

# DoTr reviews LRMC proposal to finish grand station

THE UNSOLICITED proposal of Light Rail Manila Corp. (LRMC) to complete the terminated contract for the construction of the Unified Grand Central Station at North Avenue-EDSA, Quezon City, is now under review, the Department of Transportation (DoTr) said, noting that it hopes to award the contract by the end of the year.

“We have received LRMC’s proposal. We are currently reviewing it, then we will process it, and our

target is by the end of the year to agree with them on how they could help us in finishing the common station,” Transportation Undersecretary for Railways Timothy John R. Batan told reporters on the sidelines of the Arangkada Investment Forum 2025 on Thursday.

LRMC is the operator of Light Rail Transit Line 1 (LRT-1).

In May, the DoTr issued a notice of termination to the contractors of the Unified Grand Central Station,

also known as the common station for the Metro Rail Transit (MRT) and Light Rail Transit (LRT) lines and the Metro Manila Subway.

The contractors — BF Corp. and Foresight Development and Surveying Co. (BFC-FDSC) — were terminated due to excessive delays, the DoTr said.

The DoTr is now evaluating the cost of the common station, Mr. Batan said, adding that since the project is under a public-private partnership (PPP), reasonable investment recovery would be part of the contract agreement.

“Again, since it is a PPP, there will be reasonable investment recovery,” he said.

Mr. Batan declined to disclose the value of LRMC’s proposal, noting that it would be premature to reveal details while the project is still under evaluation and approval.

“But our next step, once we have clarified it, is to submit it to

DEPDev (Department of Economy, Planning, and Development). Once we have gotten approval, then we will find out what the cost will be,” he said.

The BFC-FDSC consortium signed a P2.8-billion agreement with the government in 2019 for the construction of Area A of the Unified Grand Central Station project.

The project aims to link Metro Manila’s main commuter rail lines, including LRT-1, MRT-3, MRT-7, and eventually the Metro Manila Subway.

It was initially targeted for completion in the first quarter of 2021 and was designed to have three sections, each built separately: Area A by BFC-FDSC, Area B by Ayala Corp., and Area C by San Miguel Corp., the concessionaire for the MRT-7 project. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

## NGCP’s P93.68-B capex projects await ERC nod

THE National Grid Corp. of the Philippines (NGCP) has P93.68 billion in proposed capital expenditure (capex) projects awaiting approval from the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

The ERC reviewed the 13 proposed capex projects submitted by NGCP, covering 2021–2025, during its open commission meeting on Thursday.

Alvin Jones M. Ortega, acting director at ERC’s regulatory operations service, said immediate approval of the projects is needed to allow NGCP to proceed.

Some of NGCP’s large-scale projects yet to obtain approval include the P44.41-billion Cebu-Leyte Interconnection Lines 3 and 4 Project; the P15.85-billion Sta. Maria 500kV Substation Project; the P10.47-billion Barotac Viejo-Unidos 230kV Transmission Line Project; and the P4.12-billion Pinamucan 500kV Substation Project.

The grid operator is also proposing the P3.91-billion Magalang 230kV Substation Project; the P2.79-billion Masiit 230kV Collector Station Project; the P2.67-billion Malaya 230kV Collector Station Project; the P2.6-billion Luzon Voltage Improvement Project 5; and the P2.52-billion Bolo 5th Bank Project.

The list also includes the P2.12-billion Dasol 230kV Substation Project; the P1.08-billion Plaridel 230kV Substation Project; the P733.92-million Tuguegarao-Enrile 69kV Transmission Line Project; and the P403.25-million Visayas Mobile Capacitor Bank Project.

According to Mr. Ortega, the projects were filed under NGCP’s fifth regulatory period (RP) rate reset, spanning 2021 to 2025.

“The due process under the 5<sup>th</sup> RP application is still ongoing so we are still not able to finalize... but because of NGCP’s intent to already pursue and start the implementation of certain projects that are under this application, they have submitted this motion for issuance of intent relief,” he said.

The rate reset process is typically a forward-looking exercise requiring the regulated entity to submit forecast expenditures and proposed projects over a five-year regulatory period.

The ERC then assesses the entity’s actual performance and adjusts rates as needed.

Under the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001, the grid operator must seek ERC approval for any planned expansion or facility improvement, in line with its mandate to build, finance, and enhance the nationwide transmission system and grid.

ERC Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer Francis Saturnino C. Juan earlier said the agency hopes to issue a ruling on NGCP’s pending capex projects within the month.

