The Subway Project in Yokohama
-Minatomirai Line-

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Abstract: The Minatomirai Line was opened in February 2004 running from Shibuya, Tokyo to Motomachi-Chukagai, Yokohama. After the Minatomirai Line opened, it achieved the function of improving the flow of tourists from stations on that railway which links many sightseeing spots within the railway’s vicinity. Yokohama City has researched the number of walkers since 2004. The results show an increase in the number of walkers. Motomachi walkers increased by 1.4 times. Chinatown walkers increased by 2.7 times, and the Bashamichi walkers increased by 1.9 times. Yokohama City had more development because of railway and city developer cooperation. It was important that developers understood the Minatomirai Line was a “device of the city”.

1. Introduction

The Minatomirai Line is an urban network railway that traverses the seaside of Yokohama City. This railway is a means of commuting and it achieved its role to improve the movement of tourists from stations along the railway which links many sightseeing spots within the vicinity of the stations. Railway user numbers have increased because of the unique station designs.

Minatomirai Line operators cooperated with city development officials. The Minatomirai Line is a short link to commerce areas, government areas, and sightseeing areas in the Yokohama City area. This was a very important plan for transportation and city vitalization. Each station is a front door to its city, a symbol of the city, and a reason for successful city development.

2. Methods

This report is based on an examination of statistical data of the Minatomirai area. Special attention was paid to the change in the pedestrian traffic before and after the Minatomirai Line opening.

3. Results

The number of users of the Minatomirai Line increased proportionally with the number of tourists (See Figures 1 and 2). The number of car users decreased at this time as railroad users increased[1]. The Minatomirai Line is attractive because this plan’s purpose was the creation and maintenance of access for city development. The developers understood that the Minatomirai Line is a “device of the city”. Maintenance of the railroad and city development was planned as a common idea. Administration exercised strong leadership. In the future railroad maintenances and city develop should be more unified.

4. Reference

[1]: 「鉄道整備と沿線都市の発展」 雑誌名, pp.100, 発行年 June 2008

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