

Ferries to the rescue during bridge lane closure

21/8/2017 Star

GEORGE TOWN: Penang Port Commission (PPC) will ensure enough ferry trips throughout the year-long maintenance work on Penang Bridge, which starts tomorrow.

Its chairman Datuk Tan Teik Cheng said at least four ferries would be operating during peak hours between 6am and 9am on weekdays.

"We will monitor the traffic and add more ferry trips should the need arise," he said yesterday.

He said PPC and Penang Port Sdn Bhd expected an increase in demand for ferry services and the ferry schedules would be reshuffled according to the situation.

Earlier, Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) Penang

chairman Datuk Dr Ooi Eng Hock had asked PLUS Malaysia Bhd to work with PPC to increase the frequency of the ferries during the closures.

He also asked that the closures be postponed to Sept 15.

The outermost lane of the mainland-bound side of Penang Bridge will be closed for six months from Tuesday until Feb 21.

After that, from Feb 22 to Aug 21 next year, the outermost lane of the island-bound side will be closed.

The shut-off stretches are 1.4km and 1.7km long.

During these closures, stretches of the innermost lanes will be taken away during rush hour daily to make a contraflow for the opposite side.



Busier days ahead: The demand for ferry services is expected to rise as the year-long maintenance work on the Penang Bridge starts tomorrow.