Reacting to this, NGCP Spokesperson Cynthia P. Alabanza said the move is “more than welcome” as it will allow the company to pursue its projects.

“As we’ve been saying throughout the years, we really want expedited and on-time regulatory approvals because that will help NGCP fulfill its mandate,” she said. — **Sheldeen Joy Talavera**



## Converge says prepaid brand Surf2Sawa reaches half a million users

CONVERGE ICT Solutions, Inc. said its prepaid brand Surf2Sawa (S2S) has reached 500,000 active subscribers two years after its launch, reflecting adoption among budget-conscious broadband users.

“It’s been over two years since Converge introduced the prepaid model and we are pleased that this resonated deeply with consumers, as shown by the numbers... We see this as a win for wider broadband access,” Converge Officer-in-Charge for consumer unit John Paul Aguilar said in a stock exchange disclosure on Thursday.

Launched at the end of 2022, S2S aims to cater to the connectivity needs of the mass market — known to be budget-sensitive — by offering affordable and flexible top-up options, minimal installation requirements and fees, and a contract-free setup.

Converge Chief Executive Officer Dennis Anthony H. Uy said the growth in S2S subscribers reflects strong market adoption of prepaid broadband services, as

customers seek budget-friendly and reliable connectivity.

“For years, many Filipinos have had to rely on wireless alternatives that, while useful, often fall short in offering reliable connectivity. S2S fills in that gap, and we’re glad to see that more customers are embracing this. The growth runway for us is still wide, as we continue to improve awareness and accessibility of our brand,” said Converge Vice-President and Product Management Business Unit Head of Surf2Sawa Conrado Pascual.

For the three months ending June, Converge’s attributable net income rose 6.93% to P2.93 billion from P2.74 billion in the same period a year ago, mainly driven by higher revenues.

The company recorded combined revenue of P10.98 billion, up 10.02% from P9.98 billion in the same period last year, according to its financial statement.

At the local bourse on Thursday, Converge shares closed 10 cents lower, or 0.83% higher, at P12.18 apiece. — **Ashley Erika O. Jose**

## Power Maintenance Updates

by **MERALCO ADVISORY**

The following are scheduled power interruptions necessary for the regular maintenance and upgrade of our power distribution facilities, to ensure the delivery of safe and reliable electricity to your areas. Rest assured that Meralco is doing everything to quickly restore your electricity according to schedule.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025**  
**BATANGAS PROVINCE (TANAUAN CITY)**  
BETWEEN 8:30AM AND 5:30PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT FPIP 436VWV  
UAM Philippines Inc. along 2<sup>nd</sup> St. inside First Philippine Industrial Park (FPIP) Phase 2, Bgy. Ulango.  
  
REASON: Maintenance work inside First Philippine Industrial Park (FPIP) Phase 2, Bgy. Ulango, Tanauan City, Batangas Province.

**MONDAY TO TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 – 30, 2025**  
**PARAÑAQUE CITY (SAN DIONISIO)**  
BETWEEN 11:00PM (MON., 09/29/25) AND 4:00AM (TUE., 09/30/25) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BF PARAÑAQUE 42VWU – PARAÑAQUE 45ZJ  
Portion of Pelaez St. from Tramo St. to near Coastal Service Road.  
Portion of A. Bonifacio St. and Quirino Ave. from near El Filibusterismo St. to near Victor Medina St.  
  
REASON: Installation, replacement and reconstruction of facilities along Pelaez St. in Bgy. San Dionisio, Parañaque City.

**CALOOCAN CITY (POBLACION)**  
BETWEEN 11:00PM (MON., 09/29/25) AND 5:00AM (TUE., 09/30/25) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT MALABON 412YD  
Portion of Padre Zamora St. from Padre Burgos St. to and including Caloocan Evangelical Church, Caloocan General Hospital, The Bible Baptist Church of Caloocan, Winfair Enterprises; A. Mabini, Doña Rita Acab and Rodriguez Sts.  
  
REASON: 1. Replacement of poles along P. Burgos Ave. and P. Zamora St. in Poblacion, Caloocan City.  
2. Line reconductoring work along Rodriguez St. in Poblacion, Caloocan City.

