

**Replies to written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in  
examining the Draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**

**[Bureau Secretary/Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport]**

**[Session No. : 6]**

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Bureau Serial No.

TB001

Question Serial No.

0027

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 153 – Government Secretariat  
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : It is mentioned under the heading of “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2001-02” that “the new Transport Strategy thinking” will be applied in the planning process of new development areas. What are the concrete details of this “new thinking”? How is the implementation programme ?

Asked by : Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply : Our new Transport Strategy is set out in the publication entitled “Hong Kong Moving Ahead”. This document was tabled at the Legislative Council in October 1999. The new Transport Strategy seeks to achieve five objectives. They are :

- better integration of transport and land use planning;
- better use of railways as the back-bone of our passenger transport system;
- better public transport services and facilities;
- better use of advanced technologies in transport management; and
- better environmental protection.

Since the promulgation of the Transport Strategy in October 1999, we have been applying the new planning thinking in all development studies covering different parts of Hong Kong. These include the South East New Territories Development Strategy Review, the Stage II Study on Review of Metroplan and the related Kowloon Density Study Review, the Feasibility Study for South East Kowloon Development, the Feasibility Study for Central Reclamation Phase III, the Feasibility Study for Wanchai Development Phase II, the Northshore Lantau Development Feasibility Study and the Planning and Development Studies for North West New Territories, North East New Territories and Hong Kong Island South and Lamma Island etc.

Bureau Serial No.

TB001

Question Serial No.

0027

The new Transport Strategy will also be applied in the long term strategic study currently underway – “Hong Kong 2030 : Planning Vision and Strategy” undertaken by Planning Department.

The application of the new Transport Strategy has resulted in a series of planning initiatives. These include :-

- planning major residential and commercial developments within walking catchment of a rail station;
- optimising the intensity of the development sites in the vicinity of the rail stations so as to reduce the need for motorized travel at the local level;
- considering building roads in depressed or tunnel form as far as practicable in order to minimize the environmental impact;
- facilitating the use of public transport services through strategic planning of the public transport interchanges;
- promoting walking and cycling through comprehensive planning of the concept of pedestrianization as well as a pedestrian walkway system and cycle network;
- incorporating travellers as a planning concept of the pedestrian network to facilitate pedestrian access to rail stations; and
- making provisions for environmentally-friendly modes of transport in the development plans.

The implementation programme of the above initiatives is dependent upon the execution of the new town development.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NICHOLAS NG

Post Title Secretary for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB002

Question Serial No.

0028

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 153 – Government Secretariat  
Transport Bureau

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : Transport

Controlling Officer :Secretary for Transport

Question : Regarding the “feasibility study on the improvement of access to the Lok Ma Chau control point and the expansion of the northbound vehicle holding area”, what specific areas are included in the study? When will the study be completed? Prior to its completion, will the Government put in place any contingency measures to improve the situation? If so, how much is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The feasibility study will investigate options to improve traffic flow at the San Tin Interchange which leads to Lok Ma Chau control point with a view to providing exclusive lanes for northbound goods vehicles. It will also cover the expansion of the existing northbound vehicle holding area to provide 480 additional goods vehicle spaces. The study is scheduled for completion by mid 2001. Prior to the completion of this long term project, the following works are being implemented to improve the situation at Lok Ma Chau:

- (a) Expanding the Immigration Hall and other facilities at Lok Ma Chau control point: works commenced in November 2000 and are scheduled to be completed in September 2003 at a cost of \$1,199 million.
- (b) Widening the northbound San Tin Highway slip road to segregate passenger vehicles from goods vehicles: works commenced in September 2000 and are scheduled to be completed in July 2001 at a cost of \$11.4 million.

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TB002

Question Serial No.

0028

- (c) Installing 7 CCTVs on Fanling Highway and San Tin Highway to facilitate traffic monitoring: works commenced in January 2001 and are scheduled to be completed in the third quarter of 2001 at a cost of about \$5.9 million.
  
- (d) Expanding the passenger holding area of the shuttle bus terminus at the Lok Ma Chau Public Transport Interchange: works are scheduled to commence in April 2001 for completion in May 2002 at a cost of \$2.5 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NICHOLAS NG

Post Title Secretary for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB003

Question Serial No.

0550

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 153 – Government Secretariat  
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : What plans does the Transport Bureau have this year to strengthen the co-operation between the railway corporations and the Mainland counterparts so as to improve cross-boundary rail services and expand the railway network in the region? How much resources will be allocated to such plans?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : KCRC has a very close working relationship with the Mainland railway authorities/operators in providing through train and freight services. Government will work closely with KCRC to continue to further enhance the co-operation with Mainland railway operations to mutual benefits.

Regarding the cross-boundary rail service, we will assess how to meet the passenger demands by better through train service and the feasibility of new service to Shenzhen/Lo Wu. On the cross-boundary rail infrastructure front, three projects have been recommended by the Railway Development Strategy 2000 (RDS-2000) promulgated last May. Coordination with the landuse planning for the Northern Link and preliminary alignment planning for the Regional Express Line are in hand so that we can implement the projects quickly, when required. For the Port Rail Line, its success hinges on the Pinghu Freight Distribution Centre development. We will maintain close liaison with KCRC, which has joined hands with the Guangzhou Railway (Group) Corporation in studying the feasibility of the Centre.

To expand the local rail network, we are implementing six rail projects for completion between 2002 and 2005. In respect of the Ma On Shan to Tai Wai Rail Link and Tsim Sha Tsui Extension projects, \$500M is provided for in the 2001-02 Draft Estimates of the Capital Investment Fund for injection into the KCRC, if required. An allocation of some \$438M has also been earmarked in 2001-02 for the Essential Public Infrastructure Works for these committed projects. As for the new RDS-2000 projects, we have invited the two Railway Corporations to submit implementation proposals by July for



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TB003

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0550

the Shatin to Central Link, the Island Line Extensions and the Kowloon Southern Link.

The Finance Committee has approved the retention of three directorate posts on a permanent basis in the Transport Bureau in January 2001 to enable proper planning and management of the railway development projects.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NICHOLAS NG

Post Title Secretary for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB004

Question Serial No.

0551

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 153 – Government Secretariat  
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : Regarding the item on Road Safety Campaign under Subhead 700, why is there not any accumulated expenditure so far? What is the estimated expenditure in 2001-02? What are the specific plans?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2000-01, the Road Safety Campaign was funded under the Publicity Vote of Information Services Department. The Administration has adopted a new funding arrangement for 2001-02. The Road Safety Campaign will be funded under Transport Bureau's Subhead 700 and \$2,169,000 has been earmarked for this purpose. The amount will be used for organising an annual road safety promotional event, production of road safety bulletins, production of TV and radio Announcements of Public Interest, and production of posters and leaflets.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for Transport

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB005

Question Serial No.

0778

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 153 – Government Secretariat  
Transport Bureau

Subhead(No. & title) :

(Heads : 60, 91, 100, 118, 186)

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : Regarding consultancy studies for policy making and assessment commissioned by the departments/services under your Bureau,

- (a) Was there any financial provision allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2000-01? If yes, please reply with the following details:

Name of consultants (if available)	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (in plan/in progress/finished)

- (b) Will there be any financial provision allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2001-02? If yes, please reply with the following details:

Name of consultants (if available)	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (in plan/in progress/finished)

Asked by : Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply : (a) Details of consultancy studies for policy making and assessment commissioned by Highways Department in 2000-01 under Subhead 700 are as follows:

Name of consultants	Consultancy fees (total) HK\$	Status of consultancy studies (in plan/in progress/finished)
Hong Kong Productivity Council	2,100,000	In progress
Crow Maunsell Management Consultants Ltd	1,280,000	In progress

Bureau Serial No.

