

TASKFORCE TO SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEM (RTS) LINK

1. The Ministry of Trade & Industry (MTI) has announced the formation of a Taskforce on 16 March 2025, to help Singaporeans and local businesses seize opportunities and reap benefits from the impending completion of the Johor Bahru-Singapore Rapid Transit System (RTS) Link.
2. The formation of the Taskforce was announced by Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Ministry of Trade and Industry Alvin Tan at the Merchant Dollar Deal\$ @ Woodlands on 16 March at 10:30am.
3. The Taskforce is chaired by Minister of State Alvin Tan and comprises members from MTI, MND, MOM, MOH, EnterpriseSG, HDB, URA and Woodlands Health. Grassroots Advisors Ms Mariam Jaafar and Ms Hany Soh have been invited to serve as resource persons and work with the Taskforce to engage stakeholders such as local businesses, heartland shops and Merchants' Associations on ideas to rejuvenate our heartlands and make them more vibrant.
4. The Taskforce's objectives are to:
 - a. Study how we can tap on the potential and benefits from the RTS Link to rejuvenate our heartlands; and
 - b. Consider opportunities for Singapore businesses with the increased connectivity and ease of travel offered by the RTS Link.
5. The RTS Link is targeted to commence passenger service in end-2026, and will provide fast and seamless connectivity between Singapore and Johor Bahru (JB). When ready, the RTS Link will have a peak capacity of up to 10,000 passengers per hour in each direction, with a train journey time of about five minutes between Woodlands North station and Bukit Chagar station.
6. Minister of State Alvin Tan said "Our heartlands are integral to our collective identity as Singaporeans. Our heartland shops are a key part of our daily lives and social fabric. With Singaporeans looking forward to the opening of the RTS Link in end-2026, the Taskforce will work with stakeholders to rejuvenate our heartlands, support our local businesses, and build local spaces that can meet the needs of residents. Given their extensive expertise, I am confident the Taskforce members and advisors will offer insightful perspectives and useful ideas to keep our heartland estates vibrant and help our local enterprises seize new opportunities against the backdrop of the burgeoning potential the RTS Link brings."
7. The Taskforce will consult heartland enterprises and local businesses, and aim to put out its findings and recommendations in 2026.

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