**QUEZON CITY (NOVALICHES)**  
BETWEEN 11:30PM AND 11:59PM (MON., 09/29/25) AND THEN BETWEEN 4:00AM AND 4:30AM (TUE., 09/30/25) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT NOVALICHES 48YJ  
Portion of Quirino Highway from Belfast St. to London Drive including Villa Verde Homes Subd. in Bgys. Pasong Putik, Novaliches Proper, San Agustin and Sta. Monica.  
Portion of General Luis St. from Susano Road to near Ambrocia St. including Goldmine Interior Compound, Kingdom One Compound, San Paulo Subd., Bistekville 10 Compound, Buenamar Subd., Doña Isaura Subd., Doña Rosario Subd., Ramirez Compound and Millionaires Village in Bgys. Nagkaisang Nayon, Novaliches Proper and San Agustin.  
  
BETWEEN 11:30PM (MON., 09/29/25) AND 4:30AM (TUE., 09/30/25) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT NOVALICHES 48YJ  
Portion of Susano Road from Austria St. to Novaliches Evangelical Church including Ramirez, Pio Del Pilar and Agoncilla Sts in Bgys. San Agustin, Sta. Monica and Novaliches Proper.  
  
REASON: Replacement of poles and line reconductoring work along Susano Road in Bgys. San Agustin and Novaliches Proper in Novaliches, Quezon City.

**TUESDAY TO WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 1, 2025**  
**MUNTINLUPA CITY (ALABANG)**  
BETWEEN 11:00PM (TUE., 09/30/25) AND 4:00AM (WED., 10/01/25) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT AYALA ALABANG 422VWR  
Portion of Commerce Ave. from St. Jerome Emiliani & Sta. Susana Parish Church to and including portion of Alabang Town Center and Fully Booked.  
  
REASON: Replacement of poles, line reconductoring work and installation of additional lightning protection devices along Commerce Ave. in Bgy. Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2025**  
**CAVITE (TAGAYTAY CITY AND SILANG); AND LAGUNA (CABUYAO CITY AND CALAMBA CITY)**  
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 2:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT TAGAYTAY WEST 323TGVV  
Portion of Isaac O. Tolentino Ave. and Nuvali – Casile - Mount Sungay Road from Tagaytay – Calamba Road in Bgy. Dapdap West, Tagaytay City, Cavite to Barangay Casile Welcome Marker including portion of Bgys. Casile and Guinting in Cabuyao City, Laguna; Bgy. Mabato, Calamba City, Laguna; Bgys. Dapdap East and Dapdap West in Tagaytay City, Cavite; and Bgy. Cabangaan, Silang, Cavite.  
  
REASON: Installation of facilities and line reconductoring work in Bgys. Dapdap East and Dapdap West in Tagaytay City, Cavite; and Bgys. Guinting and Casile in Cabuyao City, Laguna.

**PASAY CITY (METROPOLITAN PARK)**  
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 2:30PM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT METPARK 412MET  
Manila Tytana Colleges and Six Senses Residences.

**BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTIONS OF CIRCUIT METPARK 412MET**  
Baler, Siargao, Coron, Misibis, Palawan, Boardwalk & Mactan Palm Beach West Towers and Bay Garden Club & Residences Towers 1 – 3.  
  
REASON: Installation of new primary facilities and line reconstruction work in Metropolitan Park, Pasay City.

**WEDNESDAY TO THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 – 2, 2025**  
**QUEZON CITY (NOVALICHES)**  
BETWEEN 11:00PM (WED., 10/01/25) AND 5:00AM (THU., 10/02/25) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT COMMONWEALTH 415COM  
Portion of T. Alonzo St. from near Sta. Lucia St. to and including portion of Natividad Subd., Plain Ville Subd., Tarhville Subd., Veronica Court Subd., Villa Carmen Subd., Castro Compound, Sitio Sitio 1 and Pamana Ville Subd.; A. Bonifacio, A. Mabini, Agoncillo, Balagtas, Buenaventura, F. Calderon, Galvez, Humabon, Jose Abad Santos, Jose Palma, Lapu-Lapu, P. Paterno, Rajah Soliman, Visayan, Nenita, Nenita Ext., Nitang, S. Castro and Sta. Marcelo Sts. in Bgys. Sta. Lucia and Gulod.  
  
REASON: Installation and replacement of facilities, and line reconductoring work along T. Alonzo St. in Bgy. Sta. Lucia, Novaliches, Quezon City.

**THURSDAY TO FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2 - 3, 2025**  
**LAGUNA (CABUYAO CITY)**  
BETWEEN 11:00PM (THU., 10/02/25) AND 4:00AM (FRI., 10/03/25) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BALIBAGO 43XV  
Lakeside Nest Subd. Phases 1 & 2 in Bgy. Banay-Banay.  
Southville Subd. in Bgy. Marinig.  
  