TB005

Question Serial No.

0778

(b) We do not intend to commission consultancy studies for policy making and assessment in 2001-02.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

NICHOLAS NG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary for Transport

Date \_\_\_\_\_

March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB006

Question Serial No.

0844

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 153 – Government Secretariat  
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : Please answer the following questions in relation to Sub-head 700:

- (a) Regarding Item 002 on the “Second Railway Development Study”, what will the Transport Bureau do with the balance? What are the remaining tasks?
- (b) Regarding Item 006 on the “Road Safety Campaign”, what is the reason for the Transport Bureau not having launched the campaign? How will the existing balance be used?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

- Reply :
- (a) The remaining work on the Second Railway Development Study is to publicise the results and conclusions of the study. Any unspent allocation will be returned to the centre.
  - (b) The approved commitment of \$2,169,000 under Item 006 is intended for funding the Road Safety Campaign for the financial year 2001-02. The amount will be used for organising an annual road safety promotional event, production of road safety bulletins, production of TV and radio Announcements of Public Interest, and production of posters and leaflets.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for Transport

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB007

Question Serial No.

1173

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 153 – Government Secretariat  
Transport Bureau

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : The revised financial provision of the Bureau for the year 2000-01 has increased by 6.2% against the Approved Estimate. What is the reason for the increase?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The increase in requirement for the Revised Estimate 2000-01 as compared with the Approved Estimate 2000-01 is due to the following reasons:

- (a) The approved provision is insufficient to meet increased expenditure under Subhead 001 Salaries in 2000-01. The increase in requirement is attributable to the filling of vacant posts, officers' annual increments, the filling of some posts by officers of higher substantive salaries than their predecessors; and
- (b) The approved provision is insufficient to meet expenditure under Item 002 – Second Railway Development Study of Subhead 700 General other non-recurrent. The increase in requirement is mainly attributable to the publicity work on the results of the Study.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for Transport

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB008

Question Serial No.

1174

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 153 – Government Secretariat  
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : Regarding the complaints mechanism adopted by the Transport Department for land use and transport infrastructure planning, what are the details on the estimated expenditure and staffing arrangements?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : Any person who has a complaint or view about transport matters, including land use and transport infrastructure planning, can approach either the Transport Department's Customer Service Centre which handles enquiries on licensing and regional traffic matters, or the Transport Complaints Unit (TCU) set up under the Transport Advisory Committee to deal with public enquiries and complaints on transport related issues. The general public can forward their complaints to the Centre and the TCU through telephone, fax, e-mail and letter.

The expenditures on PE (for one executive and four clerical staff) and DE (hire of service) for the Customer Service Centre in the Transport Department in 2000-01 are estimated to be \$1.18M and \$0.72M respectively.

The expenditures on PE (for six executive and 12 supporting staff) and DE for the TCU in 2000-01 are estimated to be \$6.18M and \$0.19M respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NICHOLAS NG

Post Title Secretary for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB009

Question Serial No.

1175

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 153 – Government Secretariat  
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Transport

Controlling Officer: Secretary for Transport

Question: What is the progress of works of the Deep Bay Link, Route 7 (Kennedy Town to Aberdeen), Route 9 (Tsing Yi to Cheung Sha Wan) and the Lantau North-South Road Link? What is the estimated expenditure of each project?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply: The progress and estimated expenditure for the projects in question are as follows -

Deep Bay Link

The project is now in the Investigation and Preliminary Design (I&PD) stage. We will carry out public consultation shortly. Subject to the result of the public consultation, we shall seek funding approval from the Finance Committee within the financial year 2001-2002 to carry out detailed design. Subject to review, a sum of \$10.8 billion is earmarked for the construction of the Link.

Route 7

The I&PD was completed in August 2000. An Engineering Review is planned to commence in end 2001 to investigate an alternative tunnel alignment at Mt Davis, and associated traffic and environmental issues. Subject to review, the estimated cost of the project is \$9.7 billion.

Route 9 between Tsing Yi and Cheung Sha Wan

Route 9 between Tsing Yi and Cheung Sha Wan comprises three major elements of works. They are the Ngong Shuen Chau Viaduct, the Nam Wan Tunnel, and the Stonecutters Bridge. Detailed design of Ngong Shuen Chau Viaduct is near completion, and that of Nam Wan Tunnel and Stonecutters Bridge is in progress. It is expected that works will start in 2002 for completion in 2008. The estimated cost of this section of Route 9 is \$12.5 billion.



Bureau Serial No.

TB009

Question Serial No.

1175

Lantau North-South Road Link

We are now planning to improve the north-south access of Lantau by way of improving Tung Chung Road. We are in the process of inviting consultants for the I&PD of the project. Works are scheduled to start in 2004 for completion in 2006. The estimated project cost of the improvement works is \$950 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NICHOLAS NG

Post Title Secretary for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB010

Question Serial No.

1176

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 153 – Government Secretariat  
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : The Government will conduct a feasibility study on developing a Traffic Management and Information Centre in 2001-02. When will the study be completed? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon SIN Chung-kai

Reply : The feasibility study on developing a Traffic Management and Information Centre will be completed in the first quarter of 2001-02. The estimated expenditure of the Study is \$1.68 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for Transport

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB011

Question Serial No.

1177

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 153 – Government Secretariat  
Transport Bureau

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : The Bureau will undertake the planning and implementation of the Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line in the year. As the scheme of the Spur Line may now be overturned, has the Bureau made any provisions for conducting studies to look into other fallback options in case the original scheme is overturned?

Asked by: Hon Tang Siu-tong

Reply : The Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line (the Spur Line) is one of the priority projects being implemented by Government. Upon completion, the Spur Line will relieve the congestion at the Lo Wu boundary control point and meet the increasing volume of cross-boundary passenger traffic in future. The statutory processes for the Spur Line are underway.

KCRC is responsible for the design, construction and operation of the Spur Line. In October 2000, the Director of Environmental Protection (DEP) decided not to approve the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report prepared by KCRC. KCRC lodged an appeal against DEP's decision under the EIA Ordinance in November 2000. If any further study on the Spur Line project is necessitated, the cost of such further study, as with the feasibility study on the project, will be borne by KCRC.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NICHOLAS NG \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for Transport \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001 \_\_\_\_\_

Bureau Serial No.

TB012

Question Serial No.

1178

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 153 – Government Secretariat  
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : The Financial Secretary has indicated that the Administration will find ways for our railway corporations and their Mainland counterparts to work more closely together so as to improve cross-boundary services and expand the railway network in the region. In this respect, has the Bureau made any provisions for conducting studies to look into the feasibility of speeding up West Rail (Phase II)?

Asked by: Hon TANG Siu-tong

Reply : Following the recommendations of the Railway Development Strategy 2000 (RDS-2000), West Rail (Phase II) is now essentially split into two projects, the Northern Link (NOL) and Port Rail Line (PRL), for the passenger and freight services respectively. Based on the forecasted traffic demands and the likely duration required for implementation, RDS-2000 has recommended an indicative completion date of 2011 – 2016 for the NOL. For the PRL, its implementation programme is dependent on the growth of cross-boundary freight traffic.

