

'LRT can shift people's transport habits'

GEORGE TOWN: A light rail transit system in Penang could play a big role in shifting public attitudes towards using public transport.

Transport expert Professor Datuk Dr Ahmad Farhan Mohd Sadullah, who is Universiti Putra Malaysia vice-chancellor, said work to get Penangites to think of the LRT as a main mode of transport must start now so that they were excited about the service.

"Penang must learn from the mistakes and success of the Klang Valley's rail systems.

"If you miss the window, the task to get people out of their private vehicles will be tougher.

"The likelihood of having a rail system in Penang is at its highest so let's make it work," he said.

Farhan, however, touched on the importance of the alignment of the track as well as first-and-last mile connectivity.

He said as with any transport project, timeliness, proper planning, delivery and efficient operation were critical.

Farhan said based on initial plans, the LRT track passed through the most densely populated areas of Penang.

"But as I said, the first- and last-mile options must be designed from the start and not as an afterthought," he said.



Professor Datuk Dr Ahmad Farhan Mohd Sadullah