REASON: Installation of poles and line reconstruction work along Banay-Banay – Miugan Road in Bgys. Banay-Banay and Miugan in Cabuyao City, Laguna.

**CAVITE (BACCOOR CITY)**  
BETWEEN 11:30PM (THU., 10/02/25) AND 4:30AM (FRI., 10/03/25) – PORTION OF CIRCUIT BACCOOR 415VWX  
Portion of Molino Road from Bayanan Road to and including Ecotrend Subd. Phases 1 – 5, Casimiro Westville Homes Phases 1 – 5, Vittoria Subd., John Paul Subd., Goldrich Villas, Addas Village Phases I & III, Camella Homes, Ignacio Subd., Progressive Village Phase 7, Rofli Village, Villa Antonina Subd. Phases 1 & 2, Greenlane Villas Subd., Aragon Compound, Cuevas Compound, Cuneta Compound and Lourdes Compound in City Proper, Bgys. Ligas III, Niog III, San Nicolas I, II & III.  
  
REASON: Replacement of poles and line reconstruction work along Molino Road in City Proper, Bgys. Ligas III, Niog III, San Nicolas I, II & III in Bacoor City, Cavite.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2025**  
**BULACAN (SANTA MARIA)**  
BETWEEN 10:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUIT STA. MARIA 425YU  
Portion of Norzagaray - Santa Maria Road from Muscoka Ville Subd. to near Flying V Gas Station including Tierra De Sta. Maria Subd. Phases 1, 2, 3-A & 3-B, Sitio Kaybalat, km 37, 38 39 & 40 Subds., Muscoka Ville Subd., Sitio Camachile and Sitio Gulod; Tierra Road; Hermogenes, Fidel De Jesus and Hermogenas Sts. in Bgy. Pulong Buhangin.  
  
REASON: Relocation of poles affected by DPWH road widening project in Site 2, Bgy. Pulong Buhangin, Santa Maria, Bulacan.

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025**  
**PASIG CITY (KAPITOLYO AND ORANBO)**  
BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 9:30AM AND THEN BETWEEN 2:30PM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS HILLCREST 416VZ AND 425VZ  
Portion of Shaw Blvd. from near Oranbo Drive to Meralco Ave. including Ynares Sports Center, Metrobank, Max's Restaurant, Shakey's Pizza, Westar Building and Dialysis Care Plus in Bgy. Oranbo.  
Portion of West Capitol Drive from Shaw Blvd. to Stella Maris St. including Sta. Catalina, Sta. Monica and Sta. Rosa Sts.; Kapitolyo Barangay Hall, McDonalds, Cafe Juanita, The Vantage Gallery, La Amor Building, Sentro Kapitolyo Building, Baliwag Lechon Manok & Liempo, Kairos Health, Zagu Foods and ACESTAR Telecoms Hong Kong Ltd. in Bgy. Kapitolyo.  
Portion of United St. and East Capitol Drive from near Brixton St. to San Ignacio St. including Arkong Bato, San Francisco, San Jose, San Juan, San Martin, San Mateo, San Miguel, San Pablo, San Rafael, San Roque, Sta. Elvira, Sta. Isabel, Sta. Maria, Sta. Rosa and Sta. Teresita Sts.; Kapitolyo High School, The Vantage at Kapitolyo, HomeBase Apartment Hotel, Siochi Concept Design Specialists and Glamore Essentials in Bgy. Kapitolyo.

**BETWEEN 9:00AM AND 3:00PM – PORTION OF CIRCUITS HILLCREST 416VZ, 425VZ AND 426VZ**  
Portion of United St. from near Brixton St. to Pioneer St. including Honey Bread Bake Shop in Bgy. Kapitolyo.  
Portion of Pioneer St. from San Rafael St. to near Reliance St. including BDO, Mercury Drug, Pioneer Centre Supermarket, Unilab, Jollibee, Cathedral of Praise - East Campus, Cromagen Building and Telas de Mercato in Bgy. Kapitolyo.  
PHILUSA Corp., Medical Center Trading Corp. and Mercury Laboratories Inc. along Shaw Blvd. in Bgy. Kapitolyo.  
  
REASON: Replacement of poles, line reconductoring work and relocation of facilities along Shaw Blvd., Pioneer and United Sts. in Bgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City.

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