

Narita Rapid Railway

Reinforcement and improvement of access to Narita Airport has been a major theme from the very start of operations at the airport and numerous discussions have been held regarding the Narita Rapid Railway concept. In 1984, the Ministry of Transport disclosed plans for the railway line (Route B) but the plan was never realized. Later, the 2000 report by the Council for Transport Policy stipulated fiscal 2015 as its target for opening the railway and in 2001 it was earmarked as one of the national urban revitalization projects to provide additional rail access to the airport.

Construction on the Narita Rapid Railway which will link Narita Airport with Tokyo in less than 40 minutes began in fiscal 2005 and the line is slated to open in fiscal 2010 in time for the completion of the 2,500-meter parallel runway extension.

The main construction company is a third sector firm, Narita Rapid Rail Access Co., Ltd., established in April 2002. The company was approved by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport in July 2002 along with Keisei Electric Railway Co., Ltd., which will be the main operator.

The route will use the main Keisei line from Ueno and Nippori to Takasago. From there, the Narita New Rapid Railway line will cover a distance of 51 kilometers to Narita Airport via Inba Nihon-Idai station and the Tsuchiya area of Narita City. This 51-kilometer track comprises three sections: An upgraded 32-kilometer section on the existing Hokusō line from Takasago to Inba Nihon-Idai, a new 11-kilometer Narita Rapid Rail Access line from there to Tsuchiya with a new station provisionally named Narita New Town North, and a new 8-kilometer Narita Airport Rapid Rail line from Tsuchiya to Narita Airport Station. The total project cost is expected to be 126.1 billion yen.

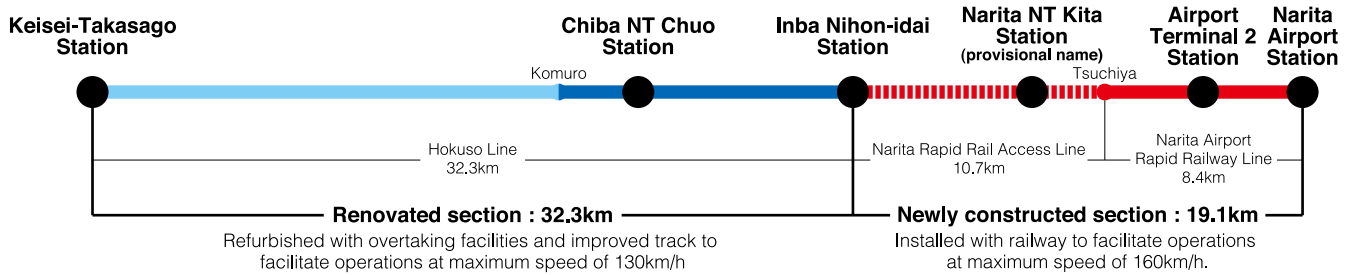
Trains on the Narita Rapid Rail Access Line and Narita Airport Rapid Rail Line will reach a maximum speed of 160km/h which will be fastest in Japan besides bullet train operations, and the Hokusō Line sections will operate at a maximum of 130km/h.

When completed, the new line will reduce traveling time between Nippori and Airport Terminal 2 station by 15 minutes to 36 minutes, and will offer additional services comprising 3 Skyliner and 3 limited express services an hour, greatly improving access to Tokyo.

New Rail Access



Construction Details (Scheduled for completion in 2010)



Construction schedule

FY2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
		Environmental assessment procedures				Construction				Scheduled for completion

Total Cost of Construction

Approx 126.1 billion yen

Operations

Main construction company: Narita Rapid Rail Access Co., Ltd. (Category-3 Railway)

Main operator: Keisei Electric Railway Co., Ltd. (Category-2 Railway)

• What is a Category-3 Railway?

Category-3 Railway

A company that installs railway tracks to be transferred to a Category-1 Railway operator; or else, for use by a Category-2 Railway operator. A Category-3 Railway company does not operate the railway itself.

Category-2 Railway

A company that provides transportation services using tracks installed by either a Category-1 or a Category-3 Railway company.

Category-1 Railway

A company that installs and operates railways itself. It may allow a Category-2 Railway operator to run services on its railway if it has spare capacity.

History

- January 2000: Transport Policy Council Report No.18 specifies that 2015 is a suitable target yet for the opening of the Narita New Rapid Railway.
- March 2000: Central, prefectural and local municipal governments, NAA and railway operators set up a study committee to promote the Narita New Rapid Railway project.
- August 2001: Urban Renaissance Headquarters designates the new railway project as an Urban Renaissance Project under the auspices of the central government.
- April 2002: Narita New Rapid Railway Access Company established.
- July 2002: Approved as a Category 3 railway
- August 2002: Environmental Impact Evaluation Report released.
- December 2005: Environmental Impact Evaluation Report released. Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport approves construction of Narita New Rapid Railway Access Line. Chiba Governor's ratification of Narita New Rapid Railway Access Line under urban planning gazette.

Route Map of Narita New Rapid Line

