China / Hong Kong Company Update

MTR Corporation

Bloomberg: 66 HK EQUITY | Reuters: 0066.HK

Refer to important disclosures at the end of this report

DBS Group Research . Equity

9 Feb 2022

BUY

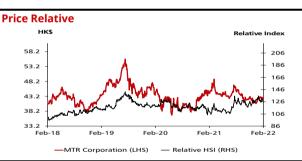
Last Traded Price (28 Jan 2022): HK\$42.45 (HSI: 23,550) Price Target 12-mth: HK\$48.40 (14% upside) (Prev HK\$49.30)

Analyst

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What's New

- Patronage of domestic service operations rebounded to >90% of pre-COVID levels
- Robust project pre-sales to unlock in development earnings
- Tender of the Tung Chung Traction Substation site was withdrawn
- BUY with HK\$48.40 TP



Forecasts and Valuation

FY Dec (HK\$ m) Turnover EBITDA Pre-tax Profit Underlving Profit Underlving Profit Gth (%) EPS (HK\$) EPS Gth (%) PE (X) P/Cash Flow (X) EV/EBITDA (X) DPS (HK\$) Div Yield (%) Net Gearing (%) ROE (%) Est. NAV (HK\$): Disc. to NAV (%)	2020A 42.541 5.181 5.670 4.381 (58.5) 0.71 (58.6) 59.7 85.0 54.0 1.23 2.9 23 2.4	2021F 45.872 7.936 12.037 9.966 127.5 1.661 126.3 26.4 19.6 35.3 1.25 2.9 16 5.6	2022F 48,042 8,406 16,806 13,886 39,3 2,24 39,3 18,9 25,3 33,3 1,30 3,1 1,7 7,6 49,5 (14)	2023F 54,538 13,387 10,470 8,559 (38,4) 1,38 (38,4) 30,7 20,7 20,9 1,30 3,1 18 4,6 52,8 (20)
Earnings Rev (%):		2	(46)	New
Consensus EPS (HK\$):		1.53	2.41	2.52
Other Broker Recs:		B:6	S:1	H:4

Source of all data on this page: Company, DBS Bank (Hong Kong) Limited ("DBS HK"), Thomson Reuters

Significant railway expansion

Investment Thesis

BUY with HK\$48.40 TP. The counter is trading at a 14% discount to our estimated current NAV. Decent profits from property development should fuel earnings growth in the years ahead. Significant railway network expansion should bring in more property development opportunities to brighten its long-term earnings outlook and prompt NAV enhancement.

Residential launches were well received. The launch of Southland and La Marina at Wong Chuk Hang Station received encouraging sales responses. Both projects are substantially sold. Successful project pre-sales enable MTRC to lock in most of its near-term development profit.

Railway expansion brings in more property opportunities.

New rail lines including the Tung Chung Line Extension, Tuen Mun South Extension, Kwu Tung Station, and Northern Link projects are estimated to cost a total of HK\$96bn to construct. Under the "ownership" approach, we believe the government will grant MTRC development rights of the topside properties at the new railway stations to fund the construction of these new lines. The corresponding property development earnings should brighten the company's long-term profit growth prospects.

Valuation:

Our TP is based on target discounts of 10% and 20% to our Dec 2022 estimated valuations of development and investment properties, respectively.

Where we differ:

We are more positive on the outlook of the company's medium to long-term property development business led by the railway network expansion.

Key Risks to Our View:

The prolonged COVID-19 pandemic could drag the recovery of fare, station commercial, and rental income.

At A Glance

Issued Capital (m shrs)	6,181
Mkt Cap (HK\$m/US\$m)	265,165 / 34,047
Major Shareholders (%)	
Financial Secretary Inc.	74.8
Free Float (%)	25.2
3m Avg. Daily Val. (US\$m)	13.86
GICS Industry: Real Estate / Equity Re	al Estate Investment







WHAT'S NEWM

Patronage of domestic service operations recovered to >90% of pre-COVID level

In 2H21, average weekday patronage of domestic service has recovered to >90% of the pre-COVID level. Supported by normalising economic activities, the patronage of domestic service operations jumped 31% in 2H21, bringing the full-year growth to 24%.

