

Infrastructure Gradually Improving to Build a Beautiful and Liveable Home

In line with the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and under the premise of the Second Five-Year Plan for Economic and Social Development of the Macao Special Administrative Region, the Government continued implementing various initiatives in public housing, transportation, environmental protection, urban planning, and public infrastructure.



Macao Bridge opens for traffic

The Macao Bridge officially opened to traffic on 1 October 2024. As an important transportation infrastructure adjacent to the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, the Macao Bridge not only enhances Macao's overall transportation network, but also affords more convenient travel for residents and tourists.

Construction of the Macao Bridge officially began on 26 March 2020, and the main structure was completed on 12 March 2024. The bridge starts at the east wing of Macao New Urban Zone Area A, connects with the Artificial Island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, crosses the Outer Harbour Channel and the Macao Channel, and ends at Macao New Urban Zone Area E1, with a viaduct reserved for future connection to the Taipa Grande Tunnel. The 3.1-kilometre-long bridge includes an approximately two-kilometre-long cross-sea section. It features two navigable spans for passing vessels, each measuring 280 metres in width. The bridge is designed to support eight lanes, including two in the middle that are exclusively for motorcycles.

The opening of the Macao Bridge effectively alleviated the traffic pressure on the existing three bridges, thus improving the capacity of traffic between the Macao peninsula, Taipa, and Coloane island, and accommodating the transportation needs of New Urban Reclamation Zone A's development. In the early stages of the Macao Bridge's operation, it diverted approximately 10 percent of the traffic volume from the Friendship Bridge. The traffic volume from the original Zone A to Taipa via the Friendship Bridge decreased significantly, by 93 percent, demonstrating the bridge's increasingly effective role in redistributing traffic in the surrounding areas.

LRT development enters a new phase

In 2024, the development of Macao's Light Rail Transit (LRT) entered a new phase with the openings of the Seac Pai Van Line and the Hengqin Line, providing residents and tourists with more comfortable and convenient travel options.

On 1 November, the LRT Seac Pai Van Line officially opened, marking the first network interchange for the Macao LRT system beyond the Taipa Line, extending services to the Seac Pai Van community.

The Seac Pai Van Line is 1.6 kilometres long. It not only provides a faster and smoother travel option for residents and tourists travelling to Seac Pai Van and Coloane, allowing easier access to various districts in Taipa and the Barra area, but also provides important experience to benefit the future opening of other new lines. The total travel time on the Macao LRT Seac Pai Van Line is approximately two minutes, with trains running at intervals of about six minutes.

The LRT Hengqin Line opened to traffic on 2 December, making it more convenient for residents and tourist to access the Hengqin port, and creating a closer connection between Macao and Hengqin.

The LRT Hengqin Line is approximately 2.2 kilometres long and has two stations: Lotus Station and Hengqin Station. The total travel time is about two minutes, with trains running at intervals of approximately six minutes. The line provides residents and tourist with another convenient and efficient transportation option to and from Hengqin port, facilitating Macao's integration into the "Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area one-hour living circle".

The LRT, as an environmentally friendly and convenient form of public transportation, not only supports Macao's overall public transport capacity and alleviates road traffic, but also serves as key infrastructure for promoting the region's sustainable development.

The MSAR Government continued the project to construct the LRT East Line project, which began in 2023. The line will be approximately 7.7 kilometres long, connecting New Urban Zone Areas A and E, and connecting with the LRT Taipa Line, further meeting the travel needs of residents and tourists. The Government is also creating favourable conditions for facilitating the westward extension of the East Line to the Qingmao Checkpoint.

Constructing a tunnel linking Zone A and the Macao peninsula

In line with the overall development schedule of New Urban Zone Area A, a series of connecting roadworks between Zone A and the Macao peninsula will be constructed, while also taking the opportunity to reorganise the surrounding road network. Four connecting roads have been planned between Zone A and the Macao peninsula. Among them, the A1 connecting bridge is already in use, part of the A2 connecting bridge has been opened to traffic, and work on the remaining projects is progressing on schedule.

