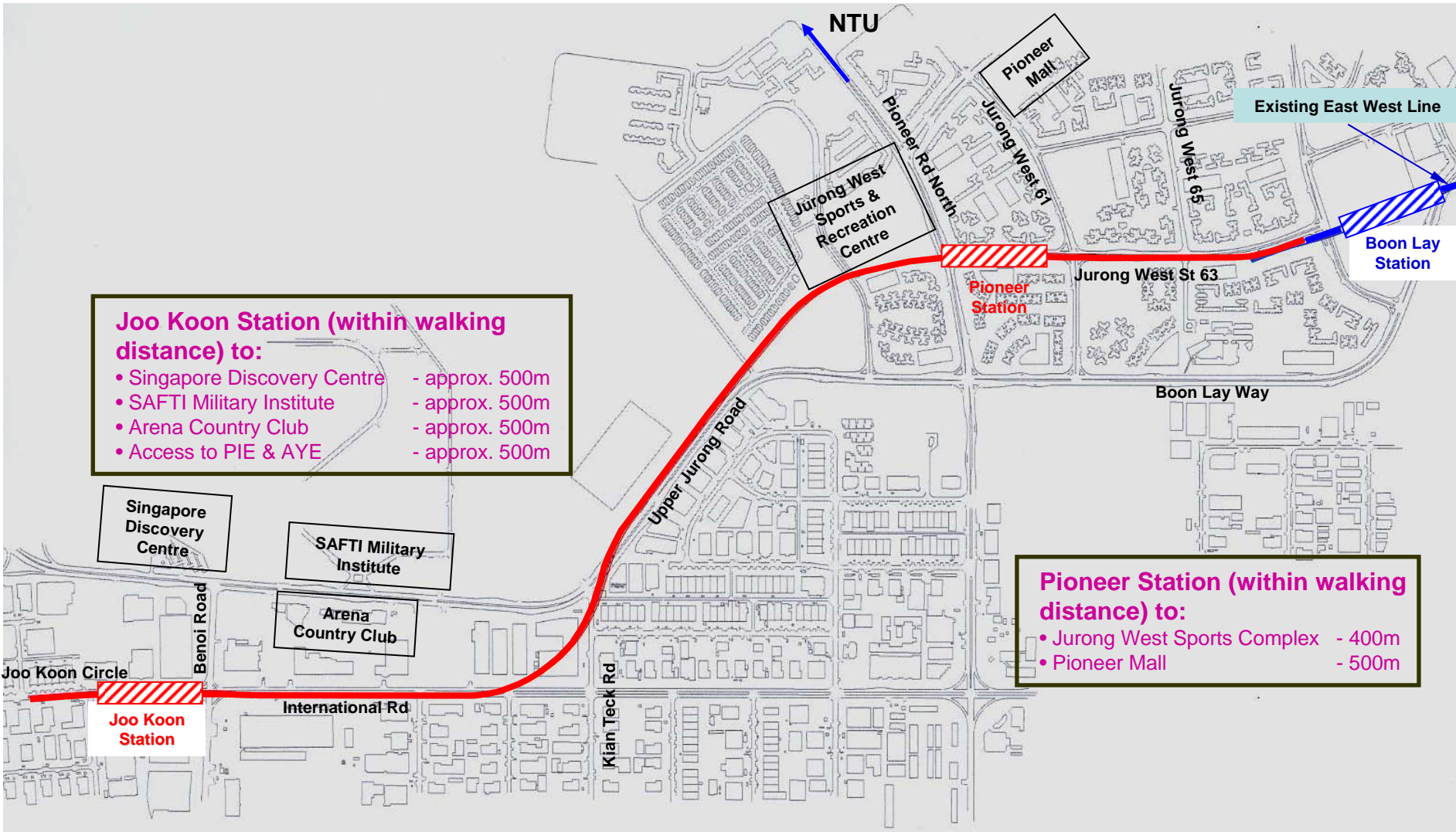
DID: 6331 1143 HP: 97453657

Email: BernadetteLow@smrt.com.sg

BOON LAY MRT EXTENSION

1. The Boon Lay MRT Extension (BLE) is an extension of the existing East-West Line from Boon Lay Station. The BLE consists of two aboveground stations and a twin-tracked viaduct with a length of 3.8km.
2. The BLE starts from the existing Boon Lay Station and runs along Jurong West Street 63, Upper Jurong Road, International Road and terminates at Joo Koon Circle. The first station, Pioneer Station, is located at Jurong West Street 63 near the junction with Pioneer Road North and the second station, Joo Koon Station, at Joo Koon Circle adjacent to the junction with Benoi Road.
3. The BLE will benefit the residents living in the Jurong West Town and those working in the Jurong Industrial Estate by reducing the travel time by up to 15 minutes and enhancing the connectivity between the Jurong West area and the other parts of Singapore.
4. BLE stations are designed to be compliant with the Code of Barrier Free Accessibility. Commuters can utilise the lifts for access to the stations. In addition, ramps and tactile routes will be provided to cater for those with special needs.
5. Commuter facilities such as covered linkways have also been built for a seamless connection between the station entrance/exit and the nearest bus-stop or taxi/passengers pick-up point.
6. The main Civil contract was awarded to Sato Kogyo-Greearth Construction Joint Venture (SGJV) in August 2005.
7. The other Electrical and Mechanical (E&M) contracts were awarded to Westinghouse Brake & Signals Holdings Ltd, Balfour Beatty-Gammon Joint Venture, Singapore Technologies Electronics Limited, Meiden S'pore Pte Ltd, SMRT Trains Ltd, KONE Pte Ltd, Chevalier S'pore Holdings Pte Ltd, NCS Communications Engineering Pte Ltd and LinkForce S'pore Pte Ltd.

Boon Lay Extension Location Map



Joo Koon Station (within walking distance) to:

- Singapore Discovery Centre - approx. 500m
- SAFTI Military Institute - approx. 500m
- Arena Country Club - approx. 500m
- Access to PIE & AYE - approx. 500m

Pioneer Station (within walking distance) to:

- Jurong West Sports Complex - 400m
- Pioneer Mall - 500m