

Public should voice its view on new rail project

I WAS looking for some information on the My Rapid Transit when I came across an article on the High Speed Rail (HSR) which was published last year. It mentioned about a pre-feasibility study being carried out and that a full study would start this year.

A source from the industry said it was too early to reveal anything although he confirmed that a preliminary feasibility study has been completed.

The idea is to cut travel time from Kuala Lumpur to Singapore from approximately four hours to two hours

and a half as the train could travel between 250 to 300kph. It will also make major towns along the route within our reach by improving connectivity with appropriate placing of the stations.

It was also reported that some transport agencies involved in the planning had proposed to have stops in Negri Sembilan, Malacca and Johor.

He said the HSR will not only reduce travel time but also enhance the comfort for

commuters. With the HSR, I can imagine going back to my hometown easily instead of taking an express bus or driving there.

As usual, among the concerns raised were land acquisition and suitability to our land topography compared to a bigger country like Japan which has successfully used the system.

The service can also boost tourism. Those

ing much time travelling will definitely appreciate the service.

There is also the issue of competition with express bus and airline services. It was also reported that the proposal had received opposition from Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd which believes it may become redundant with the new service.

I think the line should be accessible to places that are not served by KTM. HSR could be an alternative service for commuters, and not replace KTM's service along the same stretch.

The bigger a public project is, the

more people should be engaged with the whole process — from its survey, public display, hearing, and right up to its implementation.

The public should grab any opportunity to come forward and make their voice heard.

Make your statement known to the right people, those who are in charge, and not just through channels that you may think appropriate like blogs and websites.

In that respect, it should be a critical discussion instead of saying things like "this is a good example of things that should not be done".



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who want to sightsee without wast-