



## Hanoi Metro Line 3 Begins Commercial Operation

On August 8, after about 14 years of construction, a section of Hanoi Metro Line 3 (Van Mieu Line) began operating. This 12.5 km line connects Nhon Station in western Hanoi to Hanoi Station. Following the 2021 opening of Line 2A (Cat Linh Line), this is the second metro line to open. Currently, only the 8.5 km elevated section from Nhon Station to Cau Giay Station is in service; the remaining 4 km underground section is still under construction. For first 15 days from August 8, the line was open for free, attracting many riders over the weekend. According to Hanoi Metro, the operating company, the number of passengers exceeded 250,000 during the first four days from August 8 to 11. On the first Sunday, August 11, the number of passengers surpassed 100,000, which is significantly higher compared to the daily record of 58,000 passengers on Line 2A, indicating strong future growth potential for Line 3.



The vehicles of Hanoi Metro Line3 (supplied by Alstom)  
The symbol of Hanoi Metro is displayed in the center  
※photo by JSI



Areas around Nhon station are expected significant development  
※photo by JSI

### History and Future of Railways in the City

Urban railway development in Hanoi was first mentioned in the 1998 “2020 Master Plan”, and investigations began in 2004. In 2010, construction of Line 3 started with a budget of 307 million USD from Hanoi City, supplemented by a total of 809 million USD in funding from four organizations: the French government, French Development Agency, Asian Development Bank, and European Investment Bank. Initially, the commercial operation of Line 3 was scheduled to begin in 2018. The construction, primarily led by the French transport consulting firms SYSTRA Group and Alstom, faced significant delays. By 2018, progress was only at 43%, leading to a total of 13 delays until its completion. Currently, the underground section between Cau Giay Station and Hanoi Station is under construction. Tunneling for the railway tracks started on July 30. This part of the project is expected to be completed by 2027, with commercial operation anticipated to begin shortly thereafter. Looking ahead, Hanoi City has ambitious plans to construct 15 metro lines, covering approximately 600 km, by 2045. The total estimated budget for this extensive project is 55.4 billion USD. Funding for these projects will come from the national budget as well as ODA (Official Development Assistance) from various countries. For Line 1, which is currently under development, the Japanese Government supports the project by ODA, and there are also consultancy contracts with Japanese firms. With the opening of new railway lines, it is anticipated that surrounding areas will undergo significant development. The expansion of public transportation is expected not only to boost economic activity by improving mobility but also to offer an environmentally friendly alternative to motorcycles, contributing to better environmental protection. (Author: Japan Securities Co., Ltd. Ryuji Takai)



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