While retail sales of station kiosks grew broadly in line with the overall retail market, rental reversion remained in the negative territory. Due to the pandemic-led border closure, duty-free shops remained closed. On the other hand, advertising revenue continued its recovery in 2H21. Overall, we estimate that station commercial business recorded a 6% drop in revenue in FY21.

Tenants' sales growth of MTRC's shopping malls outperformed the broad market. Rental concession granted to its mall tenants were significantly reduced in 2H21, along with domestic consumption recovery. That said, negative rental reversion continued to work its way through its retail portfolio.

Launched for pre-sale in Aug 21, La Marina (Wong Chuk Hang Station Package 2), a joint venture with a consortium equally owned by Kerry Properties and Sino Land, drew strong market interest, particularly from property investors. About 483 units, or 81% of the total, have been taken up for HK\$11.7bn or HK\$35,700psf on average. Robust demand for Wong Chuk Hang Station Packages 1 & 2 should bode well for the sales response to other packages. With the aid of successful project pre-sales, MTRC has high visibility of its development earnings in FY22-23.

MTRC decided not to accept any tender for Tung Chung Traction Substation from any of the five developers that submitted the bid, as they failed to meet the company's expectations. The tender outcome, however, does not come as a surprise. Reportedly, the land premium is fixed at HK\$4.765bn or HK\$5,072psf, which appears quite high in our view. Besides, the long construction period also increases investment risks. Tung Chung Traction Substation will provide a GFA of 0.94msf when completed. We believe MTRC will re-negotiate with the government to lower the land premium before retendering the project.

In 1Q22, MTRC plans to offer the Pak Shing Kok Ventilation Building project in Tseung Kwan O for tender. This project will provide 550 residential units upon completion.

In Oct 21, MTRC was invited to study the construction of a new Science Park/Pak Shek Kok Station of the East Rail Line.

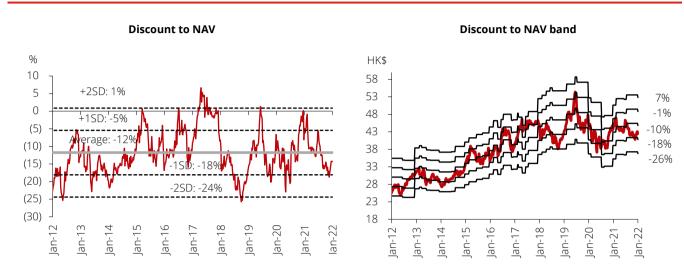
The stock is trading at a 14% discount to our appraised current NAV. While the spread of the Omicron variant may cast a shadow over the company's business recovery, significant rail network expansion should bring in more property opportunities to support its long-term profit growth. Maintain BUY with HK\$48.40 TP. This is derived by assigning target discounts of 20% and 10% to our estimated Dec 2022 valuations of investment and development properties, respectively.

Company Background

MTRC operates predominantly rail-based transportation systems, with exposure to the residential and commercial markets in Hong Kong. In recent years, the company has begun to expand its rail business to China and overseas.



Discount to NAV



Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., DBS HK



Key Assumptions (%)

	2022F	2023F
Residential price - HK	0	2
Office rental - HK	0	0
Retail rental (Shopping centre) - HK	5	5
Source: DBS HK		

Segmental Breakdown (HK\$ m)

FY Dec	2019A	2020A	2021F	2022F	2023F
Revenues (HK\$ m)					
HK transportation operations	19,938	11,896	13,218	13,348	16,607
HK station commercial business	6,799	3,269	3,069	3,646	5,357
HK Property rental and management business	5,137	5,054	4,968	5,027	5,081
Mainland China and International subsidiaries	21,085	21,428	24,147	25,509	26,897
Other business	1,545	894	472	512	597
Total	54,504	42,541	45,872	48,042	54,538

Source: DBS HK

Income Statement (HK\$ m)

