

New Valletta terminus design unveiled



The Valletta bus terminus is to be moved to a smaller site in St James Ditch by the time the new public transport service is operational, Transport Minister Austin Gatt revealed on Thursday.

The present site in front of City Gate and surrounding the Triton Fountain is to be pedestrianised, in line with the Renzo Piano project for City Gate.

The designs have been submitted to the Malta Environment and Planning Authority, and pending its approval, works should start in June and be completed by the end of the year. Works are set to cost €3.3 million, around half the projected cost of the original proposal, which was made in 2007.

The current terminus is plagued by a number of problems, the minister said, including traffic congestion, a lack of separation between buses and commuters, lack of adequate shelters and a state of neglect not worthy of the entrance to Valletta.

The new design will be smaller, with 15 embarkation bays replacing the current 41, reflecting the fact that the reform would see fewer buses lying idle and fewer commuters having to stop in Valletta to go elsewhere. Idle buses would be parked around the corner, beside Ġlormu Cassar Avenue.

The design also provides for proper separation between buses, waiting commuters and pedestrians, better accessibility for people with disabilities and shelters to protect commuters from the elements. It also includes organised kiosks, facilities for bus drivers, taxis, coaches and horse-drawn carriages, as well as landscaping designed with the bastions above the ditch in mind.

The project also includes a pedestrian walkway from City Gate to Boffa Hospital.

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Comments (3)

 **Mike Bonello** / 2/18/2010

And what about the old Opera house is it still going to end up without a roof rain or shine? In my opinion it is the most ridiculous thing I ever herd it gives me the feeling as if we are going back in time of the arena for once can we not do it right in Gozo they have 2 opera houses can we not have a decent one in Malta

 **elisa spiteri** / 2/18/2010

Austin Gatt, billi se tnaqqas l-embarkation bays se taghmel shelters mhux xemx u xita trid toqghod tistenna bla shelter fuq rasek. L-ewwel ghallem id-drivers li meta titlaq bus tigi l-ohra floka jabbu u jitolqu. Ix-shelters ghandhom ikun kuppjati ex. jekk post ghandu 4 tal-linja li jispicaw fih mela kulhadd jistenna taht dak il-bus shelter. Nibdew minn rasna l-isfel mhux minn sqajjna l-fuq kif kollox qed isir

 **Robin Hannay** / 2/18/2010

Have REAL transport officials been contacted about the size of the proposed bus station. Room for 15 buses seems too small to cover all services from Valetta even with the reduced fleet. How many places will be allocated to the Sliema group of routes? Has the proposed operation of bendy buses and their turning circle been taken into account in the bus station when other buses are on the stands on both sides?