The construction of a bridge connecting New Urban Reclamation Zone A and the Macao peninsula (A3) began construction in the second quarter of 2024. On the Macao peninsula side, the bridge has four access ramps connecting to the Friendship Bridge, the Friendship Bridge access ramp, Avenida da Amizade and the Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal Road. It will also

provide access to the viaduct that connects to the Fourth Macao-Taipa Bridge boundary-crossing checkpoint located in Zone A.

With the development of New Urban Zone Area A and Area B, as well as the completion and operation of the Artificial Island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, there is a need to effectively manage the resulting traffic flow demands. The construction of vehicle flyovers in Areas A and B will provide essential transportation links and support for the development of the New Urban Areas.

Optimising detailed urban planning

The Government has carried out detailed planning for various planning zones, including Eastern District-2, Outer Harbour District-1, Outer Harbour District-2, Northern District-1, and Taipa Central District-2. Among these, the Detailed Plan for Eastern District-2 has already been published, in March 2024.

The Eastern District-2 is on the eastern side of the Macao peninsula, with a reclaimed land area of approximately 1.38 square kilometres and a projected residential population of 96,000 people. The Marine Functional Zoning of the Macao Special Administrative Region and the Maritime Planning of the Macao Special Administrative Region came into effect in July 2024.

The latest edition of the Atlas of Macao was released in November 2024. This updated atlas not only records the urban development of Macao through conventional topographic maps, but also incorporates advanced surveying and mapping technologies such as satellite imagery and aerial photography by drones to serve as an up-to-date record of the region. Atlas of Macao – 2024 has abundant content, covering detailed street maps, satellite image maps, planning and zoning maps, maps of land formation at different stages, and geographical statistics and other elements. In addition, a special series of topics including Roaming Along the Macao Coastline and Review of Macao's Urban Infrastructure have been added.

Promoting the construction of major projects

The pre-reclamation flood control and environmental monitoring for the expansion of Macau International Airport have been completed. The reclamation project for the expansion of Macau International Airport commenced in November 2024, with the entire project expected to be completed by 2030. In the first phase after completion of the reclamation, the airport's annual passenger handling capacity will be increased to 13 million.

The construction of a rainwater pumping station and sewer project in the southern area of the Inner Harbour is one of the MSAR Government's major disaster prevention initiatives. The rainwater pumping station is designed to cope with 50-year return period rainfall, aiming to alleviate the long-standing flooding issues in the Inner Harbour area arising from its low-lying terrain. The first phase of the project mainly involves the construction of a large rainwater pumping station and wastewater treatment facility structural platform. Construction commenced in November 2022 and was completed in July 2024. Meanwhile, the design of the Flood Prevention and Drainage at West Coloane (also known as the Two Lakes Project) has been finalised, and construction has commenced.

Optimising the transportation system and municipal facilities

The Civil Aviation Activity Law and the Road Traffic Law have been submitted to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation. The new Road Traffic Law will include stronger penalties for offences such as driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and speeding and other violations. It will also expand the mandatory use of seat belts and prohibit the use of mobile phones, other telecommunications devices, and audiovisual equipment while driving.

The annual vehicle growth rate in Macao has been kept below three percent. A total of 33 traffic improvement and efficiency enhancement projects have been completed. Several elevated pedestrian corridors and footbridges have also been brought into use, effectively improving road traffic conditions. Five hundred new taxis with licences valid for eight years have been put into operation.

Work on the second phase of the green promenade along the southern shores of the Macao peninsula has commenced, covering a total area of approximately 60,000 square metres. The project design focuses on three main themes for its functional spaces: family recreation, leisure and fitness, and waterfront scenery, providing residents with a high-quality, large-scale waterfront leisure and recreation space.

Enhancements to public wet markets are being implemented, optimising their management and business operations to revitalise their image. This work included the two-year project on renovating the Almirante Lacerda Market, which reopened to the public in the second quarter of 2024.

Endeavouring to Improve People's Livelihoods and Enhancing the Living Standards of Macao Residents