The NOL needs to integrate with the landuse planning of the North West New Territories, which is being studied. On the other hand, it also depends on the growth of the cross-boundary traffic. We will continue to closely monitor the pace of the planned development and the traffic demands and consider advancing the implementation where practicable. Meanwhile, coordination between the NOL and the planning study will be maintained.

For the PRL, its success is dependent on the Pinghu Freight Distribution Centre development. KCRC is studying jointly with the Guangzhou Railway (Group) Corporation the feasibility of the centre and how best to develop rail-borne freight.

Bureau Serial No.

TB012

Question Serial No.

1178

Apart from the above monitoring and coordination work, we will also complete preparatory works for the two projects so that we can initiate their construction without delay when required. These can be achieved by means of the existing staff resource.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NICHOLAS NG

Post Title Secretary for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB013

Question Serial No.

1179

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 153 – Government Secretariat  
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : What are the details concerning the feasibility study on the improvement of access to the Lok Ma Chau control point and the expansion of the northbound vehicle holding area?

Asked by: Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-ye

Reply : The feasibility study will investigate options to improve traffic flow at the San Tin Interchange, which leads to the Lok Ma Chau control point, with a view to providing exclusive lanes for northbound goods vehicles. It will also cover the expansion of the existing northbound vehicle holding area to provide 480 additional goods vehicle spaces. The study is scheduled for completion by mid 2001.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for Transport

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB014

Question Serial No.

1180

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 153 – Government Secretariat  
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : What are the details concerning the feasibility study on developing a Traffic Management and Information Centre?

Asked by : Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-ye

Reply : The Feasibility Study examines the technical, administrative and financial requirements of developing a Traffic Management and Information Centre (TMIC) which aims to combine the existing and future area traffic and expressway control centres, as well as the Transport Department's Emergency Transport Coordination Centre into a single centre for more effective coordination of traffic and incident management for the whole of Hong Kong. The Study will make recommendations on the accommodation requirement and the preliminary design of the general layout of the TMIC; the preliminary design of the communications network linking the TMIC with the Traffic Control and Surveillance facilities installed on highways; the interface and integration requirements of different information systems; and the functional specifications for software and hardware systems.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for Transport

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB015

Question Serial No.

1181

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 153 – Government Secretariat  
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : What is the implementation plan of the bus-bus interchange schemes in the year 2001-02?

Asked by : Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-yee

Reply : We have worked out plans to implement the following bus-bus interchange schemes in 2001-02:

- Fanling – involving 2 bus routes to facilitate travelling between Luen Wo Hui and Tsuen Wan;
- Kwun Tong Road – involving 6 bus routes to facilitate travelling between Tseung Kwan O (Hang Hau (N)) and other NT Districts;
- Tai Po Centre – involving 3 bus routes to facilitate travelling between Tai Wo and Tai Kok Tsui/Kowloon City; and
- Airport Cargo Area – involving 2 bus routes to facilitate travelling between the Aircraft Maintenance Area and Chek Lap Kok Ferry Pier.

We shall continue to identify other possibilities.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for Transport

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001



Bureau Serial No.

TB016

Question Serial No.

1182

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 153 – Government Secretariat  
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : What is the implementation plan of the pedestrian schemes in the year 2001-02?

Asked by : Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-ye

Reply : The Administration has so far introduced pedestrian schemes for three areas - Causeway Bay, Tsim Sha Tsui and Mongkok. Phase I works of the three schemes were largely completed. Some of the remaining works, e.g. footpath widening on the western side of Canton Road, Fa Yuen Street and Nelson Street, will be implemented in 2001-02. The schemes were well received by the public, and implementation of Phase 2 of the pedestrian scheme for Causeway Bay, including footpath widening and paving on Yun Ping Road, Pak Sha Road and Jardine's Bazaar, will start in 2001-02 for completion in stages by 2003.

In view of the encouraging response, the Administration has proposed further pedestrian schemes for Central, Wan Chai, Jordan and Sham Shui Po. The schemes include improving the pedestrian environment of Lan Kwai Fong, Soho area and Queen's Road Central in Central; and pedestrianising Johnston Road in Wan Chai, Nanking Street in Jordan, and Ap Liu Street and Fuk Wa Street in Sham Shui Po. We are now consulting the parties affected on these schemes. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, we intend to conduct trials of the initial phases of the various schemes in 2001 before finalising the detailed implementation time-table.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for Transport

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB017

Question Serial No.

1183

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 153 – Government Secretariat  
Transport Bureau

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : At present, the road conditions in some busy roads (e.g. Kwun Tong Road near the MTR station at Kowloon Bay) do not allow the provision of signalized crossings and footbridges are provided instead. However, such footbridges are built some time ago and they lack facilities for disabled persons (e.g. lifts). The Transport Bureau has indicated that consideration would be made for retrofitting facilities for disabled persons. Have any provisions been made for such works? If yes, how much have been reserved and under which expenditure item are they placed? And which footbridges have been included in the project?

Asked by : Hon Fred LI Wah-ming

Reply : We are studying the feasibility of retrofitting access facilities for the disabled at old footbridges in the territory where such facilities are not provided. Highways Department has initially identified two footbridges across Kwun Tong Road, one near Kowloon Bay MTR Station and one near Kai Yip Estate where retrofitting works are technically feasible. Highways Department plans to undertake the retrofitting works under Head 706 – Highways Subhead 6100 TX – Highway works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme (Block Allocation). Highways Department will continue to investigate the feasibility of retrofitting such facilities at other footbridges.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Secretary for Transport

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB018

Question Serial No.

0080

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme:    (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : The number of summonses issued for driving offence points disqualification was 5 103 in 1999/2000, but this dropped substantially to 2 880 in 2000/01. What was the reason for the decrease?

Asked by: Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply : Summonses for driving offence points disqualification are issued to drivers who have accumulated 15 driving offence points over a period of 24 months. An analysis of the offences attracting driving offence points indicates that the drop in number of drivers accumulating 15 driving offence points in 2000/01 was largely attributed to the significant decreases in the number of fixed penalty tickets issued for speeding offences in 1999 and 2000 as compared with those of 1998. The decreases in such offences are mainly due to the Police suspending the use of laser guns in anti-speeding operation between November 1999 and April 2000 (pending the results of a court case) and the implementation of the package of measures to combat speeding since 1999. The measures included relaxing speed limits on a number of major road sections, improving speed limit signage and warning arrangements, deterring speeding through installation of speed enforcement cameras on Tolo and Fanling Highways, and public education and publicity campaigns.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB019

Question Serial No.

0081

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme:    (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : In the financial year 2001-02, Transport Department will start to implement Area Traffic Control (ATC) and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Systems in Tai Po and North District. How long will it take to complete the implementation of these systems? What will be the annual expenditure for the project?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply : Subject to funding approval, the implementation of the ATC and CCTV systems in Tai Po and North District will start in November 2001 for completion by November 2003. The expenditure for the project will be phased as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>\$ million</u>
2001-02	25.6
2002-03	58.5
2003-04	<u>13.1</u>
	<u>97.2</u>

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB020

Question Serial No.

