

The Straits Times

www.straitstimes.com

Jan 26, 2010

Adding more trips doesn't necessarily increase commuter comfort

SMRT's reply that it has 'added 1,000 extra train trips each week' ('How commuters can help in peak-hour crush', last Wednesday) says nothing about improvements in passenger comfort if the resultant number is not sufficient to cope with passenger demand.

Last year, the Boon Lay extension opened and the Circle Line partly opened, so the additional train trips would have serviced the new lines in addition to the already congested network. In fact, the number of trains remained unchanged at 106 as the network grew to include new rail lines and stations. In addition, it was not mentioned if the extra train trips serviced the entire length of each line in the network, or were largely to halve waiting times on short trips during SMRT's Lunchtime Xpress.

SMRT employees might want to try boarding a west-bound train at Kallang MRT station during morning peak hour, or the 6pm east-bound train at City Hall MRT station if that is closer to SMRT headquarters.

Tan Shao Yi