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SMART Road Tunnel to open in March

KUALA LUMPUR: The motorway section of the Storm water Management and Road Tunnel (SMART) project is likely to be opened by the end of March, said Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu.

The project, with flood mitigation facilities, will be completed in June as planned.

The motorway is an alternative route to the city centre for some 200,000 road users on the Sungai Besi highway, cutting traveling time from half an hour to five minutes.



Workers checking the Storm water Management and Road Tunnel (SMART), which will likely be ready for road users in Kuala Lumpur by the end of March. The SMART project is the first of its kind in the world. It is divided into the dry run, and another 11 km that has flood mitigation function.

Figure-1: Upper Deck Lanes

Three routes link to the motorway – Jalan Sungai Besi (beside the RMAF base), Jalan Sultan Ismail (beside Berjaya Times Square) and Jalan Tun Razak (in front of the RHB building).

The RM 1.9 billion project, featured in Discovery Channel's **Extreme Engineering** last year, is to channel floodwater from the Klang River away from the city centre.

Samy Vellu said his ministry would come up with the toll rates in the next two weeks, based on construction, maintenance and bank loan costs.

On why dry testing was only carried out, he said flooding the tunnel would involve a massive clean up.

Kuala Lumpur Flood Mitigation Project (KLFMP) project director K.J. Abraham earlier briefed Deputy Home Affairs Minister Datuk Tan Chai Ho and MPs on the progress of the project.

He said two sets of gates – emergency and service – would ensure the safety of road users during a storm.

“When there is a moderate storm, vehicles can still use the tunnel but it will be closed during a severe storm,” he said, adding that two or three severe storms may happen in Kuala Lumpur in a year.

“It is designed to address the most severe floods that can occur,” he said.