0083

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) : 000 – Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : The revised estimate of \$2,820,000 for 2000-01 under “Light and Power” of Subhead 000 Operational expenses represents an increase of 13% against the original estimate. What are the reasons for the increase?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

Reply : The net increase of \$370,000 in “Light and Power”, partly offset by the reduced electricity expenses on leased office premises, is mainly attributable to:-

- (i) the extension of operation hours, for tourism purposes, of the architectural lighting in Tsing Ma Control Area;
- (ii) the installation of chassis dynamometer and additional equipment for better ventilation in government-operated vehicle examination centres; and
- (iii) the additional electricity charges for newly established Public Transport Interchanges handed over to the Transport Department during the course of the year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB021

Question Serial No.

0084

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 – General other non-recurrent

Programme: (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What is the progress of projects for improving taxi service quality under Subhead 700?

Asked by : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar Foo

Reply : Progress of the projects for improving taxi service quality includes the following:

- (a) three issues of quarterly newsletters on taxi services were published in 2000-01 to foster communication. 50,000 copies were printed in each issue for distribution to taxi drivers free of charge. Publication of such newsletters will continue in 2001-02;
- (b) a new version of a “Guide to Taxi Services in Hong Kong” was published for distribution to taxi drivers, passengers and tourists in mid 2001; and
- (c) a taxi driver training programme would be developed in 2001 in consultation with the trade.

In addition, a number of quality taxi service projects funded under Subhead 700, Departmental Expenses and by sponsorships were organized in 2000-01. These include:

- (a) two taxi driver award schemes to encourage taxi drivers to provide quality services to local passengers, people with disabilities and tourists. About 500 quality taxi drivers were awarded under these schemes;
- (b) distribution of a self-learning workplace English and Putonghua programme to taxi drivers free of charge to enable them to learn simple workplace English and Putonghua for better communication with passengers;

Bureau Serial No.

TB021

Question Serial No.

0084

- (c) installation of Braille and tactile vehicle registration number plate inside compartment of all liquefied petroleum gas taxis to enable passengers with visual impairment to identify the taxi registration number; and
- (d) a Quality Taxi Services Forum to explore new ideas, and to share overseas experience in promoting quality taxi services.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB022

Question Serial No.

0185

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 710 - Computerisation Subhead (No. & title) : A053ZN – Implementation of Transport Information System for Transport Department

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What are the nature, objectives and scope of the Transport Information System to be established in Transport Department?

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek

Reply : The proposed Transport Information System (TIS) is basically a central database responsible for the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of comprehensive transport information including traffic conditions, progress of road works, traffic diversion measures, public transport services and traffic accidents. The objectives of establishing the TIS are to enable road users, including motorists, public transport operators, government departments and commercial fleet operators, to make better and more informed choices on their transport needs with a view to maximising the capacity and enhancing the performance of existing transport systems. The information would be provided to the public directly or through service providers via various channels including variable message signs on roads, internet, media and mobile phones.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001



Bureau Serial No.

TB023

Question Serial No.

0298

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What is the scope of work and associated expenditure on the item "To study the introduction of Vehicle Type Approval Regulations"?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The scope of this study comprises :

- (i) formulating a legislative framework and implementation plan for the Regulations;
- (ii) developing a new set of vehicle type approval requirements and associated vehicle standards; and
- (iii) exploring the setting up of a one-stop-shop to improve vehicle type approval services to the public.

The study is undertaken in-house by staff of Transport Department and does not require additional resources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB024

Question Serial No.

0299

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Last year, the Commissioner for Transport advised that in spite of extending the strengthened smoke test to all commercial vehicles, it will not affect the planned waiting time of 2.5 days. However, the actual waiting time was increased to 3.5 days in year 2000. Will the Administration have any measures to shorten the waiting time?

Asked by : Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The increase in waiting time was largely due to the unexpected increase in the number of miscellaneous inspections conducted for private cars from 6,000 to 11,800 in 2000. The Administration will review the staff deployment situation and streamline the inspection procedures with a view to achieving, if not improving on, our planned waiting time of 3.5 days in year 2001.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB025

Question Serial No.

0300

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead(No. & title) : - 700    General other non-recurrent

Programme :            (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary :    Secretary for Transport

Question :            When will the surveys on monitoring of bus operation and utilization in urban regions be carried out and the results expected to be available? Please list the locations for the surveys.

Asked by :    Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply:            Since May 2000, we have commenced regular biannual monitoring surveys covering bus routes operating via busy corridors in Central, Causeway Bay, Wan Chai, North Point on Hong Kong Island, in Mong Kok and Tsim Sha Tsui in Kowloon, and cross harbour bus routes at the toll plazas of the three cross-harbour tunnels. The results for the first survey conducted in 2000-01 have already been compiled, whereas those for the second survey which commenced in end 2000 are being compiled and would be available in the second quarter of this year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB026

Question Serial No.

0301

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme:    (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Which were the two areas selected by the Government for accident investigation studies in 2000-01? Please give a brief account on the results of the studies. Which will be the two areas for accident investigation studies in 2001-02? What are the anticipated expenses?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply : In 2000-01, Transport Department carried out accident investigation studies for North Point and Hung Hom.

In the North Point area study, we found that the accidents were mainly attributed to jaywalking, careless driving, restricted visibility and road users disobeying traffic signals. The recommended improvements included erection of additional traffic signs and railings, modification of road markings and junction layout and minor traffic re-routing.

For the Hung Hom area study, we found that the accidents were mainly attributed to inadequate pedestrian crossing facilities, jaywalking, sudden pulling in/out and sharp turning of buses. The recommended improvements included localised bus re-routing, rationalisation of bus/GMB stops, installation of railings and minor junction improvements.

The two areas to be studied in 2001-02 will be Tsuen Wan and Kowloon City. These two studies form part of our routine accident investigation and will be undertaken by in-house resources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB027

Question Serial No.

0302

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Has the Government completed the implementation of the 21 bus rationalisation packages suggested for 2000-01? Please also list out the details of rationalisation packages suggested for 2001-02.

Asked by: Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply : Of the 21 route rationalisation packages suggested for 2000-01, 13 were implemented. The remaining 8 packages were withdrawn in response to comments received during District Council consultation or due to changes in the operating environment which rendered implementation inappropriate.

For 2001-02, 30 packages have been worked out in conjunction with franchised bus companies, which include:

- 7 for route cancellation;
- 8 for route truncation and amalgamation; and
- 15 for route and frequency adjustments.

These items have been included in the annual bus route development programmes on which the Traffic and Transport Committees of the relevant District Councils are being consulted.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB028

Question Serial No.

0303

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme:            (4) : Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary :    Secretary for Transport

Question :    What is the detailed programme and estimated cost for the upgrading of ventilation plants with a view to improving the air quality in covered public transport interchanges?

Asked by:    Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply :    The ventilation system in 6 covered public transport interchanges (CPTIs) will be upgraded in 2001-02 to improve the air quality. The upgrading works are scheduled to commence in mid-2001 for completion in mid-2002. The estimated cost for the upgrading works is \$26.91M. The 6 CPTIs to be upgraded are as follows :

- Kwai Hing MTR Public Transport Interchange
- Tsim Sha Tsui East Public Transport Interchange
- The Peak Public Transport Interchange
- Bayview Garden Bus Terminus
- Yen Chow Street Public Transport Interchange
- Sam Shing Public Transport Interchange

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB029

Question Serial No.

0347

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 General other non-recurrent

Programme: (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : When will the Travel Characteristics Survey 2002 (TCS 2002) be conducted and when will the results of the survey be available? Please outline the main content of the survey.

Asked by: Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The TCS 2002 will be commissioned in late 2001 and the survey results will be available in mid 2003.

