

**Thesis title:**

Methodology to Develop a Feeder Bus Network for Fort - Malabe LRT Line

**Abstract:**

The Cabinet of Sri Lanka in March 2018 approved construction of a Light Railway Transit (LRT) from Malabe to Fort on completion of the feasibility study. The LRT line is proposed to be an elevated of 15.3 km in length going mainly on center median of the existing roads. It is expected to be operational by the year 2024 and expects to ease the congestion along the highly congested Malabe Colombo corridor.

The proposed LRT system is expected to carry almost 360,000 and 500,000 passengers per day in year 2025 and year 2035 respectively. The passengers have access to the LRT system through 15 proposed stations at Fort, Transport Centre (Maradana), St Joseph's College, National Hospital, Borella, Cotta Road, Welikada, Rajagiriya, Sethsiripaya, Battaramulla, Robert Gunawardena Mw, Lumbini Temple, Talahena, Malabe and IT Park.

Among other modes, route buses will be one of the main access modes for the LRT passengers. However, the bus routes along the LRT corridor currently are more competitive rather than complimentary for the LRT line which is detrimental for both modes. While LRT is more efficient in connecting longer distances, the buses play a pivotal role of collecting the passengers and reaching to more residential communities.

Therefore, there is a need for evaluating and developing a methodology of feeder bus routes to supplement the LRT route that is been proposed.