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Tuesday, 15 September 2015

Bukit Chagar picked as main RTS terminal

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JOHOR BARU: Bukit Chagar here has been chosen as the main terminal for the Rapid Transit System (RTS) linking Johor Baru and Singapore.

Transport Minister Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said the decision was made after obtaining approval from both the Federal and state governments.

“We hope that the project will take off as soon as possible as both countries have agreed about the need for faster connectivity between Malaysia and Singapore.

“Detailed plans for the RTS project are being handled by the Economic Planning Unit under the Prime Minister’s Department,” he said when met after launching the roof of SJK(C) Pei Hwa 2 here recently.

The Bangunan Sultan Iskandar Customs, Immigration and Quarantine (CIQ) complex is also located in Bukit Chagar.

Prime ministers Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Lee Hsien Loong had in February 2013 announced that they had agreed to the development of the RTS and the high speed rail link. The RTS will link Johor Baru and Singapore and is expected to be up and running by 2018.

Meanwhile, Liow also said the ministry is looking at ways to ease congestion among major roads within Iskandar Malaysia.

He added that the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (Irda) had proposed that a bus rapid system be introduced as well as expanding the use of rail.

“Congestion on the Pasir Gudang highway is getting worse and the ministry has taken several steps to help ease the problem including directing all trailers travelling to Johor Port to stop using the road.

“Instead, all cargo should be moved via rail from the Johor Port to the Port of Tanjung Pelepas and we have plans that commuter trains also use the same track,” he said.