The survey will collect primarily the socio-economic and trip making characteristics data of the public. The socio-economic data include the household and respondent particulars, while the trip making characteristics data cover passenger trip information including origins and destinations, departure and arrival times, trip purposes and modes of transport. Details of the routings and journey times, including times spent in walking and waiting, will be included. The exact questions to be asked will be determined closer to the time of the survey.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB030

Question Serial No.

0348

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 General other non-recurrent

Programme: (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Please explain the objective of the project "Consultancy to review the operation of all non-area traffic control (non-ATC) junctions in the Southern & Peak districts and to test the applicability of video-based vehicle detection technology".

Asked by : Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply : Most of the signalised junctions in isolated areas of the Southern and Peak districts are not under the control of the computerized ATC system. With the growth in traffic over the years, the co-ordination of traffic at these non-ATC junctions has deteriorated. The main objective of the project is to conduct a comprehensive survey and review of these junctions to devise improvement measures including better organisation of the junction layouts and adjustment of the traffic signal plans.

Electro-magnetic vehicle detector loops have been installed under the carriageway of some junctions to detect vehicular flow to facilitate timely variation and adjustment of signal timing or sequence. In view of the recent development of video-imaging technology for vehicle detection and traffic signal application abroad, an in-depth testing of the video-imaging application in the Hong Kong environment at one selected site will be conducted under the project.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001



Bureau Serial No.

TB031

Question Serial No.

0349

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead(No. & title) : ---

Programme:    (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary :    Secretary for Transport

Question :    What will be the expenditure for intelligent transport systems in 2001-02?

Asked by :    Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply :    The estimated expenditure for implementing intelligent transport systems in 2001-02 is \$105 million. This includes extending the area traffic control system to Tai Po and North District, installation of traffic control and surveillance facilities on Tolo Highway and the planning and designing work for the Transport Information System, the Journey Time Indication System, and the Traffic Management and Information Centre.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB032

Question Serial No.

0350

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) : 843 – Minor consultancies  
for traffic impact assessments (block vote)

Programme:    (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Provision of \$12.0 million was approved for carrying out traffic impact assessments (TIAs) in 2000-01. Please explain why the latest estimate of expenditure has been changed to \$2.4 million. Will the original programme of carrying out 4 packages of TIAs in 2000-01 be implemented as scheduled?

Asked by : Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The provision of \$12 million for minor consultancies for traffic impact assessments (TIAs) included about \$10 million for employing consultants to conduct TIAs and \$2 million for updating the 10 Base District Traffic Models (BDTMs). The BDTMs cover the whole territory and have been developed to provide a framework for future TIAs such that their efficiency and consistency will be improved. The provision was under-spent for the following reasons:

- (a) Our estimated provision is based on the number of sites expected to require a TIA in the following financial year. The number of sites actually requiring TIAs in 2000-01 is significantly less than we estimated.
- (b) TIAs for 6 sites in Kowloon, originally expected to commence in 2000-01, will now commence in April 2001.
- (c) As a result of extremely keen competition, recent bids price for TIA assignments have been far lower than estimated.
- (d) Due to anticipated changes in planning parameters and population projections, the BDTM updating work was postponed to the next financial year and so the related expenditure was not incurred.

Bureau Serial No.

TB032

Question Serial No.

0350

Of the four planned packages in 2000-01, the consultancy study for the first package consisting of 3 sites (1 site at Borrett Road on Hong Kong Island and 2 sites at Fung Shing Street in East Kowloon) is being carried out and will be completed by April 2001. Due to the close proximity of 6 sites in East Kowloon originally planned for the second and third packages, they have been combined into one package. As mentioned in (b) above, the study for these 6 sites will commence in April 2001. As all the identified sites requiring a TIA have been accommodated in these three packages, a fourth package is not required.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB033

Question Serial No.

0351

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) : 843 – Minor consultancies  
for traffic impact assessments (block vote)

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Please list the number of traffic impact assessments (TIAs) planned to be  
implemented by Transport Department for year 2001-02 and their details.

Asked by : Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply : We plan to carry out 2 TIA consultancy studies in 2001-02. The first study  
consisting of the following 6 sites in East Kowloon will commence in April  
2001:

- (a) Site I - Sau Mau Ping Phases 13 & 14
- (b) Site II- Choi Wan Road/Jordan Valley (Phase 1)
- (c) Site III- Choi Wan Road/Jordan Valley (Phase 2)
- (d) Site IV- Choi Wan Road/Jordan Valley (Phase 3A & 3B)
- (e) Site V -Anderson Road Quarry, Stage II
- (f) Site VI -Lam Tin Phases 7 & 8

In addition to identifying the traffic impact/problems generated by the above  
residential developments and proposing traffic improvement measures to  
address the problems, this TIA study will also assess the cumulative effect  
of these developments on the existing and future road network in East  
Kowloon.

We are identifying additional sites for inclusion in the second consultancy  
study to be carried out in 2001-02.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB034

Question Serial No.

0552

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : (a) In Subhead 700, what are the detailed arrangements of the surveys on ferry services? How much is the estimated expenditure this year?  
(b) Please list out the non-recurrent items in the Programme "Planning and Development" for 2001-02? What is the estimated expenditure for each item?  
(c) What is the plan for the development of Transport Information System in 2001-02? What is the estimated expenditure?  
(d) Did TD set any target for 2001-02 on facilitating diesel taxis to be converted to LPG taxis as soon as possible? If yes, what is the target and what will be the expenditure involved? If no, please give reasons.

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : (a) As a measure to monitor the performance of ferry operators, Transport Department will conduct operational survey and passenger opinion survey to collect information on service adequacy, reliability, and conditions of piers etc, as well as the opinion of passengers on the service performance.

The estimated total cost of the above two surveys which would be contracted out is in the region of \$1 million.

(b) In 2001-02, there are 10 non-recurrent items in the Programme "Planning and Development". The estimated expenditure for each item is shown as follows:-

Bureau Serial No.

TB034

Question Serial No.

0552

<b>Description</b>	<b><u>HK\$'000</u></b>
Feasibility study on electronic road pricing	4,792
HK Island North and Kowloon West district traffic studies	1,746
Tuen Mun and Yuen Long district traffic studies	2,835
Survey and demand analysis on Intelligent Transport System in Hong Kong	1,000
Study on future waterborne transport in Hong Kong	200
Consultancy to update the Parking Demand Study	1,878
Feasibility study on introducing trolley bus system in Hong Kong	2,200
Travel Characteristics Survey 2002	950
Surveys on ferry services	1,000
Minor consultancies for traffic impact assessments	7,900
Total	<u>24,501</u>

- (c) Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee, implementation of the Transport Information System will commence in late 2001 and will be completed in phases by 2003-04. The estimated cost of the proposed system is \$64 million.
- (d) The Administration has not set any target in 2001-02 for the number of diesel taxis to be converted to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) taxis, as the decision on when to convert to LPG taxi operation is made by individual taxi owners in the light of their own circumstances. As at 14 March, more than one third of the total fleet of some 18,000 taxis have been converted to operate on LPG.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB035

Question Serial No.

0553

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : (a) Route development programme items for buses in 2001 will increase by 21.4% to 204. What is the reason for the increase ? Where will these items be mainly implemented ?

(b) Transport Department will process 30 bus route rationalization packages in 2001. Where do the bus routes operate ?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : (a) More Route Development Programme (RDP) items will be pursued in 2001, because more changes are anticipated in line with population intake into new areas and also because of the need to rationalize bus services to improve bus efficiency to better match changing passenger demand.

