

PRESS RELEASE

PENANG MOVES CLOSER TO A BETTER TRANSPORT NETWORK WITH GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF BANDAR BARU AYER ITAM (FARLIM) TO LEBUHRAYA TUN DR LIM CHONG EU BY-PASS

GEORGETOWN, PULAU PINANG – The move by the Penang State Government to provide a better transport network and ease traffic congestion reached a significant milestone with a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the commencement of the construction of a 6.0 KM Bandar Baru Ayer Itam (Farlim) to Lebuhraya Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu by-pass ("Package 2 Project") held at Farlim Night Market, Medan Angsana, Bandar Baru Ayer Itam today.

The ceremony was officiated by Chief Minister YAB Chow Kon Yeow. Also in attendance were Penang EXCO members and officials from Consortium Zenith Construction Sdn Bhd (CZC), the main contractor of the Package 2 Project, led by its Chairman, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Haji Azmi bin Khalid and Senior Executive Directors - Dato' Zarul Ahmad bin Mohd Zulkifli and Dato' Lee Chee Hoe.

Among the major benefits the Package 2 Project brings is to cut travelling time from Ayer Itam to Lebuhraya Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu from 40 minutes to only 5 minutes, easing traffic congestion as it serves as an alternative route for commuters to reach the northern and southern parts of the island.

The Package 2 Project is one of the four road infrastructure developments under the Penang Major Roads and Third Link (PMRT) project, conceived by the Penang State Government as part of the Penang Transport Master Plan (PTMP).

The PTMP was formulated to develop a holistic transport network that could promote economic and social balance for the people. This is a key step taken by the Penang State Government in driving the state towards modernization and smart city status as well as providing higher income and better quality of life to Penangites.

Other projects under the PMRT are the North Coastal Paired Road (Package 1), Persiaran Gurney – Lebuhraya Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu By-pass (Package 3) and the Third Link (Package 4). The Package 2 Project launched today is the first project under PMRT to start construction.

Commenting on the Package 2 Project, Chairman of CZC, Tan Sri Dato' Seri Haji Azmi said, "The construction of the by-pass is a testimony of the State Government's push to implement a long-term solution for Penang to accommodate the rising number of vehicles and in ensuring that the state is able to sustain the demands of existing and future growth centres in the island".

"In addition, motorists would benefit from a more convenient commute and less time spent on the road daily. This would in turn translate into more quality and productive

time at work or home. With smoother travel, costs such as petrol and car maintenance, could also potentially be reduced," he added.

"CZC looks forward to partner with the State Government in undertaking this important and timely infrastructure development for the island and we believe it is one of the many links that will transform Penang into a modern and smart state in the near future," the Chairman said.

The dual carriageway by-pass (4 lanes) is toll-free. Its alignment runs from Lebuhraya Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu beside Jalan Aquarium, through RESCAM and Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, Jalan Lembah, Jalan Yeap Chor Ee, Jalan Bukit Gambir to Lebuhraya Thean Teik and Jalan Thean Teik.

The alignment is proposed to be elevated from Lebuhraya Tun Dr. Lim Chong Eu to Jalan Yeap Chor Ee and from Island Glades to Lebuhraya Thean Teik. There will be 3 interchanges, namely at Lebuhraya Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, Jalan Bukit Gambir, Lebuhraya Thean Teik and Jalan Thean Teik.

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ABOUT CONSORTIUM ZENITH CONSTRUCTION SDN BHD

Consortium Zenith Construction Sdn Bhd was incorporated as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) on 5 July 2012 to undertake the Penang Major Roads and Third Link (PMRT) project which it won through an open tender in 2013. There are four packages under the PMRT project, namely the North Coastal Paired Road (Package 1), Bandar Baru Ayer Itam (Farlim) to Lebuhraya Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu by-pass (Package 2), Persiaran Gurney – Lebuhraya Tun Dr. Lim Chong Eu By-pass (Package 3) and the Third Link (Package 4). The Bandar Baru Ayer Itam (Farlim) to Lebuhraya Tun Dr Lim Chong Eu by-pass is the first project to take off, with the remaining to be implemented in phases.