

# Three more City Direct bus services on the way

## Relief for Eunos, Hougang and Bedok residents; 10 more planned

THREE new City Direct bus services will begin operations in the next few weeks to serve residents in Eunos, Bedok and Hougang.

Running more or less parallel to MRT routes, they join 11 others rolled out since late 2012 to alleviate crowding on trains during weekday peak periods.

The Land Transport Authority said about 10 more such services are in the pipeline.

Eunos City Direct Service (CDS) 658 will start on May 19. It will ply Bedok Reservoir Road, Kaki Bukit Avenue 1, Jalan Damai

and Jalan Eunos before taking the Pan-Island Expressway and East Coast Parkway (ECP) to get to the Central Business District (CBD). On weekday evenings, the service will take commuters from Anson Road, Robinson Road and Marina Boulevard back to Eunos.

Bedok CDS 659 will start on June 9. It will travel from Bedok South Road and cover Bedok South Avenue 3, New Upper Changi Road, Bedok North Road, Bedok North Avenue 2 and Bedok North Street 3 before heading towards Central Boulevard and

Shenton Way via PIE and ECP.

Similarly, it will bring commuters back to the Bedok housing estates on weekday evenings.

Hougang CDS 660 will start on June 23. It will ply Buangkok Green, Hougang Street 91, Hougang Avenue 4 and Avenue 8 towards Ang Mo Kio Avenue 3 before heading to the CBD via the Central Expressway during the morning peak.

The three new services will be operated by Aedge Holdings, as part of the state-funded billion-dollar Bus Service Enhancement Programme to relieve crowding on MRT trains before new rail lines come onstream.

Of the 14 bus services that run parallel to MRT lines, four are op-

erated by the two main public transport operators, while 10 are operated by private operators.

The move to beef up bus services along MRT routes contrasts with the “bus rationalisation exercises” of the 1990s and early 2000s. From 1991 to 1994, some 140 bus services were either scrapped or altered to avoid duplicating the MRT system.

In 2003, at least a dozen routes were scrapped when the North East Line opened, upsetting thousands of Hougang and Serangoon residents. Besides SBS Transit and SMRT services, supplementary Scheme B buses – run by private operators – were also “rationalised”.

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