

PLANNING FOR GROWTH, INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

“We have enjoyed four decades of good economic growth and social development since our independence. We have built Singapore into an efficient city that provides us with a first world living environment.

Looking forward...we must plan for growth...
We have to go out of the way, and think out of the box, to make our quality of life even more attractive. We must invest in our future..”

*Mr Mah Bow Tan
Minister for National Development
URA Corporate Plan Seminar
9 Feb 2007*

LIMITED LAND, INFINITE ASPIRATIONS

Singapore is a small country. Our ability to plan for the longer term and to follow through in the implementation of these plans have helped to bring us to where we are today – an economically vibrant city that is also one of the most liveable cities in Asia.

Now, standing at the threshold of the next 40 years, we are once again gazing into the future and determining the type of Singapore we and our children should live in.

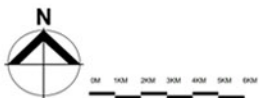
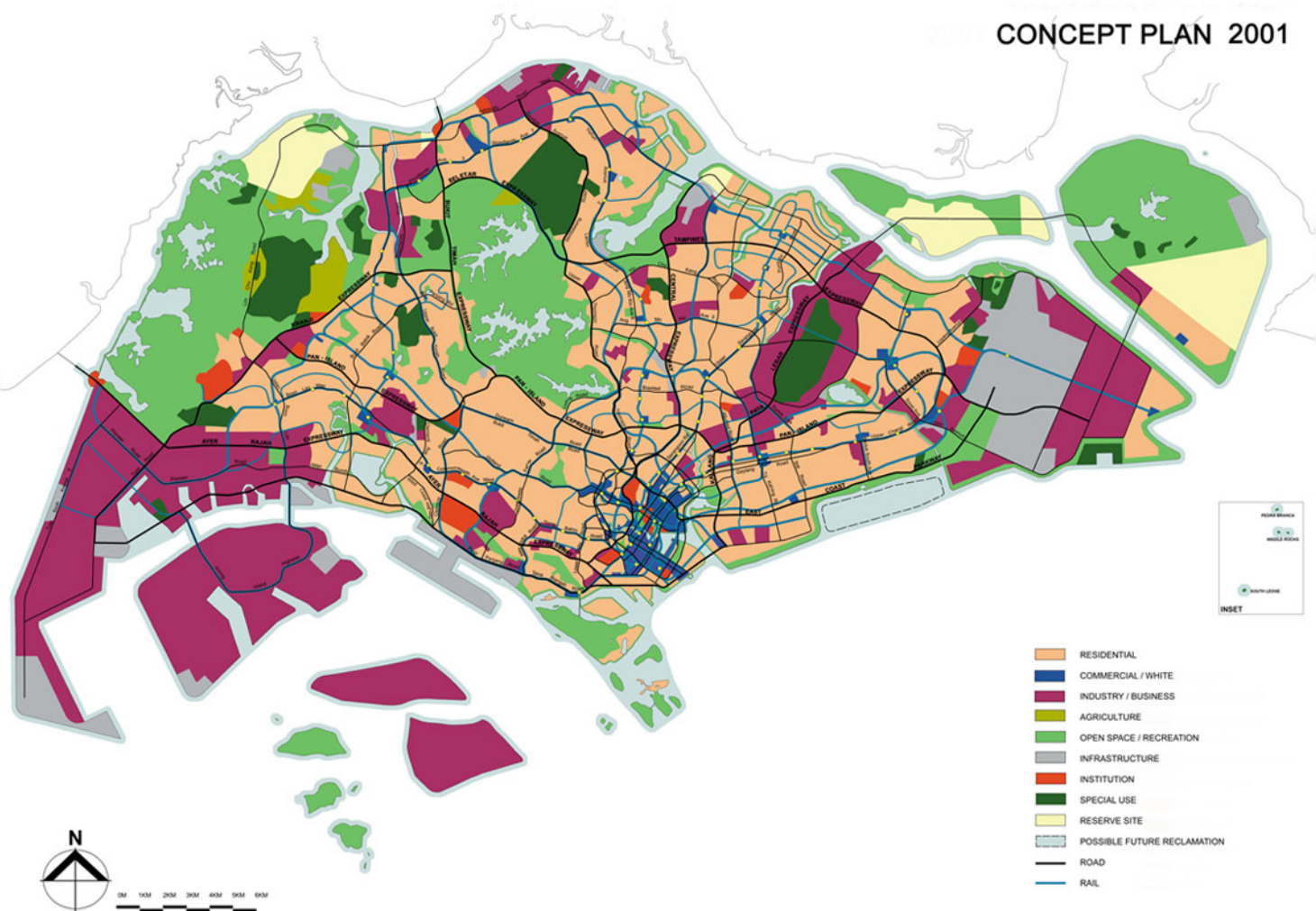


PLANNING FOR GREATER ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND A LARGER POPULATION

CONCEPT PLAN 2001

The Concept Plan maps out the vision for Singapore in the next 40 to 50 years in terms of strategic directions for land use and transportation. It is reviewed every 10 years, taking into account changing economic and population trends and land use needs to guide Singapore's physical growth. The last Concept Plan was completed in 2001. It was based on a long term population parameter of 5.5 million people.