RDP items for buses comprise new routes, route cancellation and amalgamation, and route and frequency adjustments. Most of the items will be implemented in new development areas in Ma On Shan, Tin Shui Wai and Tseung Kwan O, and for the new housing developments in the eastern part of Hong Kong and Hung Hom Bay Reclamation.

(b) Rationalization items are introduced to reduce duplication, relieve road congestion, and achieve better use of resources.

Of the 30 bus route rationalization items :

- 11 are on Hong Kong Island and Kowloon routes;
- 6 are on cross harbour routes;
- 10 are on New Territories (other than Lantau ) routes; and
- 3 are on Lantau routes.

Bureau Serial No.

TB035

Question Serial No.

0553

All the above items have been included in the annual bus route development programmes on which the Traffic and Transport Committees of the relevant District Councils are being consulted.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001



Bureau Serial No.

TB036

Question Serial No.

0841

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) : 843 Minor consultancies  
for traffic impact assessments (block vote)

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Please elaborate on the increase in expenditure under subhead 843 -  
Minor consultancies for traffic impact assessments (block vote).

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : In 2000-01, we have identified 9 sites for TIAs. The first package of 3 sites was implemented, as scheduled, costing about \$2.4 million. For the remaining 6 sites which are all in East Kowloon, we decided to postpone the study due to changes in planning input assumptions. It will now commence in April 2001. Coupled with another TIA package of 3 sites that has been anticipated to commence in 2001-02, two TIA packages for a total of 9 sites will be carried out in the next financial year. The estimated expenditure in 2001-02 under subhead 843 is \$6.8 million. Together with the estimated expenditure on updating 10 Base District Traffic Models (\$1.1 million), the total estimated expenditure under subhead 843 in 2001-02 is \$7.9 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB037

Question Serial No.

0842

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Transport Department will create 15 new posts. What are the additional expenses, and what are the salaries of these posts and their areas of work ?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : In 2001-02, Transport Department plans to create 15 new posts and the total notional annual mid-point salary value of these posts is \$10,165,920.

These posts will provide support to the following areas of activities -

- to provide traffic engineering and transport planning input to new railway projects embodied in the Railway Development Strategy 2000 (1 Chief Engineer, 1 Engineer/Assistant Engineer and 1 Chief Transport Officer);
- to provide operational support on monitoring train services upon privatisation of MTRCL (1 Transport Officer II);
- to develop and implement pedestrian schemes and associated traffic management measures (1 Chief Engineer, 3 Engineer/Assistant Engineer, 1 Chief Transport Officer and 2 Transport Officer II); and
- to assist in the development and implementation of environmental initiatives on vehicle examination and standards (1 Chief Electrical & Mechanical Engineer, 1 Electrical & Mechanical Engineer/Assistant Electrical & Mechanical Engineer, 1 Chief Transport Officer, 1 Transport Officer II).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    15 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB038

Question Serial No.

0843

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) : 700 – General other  
non-recurrent

Programme :    (1) Planning and Development  
                      (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : (a) Several pedestrian schemes have already been introduced. However, there is not yet any expenditure under Subhead 700 Item 557 - Consultancy studies for pedestrianisation schemes. What is the reason? How will the remaining fund be used?

(b) What is the progress of the feasibility study on introducing trolley bus system in Hong Kong under Item 558? What are the remaining works to complete for the study?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : (a) The consultancy studies on pedestrian schemes for Causeway Bay, Tsim Sha Tsui, Mong Kok, Central, Wan Chai, Sham Shui Po and Jordan were subsumed under the Hong Kong Island North and Kowloon West district traffic study and funded by Subhead 700 Item 532 as these schemes form part of the input to the study. Studies on further pedestrian schemes will be funded under Item 557.

(b) The feasibility study on introducing trolley bus system in Hong Kong is in progress. The consultants are preparing the recommendations of the study.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB039

Question Serial No.

1417

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :    (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary :    Secretary for Transport

Question : In connection with the trial scheme with electronic smart cards for payment of parking meter charges, will the Transport Department advise on what are the remaining actions required and what are their expenditures?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : We have commenced a 12-month trial scheme with about 1,400 electronic parking meters to accept Mondex and Visa Cash cards starting from 25 March 2000. The cost to the Government for the trial is about \$4.7M with funds provided under Head 708, Subhead 8024ZN on "Procurement of Electronic Parking Devices" to provide for the equipment, and software development for the trial in 1999-2000.

Separately, we have also commenced a trial scheme with about 200 parking meters to accept Octopus cards starting from 18 November 2000. The trial will last for about 9 months. A fund of \$9.1M has been earmarked in the 2000-01 Capital Account for conducting the trial.

We will evaluate the results of the trials with Mondex, Visa Cash and Octopus cards in the fourth quarter of 2001, taking into account their technical performance in outdoor environment, user opinions and financial implications to Government before deciding on the way forward regarding the upgrading of the electronic parking meters to accept suitable reloadable smart cards.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB040

Question Serial No.

1418

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme:    (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : (a) Transport Department will expand their Red Light Camera and Speed Enforcement Camera systems. Where are the locations for these installations and what will be the estimated expenditure?  
(b) What is the estimated expenditure for increasing the number of CCTV cameras for traffic surveillance by Transport Department?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : (a) Under the Expansion of the Red Light Camera (RLC) Project, 60 RLC housings will be installed at signalised junctions throughout the territory to deter red light jumping. The selection of sites is based on a number of criteria such as the accident records, whether there are any prevalent red light jumping activities, and the need to establish an even distribution of the RLC locations to provide an area-wide deterrent effect. It is our plan to install 5 housings on Hong Kong Island, 15 in Kowloon East, 30 in Kowloon West, 5 in NT North and 5 in NT South. The final provision will be subject to site investigation results. The approved project expenditure for this project is \$16.20M which will be spent between 2001 and 2003.

For the Expansion of the Speed Enforcement Camera (SEC) Project, 75 SEC housings will be installed on a number of expressways where there are prevalent speeding or accident problems. These expressways include Tuen Mun Road, Tolo Highway, Fanling Highway, San Tin Highway, North Lantau Highway and Island Eastern Corridor. The approved project expenditure for this project is \$25.16M which will be spent between 2001 and 2003.

Bureau Serial No.

TB040

Question Serial No.

1418

(b) In 2001-02, 46 CCTV cameras for traffic surveillance will be installed at an estimated cost of \$20.5M.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB041

Question Serial No.

1419

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Transport Department will implement new green minibus routes and rationalise bus services. What are their details?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The number of new green minibus (GMB) routes planned each year is dependent on demand and the availability of market segments which suit GMB operation. For 2001, we have identified 9 possible GMB routes, 7 of which will serve the New Territories and 2 will serve Hong Kong Island. Applications from interested operators for the operating right for these new routes are being invited.

For 2001-02, 30 bus rationalization packages have been worked out in conjunction with franchised bus companies, which include :

- 7 for route cancellation;
- 8 for route truncation and amalgamation; and
- 15 for route and frequency adjustments

These items have been included in the annual bus route development programmes on which the Traffic and Transport Committees of the relevant District Councils are being consulted.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB042

Question Serial No.