FY Dec	2019A	2020A	2021F	2022F	2023F
Turnover	54,504	42,541	45,872	48,042	54,538
EBITDA	15,326	5,181	7,936	8,406	13,387
Depr / Amort	(5,237)	(5,365)	(5,484)	(5,638)	(5,795)
EBIT	10,089	(184)	2,452	2,768	7,591
Profit on property developments	5,707	6,491	10,298	15,855	4,993
Variable cost paid to KCRC	(2,583)	(238)	(648)	(1,729)	(1,905)
Associates Inc	288	605	1,005	1,141	1,210
Interest (Exp)/Inc	(859)	(1,004)	(1,070)	(1,230)	(1,420)
Pre-tax Profit	12,642	5,670	12,037	16,806	10,470
Tax	(1,922)	(1,301)	(1,820)	(2,585)	(1,528)
Non-controlling interests	(160)	12	(250)	(335)	(384)
Underlying Profit	10,560	4,381	9,966	13,886	8,559
Sales Gth (%)	1	(22)	8	5	14
Net Profit Gth (%)	(6)	(59)	127	39	(38)
EBITDA Margins (%)	28	12	17	17	25
EBIT Margin (%)	19	0	5	6	14
Tax Rate (%)	15	23	15	15	15

Source: DBS HK





Balance Sheet (HK\$ m)

FY Dec	2019A	2020A	2021F	2022F	2023F
Fixed Assets	225,605	220,932	217,824	218,510	219,648
Long-term Investments	386	468	468	468	468
Other LT Assets	13,991	13,074	9,917	22,917	24,156
Intangibles Assets	56	63	63	63	63
Deferred Tax Asset	134	470	470	470	470
Associates/JVs	10,359	11,592	12,597	13,738	14,948
Bank Balance/Cash & Liquid	21,186	20,906	34,527	33,233	33,369
Inventory	3,089	3,814	3,814	3,814	3,814
Debtors	11,169	13,313	10,313	7,813	8,813
Other Non Cash Current	3,239	5,942	5,942	5,942	5,942
Total Assets	289,214	290,574	295,934	306,968	311,692
ST Debt	3,371	3,357	1,200	500	501
Creditors	33,315	36,837	39,337	38,837	39,137
Other Current Liab	5,566	1,996	1,996	1,996	1,996
LT Debt	36,085	46,983	51,140	54,840	55,839
Deferred Tax Liabilities	13,729	14,125	14,125	14,125	14,125
Other LT Liabilities	10,350	10,295	10,248	10,196	10,141
Non-controlling interests	192	193	443	778	1,162
Shareholder's Equity	186,606	176,788	177,445	185,696	188,791
Total Cap. & Liab.	289,214	290,574	295,934	306,968	311,692
Share Capital (m)	6,142	6,163	6,194	6,194	6,194
Net Cash/(Debt)	(28,764)	(39,887)	(28,218)	(32,462)	(33,270)
Working Capital	(3,569)	1,785	12,063	9,469	10,304
Net Gearing (%)	15	23	16	17	18

Source: DBS HK

Cash Flow Statement (HK\$ m)

FY Dec	2019A	2020A	2021F	2022F	2023F
EBIT	10,089	(184)	2,452	2,768	7,591
Tax Paid	(631)	(2,306)	(1,820)	(2,585)	(1,528)
Depr/Amort	5,237	5,365	5,484	5,638	5,795
Chg in Wkg.Cap	(67)	(4,165)	5,500	2,000	(700)
Other Non-Cash	2,415	2,062	0	0	0
Operating CF	17,043	772	11,616	7,822	11,159
Net Capex	(9,331)	(9,661)	(5,291)	(6,014)	(6,141)
Investments	0	0	0	0	0
Associates & JVs	(1,416)	(210)	0	0	0
Others	2,435	9,196	13,602	2,521	3,345
Investing CF	(8,312)	(675)	8,310	(3,493)	(2,795)
Net Chg in Debt	(1,513)	10,377	2,000	3,000	1,000
New Capital	96	77	0	0	0
Dividend	(6,774)	(6,808)	(7,588)	(7,742)	(8,052)
Other Financing CF	(937)	(802)	(717)	(881)	(1,175)
Financing CF	(9,128)	2,844	(6,305)	(5,623)	(8,227)
Chg in Cash	(397)	2,941	13,621	(1,295)	137

Source: DBS HK



Target Price & Ratings History



S.No	o. Date	Closing Price	12-mth Target Price	Rating
1:	12-Mar-21	HK\$48.75	HK\$44.35	Hold
2:	9-Jul-21	HK\$44.10	HK\$49.30	Buy
3:	13-Aug-21	HK\$45.00	HK\$49.30	Buy

Source: DBS HK
Analyst: Jeff YAU CFA,



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