A mid-term review has recently been completed, taking into account recent population trends and the strong economic prospects in future. In 2001, our population was 3.9 million. Today, it is close to 4.5 million. We have therefore revised the long-term population parameter to 6.5 million. This is a realistic number for planners to base their projections and planning methodology on, to ensure that we are ready for future growth opportunities.





Photograph by courtesy of Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore

INCREASE IN LAND NEEDS

In the area of manufacturing, most of the land demand will come from high value-added industries such as petro-chemicals, wafer fab and pharmaceuticals.

New growth sectors will also require more land. For instance, Singapore's aerospace industry has grown by more than 12% annually for the last 15 years. It will require a new aerospace hub near the Seletar Airport in future.

For the tourism sector, Singapore aims to double the number of visitors to 17 million. To achieve this, we need to set aside space for large tourism projects and hotels.



Photograph by courtesy of Singapore Tourism Board

To be a truly world-class trading and transportation hub, we must continue to enhance and upgrade our air and sea ports. We also have to continue to provide excellent infrastructure and utilities to support businesses and homes. Again, all these would require land and investment in strategic infrastructure ahead of time.

More land will be needed to house a larger population comfortably. As our population ages, we will need to enhance the provision of facilities and amenities to better cater to the needs of families and the elderly.

Our Mid-Term Review has concluded that we have sufficient land to cater to our land needs in the future, if we use this precious resource judiciously and wisely.

Our objective is not only to provide sufficient space for a larger population and higher economic growth, but also to maintain a good quality living environment.

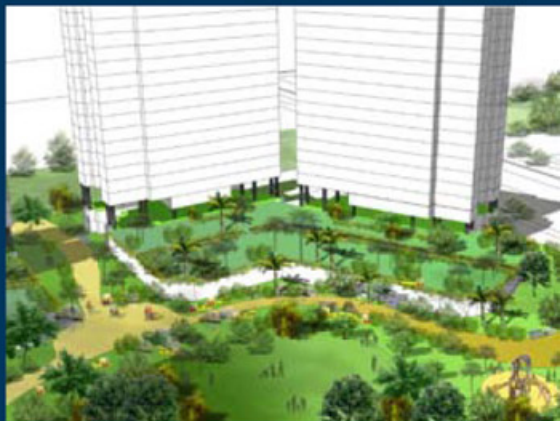


Photograph by courtesy of SPH - Lianhe Zaobao

MEASURES REQUIRED NOW

PUBLIC HOUSING

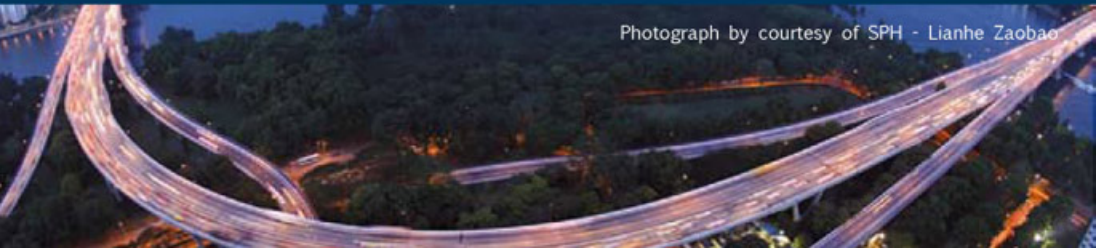
Moving forward, we will go beyond estate upgrading to place greater emphasis on the rejuvenation of our housing estates. We intend to comprehensively redesign these estates to provide greater convenience and comfort to residents. HDB is also exploring the concept of “Housing in a Park,” which will complement our vision for Singapore to be a City in a Garden. The new generation of HDB estates will be built for greater community participation and ownership.