1420

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

- Question : (a) What are the resources required by Transport Department (TD) to carry out the preliminary study on the development of a pedestrian walkway system linking Wan Chai and Admiralty? Will the District Councils and public be consulted?
- (b) What is the situation of planning and development of pedestrian schemes in Central, Wan Chai, Sham Shui Po and Jordan?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

- Reply : (a) The preliminary planning of the development of a pedestrian walkway system linking Wan Chai and Admiralty is carried out by TD using existing in-house resources. TD has already consulted the Wan Chai District Council on the preliminary layout, and will further consult the concerned District Councils on the detailed design and temporary traffic arrangements during construction when details are available.
- (b) The Transport Department has completed the initial design of the proposed pedestrian schemes for Central, Wan Chai, Sham Shui Po and Jordan. We are now consulting the District Councils and parties affected on these schemes. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, we intend to conduct trials of the initial phases of the various schemes in 2001 before finalising the detailed implementation programme.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001



Bureau Serial No.

TB043

Question Serial No.

1421

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What are Transport Department's preliminary proposals to ease traffic congestion in Central Business District? What are the resources required?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : We have identified three critical junctions in Central Business District (Queen's Road Central/Pedder Street, Connaught Road Central/Pedder Street and Harcourt Road/Cotton Tree Drive) which are overloaded. We have developed the following traffic management schemes to tackle the problem:

- (a) Widening of the carriageway of Pedder Street at its junction with Queen's Road Central to improve vehicle turning movements, together with modification to the signal control at the junction to allow more green time for the right turn from Queen's Road Central to Pedder Street;
- (b) Imposing additional no-stopping restrictions along Pedder Street between Queen's Road Central and Des Voeux Road Central to improve the traffic flow;
- (c) Providing an additional right turning lane from Pedder Street to Connaught Road Central eastbound;
- (d) Banning of left turning traffic from Pedder Street to Connaught Road Central westbound except buses, and diverting such traffic via Chater Road and Ice House Street by routing the section of Ice House Street between Chater Road and Connaught Road Central two-ways; and
- (e) Reducing vehicular conflicts at the Harcourt Road/Cotton Tree Drive junction by banning the U-turn at Cotton Tree Drive, access to Cotton Tree Drive uphill being replaced by a new right turning facility from Queensway eastbound onto Cotton Tree Drive.

Bureau Serial No.

TB043

Question Serial No.

1421

We have obtained District Council's general agreement on the schemes. The District Council will be further consulted on the details.

These measures are estimated to cost between \$1M to \$2M and will be carried out under Highways Department's block vote.

We will also continue to implement measures where appropriate to rationalise bus services and re-organise bus stops in the Central Business District with a view to improving traffic flow in the area.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB044

Question Serial No.

1422

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :    (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer :    Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary :    Secretary for Transport

Question :    Will Transport Department allocate funds to ensure cross-boundary traffic and transport infrastructure operate effectively? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by :    Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :    A number of improvement projects are being carried out or about to start soon to improve traffic and public transport operations at road boundary crossings. These include :

- (a) Widening the northbound San Tin Highway slip road to segregate passenger vehicles from goods vehicles: works commenced in September 2000 for completion in July 2001 at a cost of \$11.4 million.
- (b) Expanding the passengers holding area of the shuttle bus terminus at the Lok Ma Chau Public Transport Interchange: works are scheduled to commence in April 2001 for completion in May 2002 at a cost of \$2.5 million.
- (c) Installing 13 CCTVs on the approach roads to the three existing road boundary crossings to facilitate traffic monitoring: works commenced in January 2001 for completion in the third quarter of 2001 at a cost of \$11 million.

In addition to the above, the Immigration Department is expanding the Immigration Hall and other facilities at Lok Ma Chau Control Point at a cost of \$1,199 million. Works commenced in November 2000 and will be completed in September 2003.

Bureau Serial No.

TB044

Question Serial No.

1422

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB045

Question Serial No.

1423

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) : ---

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Has Transport Department allocated any resources in the next financial year for the provision of additional variable message signs on major expressways for the dissemination of traffic information, such that the motorists can use alternative routes to alleviate congestion?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : Resources have been allocated in 2001-02 for the installation of additional variable message signs under the Tsing Yi North Coastal Road and Tolo Highway Widening projects. The projects are scheduled for completion in 2002 and 2006 respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB046

Question Serial No.

1424

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Why Transport Department's forecast of the number of private cars and light goods vehicles (not exceeding 1.9 tonnes GVW) inspected at designated centres is less than the actual figure of 2000?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The number of inspections in 2000 is higher than that in 1999 as the number of private cars due for annual inspection is higher. With a decline in private car sales in 1994 and the expected increase in the number of old vehicles scrapped, the number of private cars due for annual inspection in 2001 is expected to be lower. The fleet size of light goods vehicles not exceeding 1.9 tonnes is much smaller and remains relatively stable hence would not significantly affect the annual total inspection figures.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB047

Question Serial No.

1425

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What is the estimated expenditure and how much manpower is required for the implementation of the driver improvement scheme?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : Under the driver improvement scheme (DIS), a driver may be directed by the court to attend a driver improvement course or he may attend the course voluntarily. Such courses will be provided by private operators. The Transport Department is responsible for monitoring the performance of the DIS course providers through redeployment of existing staff.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB048

Question Serial No.

1426

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What is the latest position on the study for replacement of the Vehicles and Drivers Licensing Integrated Data System (VALID III)? What are the estimated savings in staff cost and other expenses after the replacement?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The Efficiency Unit completed a preliminary feasibility study in end 2000, with the recommendation that VALID III be replaced by a new system (VALID IV) with open internet architecture, which would enable outside agents and Government departments to use the system and allow development of new applications at reasonable cost.

On full development of the VALID IV project in a few years' time, we expect to achieve efficiency improvements and savings in staff cost, office accommodation and system maintenance. The potential extent of such savings will become clearer towards the end of the year when we have finalised the scope of our project.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001



Bureau Serial No.

TB049

Question Serial No.

1427

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (2) Licensing of vehicles and drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Why does Transport Department require the franchised bus companies to retrofit diesel catalyts onto their pre-Euro buses? What does 100% completion by end 2001 mean?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : Transport Department has asked the franchised bus companies to retrofit diesel catalyts onto their pre-Euro buses, because the catalyts can reduce the particulate emissions of these buses by about 50% and improve their environmental performance.

In 1999, the bus companies agreed to retrofit catalyts onto 2,000 pre-Euro buses before the end of 2001, and more than 1,300 buses have already been retrofitted with diesel catalyts by the end of 2000.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB050

Question Serial No.

1428

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :    (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer :    Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary :    Secretary for Transport

Question :    What is TD's budget on the work concerning the study on introduction of the Vehicle Type Approval Regulations ?

Asked by :    Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply :    The study on the introduction of the Vehicle Type Approval Regulations is undertaken in-house by staff of TD and does not require additional resources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB051

Question Serial No.

1429

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Transport Department still plans to conduct spot check on franchised bus services 14 times a day in 2001. Please advise the reasons of no change to the services. How much manpower is required for carrying out this work? Has Transport Department any plan to enhance this service in order to improve the quality of bus services?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : Transport Department considers that the franchised buses are generally well maintained. The number of defects observed during spot checks has been dropping consistently in the past 7 years, from an average of 5.0 defects per bus inspected in 1994 to 1.8 in 2000. For these reasons, Transport Department has no plan to increase spot checks in 2001. Under the current arrangement, two vehicle examiners are engaged in carrying out the spot checks daily.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB052

Question Serial No.

