

DBKL studying alignment strategy

Project aims to provide 'missing' links that could ease traffic jam, says mayor

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) is studying the feasibility of an alignment project to ease traffic congestion.

"These alignments are to provide links, which are currently 'missing', to connect existing highways and expressways that facilitate traffic flow into the city centre," said mayor Datuk Mahadi Che Ngah (*pic*).

While acknowledging the role public transport plays in solving traffic woes faced by city folk, he said the alignment project would go a long way in easing congestion by reducing the number of vehicles entering the city each day.

"Our primary and ultimate aim is to get city folk to use public trans-



port, and we are working on fulfilling that aim by providing free bus service and improving park-and-ride facilities as well as pedestrian linkages," he said.

"But we also need to reduce the number of vehicles, which is over 2.8 million currently, coming into the city centre every day," he told *The Star*.

Mahadi became the mayor effective Oct 1 for a two-year term.

Since his appointment to the top post in the capital city's administration, he has made the city's traffic congestion issue one of his top three priorities along with that of flood mitigation and strengthening urban governance within DBKL's administration.

According to him, three alignments have been identified thus far after a special task force was set up to study the city's perennial traffic congestion.

These three are set to tackle traffic flow into the city from the northern,

eastern and southern parts of KL.

"We are studying proposals to connect three highways between one and another for traffic to bypass the local roads," he said, adding that the roadways that form the connections could be of any level in the road hierarchy – a main road or a highway.

The connections being studied include the Setiawangsa-Pantai Expressway (SPE), which serves mainly the proposed Bandar Malaysia, Jalan Duta and DUKE 1, the Latar Highway (KL-Kuala Selangor Expressway) that goes through Jalan Ipoh and Jalan Kuching to Duke 1 and the New Pantai Expressway that brings traffic from Subang Jaya to Jalan Bangsar.

In addition to the alignment project, the task force is also looking at

improving signalised junctions using the diverted diamond interchange method in the short term.

Areas identified for this include Jalan Pudu, Jalan Imbi and Jalan Hang Tuah where peak hour congestion is at its worst.

"We are still studying these proposals and once we are ready we will take it to the ministry," Mahadi said, referring to the Federal Territories Ministry.

"We hope that in the next 100 days, we can at least see some improvements in KL's traffic system."



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