TRANSPORTATION

As our population grows and more visitors make their way to Singapore, greater transportation needs will have to be met. Existing expressways will be upgraded, and many new expressways will be added. We will improve our public transport system even more, so that we are less reliant on private transportation. The Circle Line will add another 33.3 km to our rail network when it opens from 2010 onwards. It will link all existing Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) lines running into the city. Commuters travelling from Serangoon to Paya Lebar will take less than 15 minutes on the Circle Line, compared to about half an hour by bus or MRT today.

Photograph by courtesy of SPH - Lianhe Zaobao





DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF STRATEGIC AREAS

We are also developing certain areas to be the new competitive strengths of Singapore. One such area is the Marina Bay, which will see many new developments over the next few years. The Marina Barrage will be completed by 2007, transforming Marina Bay into a reservoir, which can also be used for recreation. By 2009, the Marina Bay Sands Integrated Resort will be completed. The Sail @ Marina Bay will be completed in the same year, introducing the first residents to Marina Bay. And in the following year, in 2010, the Marina Bay Financial Centre as well as Gardens by the Bay will be completed. These key developments over the next 5 years will help to meet the demand for space for financial, business services, tourism and housing and inject activity and excitement around the Bay.

As part of our strategy to decentralize commercial activities to areas outside the city centre, we have successfully developed Tampines Regional Centre into a vibrant office and retail cum entertainment hub. We will build up another Regional Centre in Jurong, to transform it into a business and transportation hub. Next, we will build up Paya Lebar into a Sub-Regional Centre to serve the eastern part of Singapore, filling in the gap between the city area and Tampines Regional Centre. These centers will not only bring more jobs to people living in the suburban estates, but also provide a wide variety of amenities to the residents.





ENHANCING DISTINCTIVE PLACES

The CBD and Bugis areas will be upgraded with new street furniture, night lighting, enhanced public spaces and pedestrian connections. Other places with distinctive character like Little India, Kampong Glam, Balestier, Siglap Village, etc. will be improved.

CREATING A LUSH GREEN CITY

Another key measure to create a sustainable and attractive city is the greening of Singapore through the provision of attractive new parks and park connectors, as well as vertical and high-rise greenery. We have allocated over 100 ha of prime land around Marina Bay to build three new inter-linked world-class waterfront Gardens at Marina South, Marina East and Marina Centre. More facilities and features will also be added to existing and new parks island-wide such as East Coast Park, Pasir Ris Park, and Horticulture Park to make them more attractive and accessible to visitors. We will also increase the total length of park connectors from 70 km today, to 200 km by 2012, and more than 400 km in the long term.





Photograph by courtesy of Public Utilities Board

ENJOYING OUR WATERBODIES

Apart from greening, we will also be making better use of our waterways and waterbodies. The Active, Beautiful and Clean Waters Programme, or ABC Waters Programme was recently launched, and will transform utilitarian drains and canals into beautiful, flowing streams and rivers.

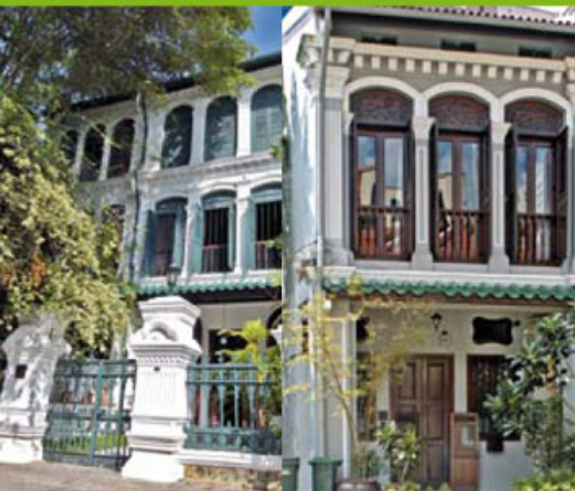
FOSTERING SENSE OF BELONGING AND IDENTITY THROUGH OUR PHYSICAL LANDSCAPE

While Singapore continues to transform, it is important to enhance our sense of identity and identification with our city. Singapore is our home. People must feel this in themselves and in their surroundings. So far, more than 6,500 buildings and structures have been conserved. Retention

of our identity through conservation will become more important as more of our city becomes redeveloped to cater to the needs of a larger population.

“...these are things that we all remember and want our children to remember with us”.

Mr Mah Bow Tan
Minister for National Development
The Straits Times 10 Feb 2007



CONCLUSION

We will plan for growth and invest in our future...With determination, our city will be one that is attractive, bustling and cosmopolitan; with state-of-the-art transport system and infrastructure, well connected land, sea and air links, and areas of nature, history and charm. We will have homes we all look forward to going back to each evening...We will create a global city, which we can call our home.