1430

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme:    (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What is the reason for the annual decreases in the number of driver licence transactions?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : In June 1997, TD commenced to issue 10-year driving licences to replace 1-year and 3-year licences for drivers aged 60 or below, reducing substantially the frequency of driving licence renewal. By June 2000, the bulk of driving licences were changed to 10-year licences.

The number of driving licence renewal per month since implementation of the scheme averaged about 43,700 in 1997, 33,100 in 1998, 26,400 in 1999, 13,000 in 2000 and 5,000 over the past two months.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB053

Question Serial No.

1431

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : For emission tests programme on commercial vehicles, how much resources would the authority allocate for the relevant work? Please give details.

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : Smoke test has always been a standing inspection item when commercial vehicles are presented for the compulsory annual inspection. Since October 2000, TD has implemented a strengthened smoke test on all commercial vehicles in all government operated centres. The new test includes a test with the maximum engine speed, to prevent vehicle owners from tampering with the engine setting for achieving better test results. A new emission test on LPG taxis was also implemented in November 2000.

TD installed a chassis dynamometer (dyno) in the Kowloon Bay Vehicle Examination Centre (KB I) for conducting smoke tests in early 2001. The dyno is now under trial use. It is intended that 10 % of the commercial vehicles presented to the centre will be smoke-tested by the dyno when it is fully operational in April 2001.

TD also plans to install one more dyno in KB I and another one in the Tokwawan Centre subject to site availability, at an estimated total capital cost of \$9.2 million.

The 2 dynos will be operative in 2 years' time. By then, it is estimated that 50% of the commercial vehicles will be smoke-tested with the dynos each year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB054

Question Serial No.

1432

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What are the four posts that Transport Department plans to create in Programme (1), including their salaries, rank and areas of work ?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The details of the four posts that Transport Department plans to create in Programme (1) are -

No. & Rank	Areas of work	Total notional annual mid-point salary (NAMS)
1 Chief Engineer 1 Engineer/Assistant Engineer 1 Chief Transport Officer	To provide traffic engineering and transport planning input to new railway projects embodied in the Railway Development Strategy 2000	\$2,973,840
1 Transport Officer II	To provide operational support on monitoring train services upon the privatisation of MTRCL	

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB055

Question Serial No.

1433

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What is the progress of the review on the implementation of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) and what are the estimated expenditures?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The ITS Strategy Review has just been completed by Transport Department. It is recommended that a Transport Information System should be established for the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of comprehensive transport information. A new Traffic Management Framework should also be adopted to extend area traffic control systems to all new towns, to provide comprehensive traffic control and surveillance facilities on all existing and new expressways and to set up a Traffic Management and Information Centre to facilitate the co-ordination of territory wide traffic and incident management.

The estimated expenditure for implementing intelligent transport systems in 2001-02 is \$105 million. This includes extending the area traffic control system to Tai Po and North District, installation of traffic control and surveillance facilities on Tolo Highway and the planning and designing work for the Transport Information System, the Journey Time Indication System, and the Traffic Management and Information Centre.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB056

Question Serial No.

1434

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Please give details on the measures to further improve the quality and efficiency of public bus services through rationalisation and interchange schemes.

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : In 2001-02, we have worked out in conjunction with the franchised bus companies 30 bus rationalisation packages and 4 interchange schemes. Details are given below:

Rationalisation packages

- 7 for route cancellation;
- 8 for route truncation and amalgamation; and
- 15 for route and frequency adjustments.

Bus-bus interchange schemes

We plan to implement the following bus-bus interchange schemes in 2001-02:

- Fanling – involving 2 bus routes to facilitate travelling between Luen Wo Hui and Tsuen Wan;
- Kwun Tong Road – involving 6 bus routes to facilitate travelling between Tseung Kwan O (Hang Hau (N)) and other NT Districts;
- Tai Po Centre – involving 3 bus routes to facilitate travelling between Tai Wo and Tai Kok Tsui/Kowloon City; and
- Airport Cargo Area – involving 2 bus routes to facilitate travelling between the Aircraft Maintenance Area and Chek Lap Kok Ferry Pier.

These items have been included in the annual bus route development programmes on which the Traffic and Transport Committees of the District Councils concerned are being consulted.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title      Commissioner for Transport

Date      March 2001



Bureau Serial No.

TB057

Question Serial No.

1435

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : How would Transport Department assist in promoting the conversion of public light buses (PLB) to liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) or other clean-fuelled vehicles? What are the provisions and staff resources required for this scheme?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : Promoting the conversion of diesel PLBs to LPG and alternative-fuelled vehicles falls under the policy area of the Environment and Food Bureau (EFB). Transport Department has been working with EFB, Environmental Protection Department and the PLB trades on a trial of alternative-fuelled light buses, and chaired the monitoring committee which steered the trial. The trial was completed at the end of January 2001. The Administration is now studying the findings of the trial and will formulate the way forward. The trial scheme has been coordinated and monitored within existing staff resources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB058

Question Serial No.

1436

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : On encouraging franchised bus companies and ferry operators to provide better passenger service through the application of information technology, what is Transport Department's estimated expenditure in assisting the related operators to speed up the installation of information technology systems?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The costs of the installation, operation and maintenance of equipment for application of information technology in the bus and ferry operations are wholly borne by the operators concerned. Transport Department will encourage and facilitate this initiative through offering advice on siting and programming etc, and assisting in completing statutory and authorisation procedures where appropriate, using existing resources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB059

Question Serial No.

1437

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead 700 – General other non recurrent

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Please give details on the development of the taxi driver training programme and the review of taxi driver entry requirements by Transport Department. What is the estimated expenditure for these projects?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : Transport Department (TD) is:

- reviewing the basic requirements for obtaining a taxi driving licence, (covering areas like mandatory attendance of recognized taxi driver training course), as well as consideration of the acceptability of persons convicted of serious offences to serve as taxi drivers; and
- developing a taxi driver training programme on driving skills, service attitude and behaviour.

TD will consult the taxi trade later this year when it has finalised the proposals.

TD estimates to incur \$100,000 for publicizing the proposed taxi driver training programme in 2001-02. The taxi driver training programme is proposed to be organized and provided by private training institutes based on the course content developed by TD.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB060

Question Serial No.

1438

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) : 843 Minor consultancies for traffic impact assessments (block vote)

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Traffic Impact assessments (TIAs) carried out for housing development programme have been increased from 3 sites in 2000-01 to an estimate of 9 sites in 2001-02. Please explain. Will Transport Department carry out TIAs for all sites in the housing programme? If not, why?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : In 2000-01, we have identified 9 sites requiring TIAs. The first package of 3 sites (1 site at Borrett Road on Hong Kong Island and 2 sites at Fung Shing Street in East Kowloon) commenced in May 2000 as scheduled. Because of changes to planning input assumptions, we decided to postpone the commencement of the TIAs for the remaining 6 sites, which are in East Kowloon, to April 2001. Together with another package of TIAs for 3 sites that we also anticipate to undertake in 2001-02, TIAs for a total of 9 sites are expected to commence in the next financial year.

TIAs will be carried out for all developments in the housing programme expected to generate sufficient additional traffic to cause significant traffic impacts to the road network and infrastructure in the area.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB061

Question Serial No.

1439

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : How many non-recurrent items are there in the Programme "Planning and Development" for 2001-02? What is the estimated expenditure for each item?

Asked by : Hon CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : In 2001-02, there are 10 non-recurrent items in the Programme "Planning and Development". The estimated expenditure for each item are shown as follows:-

<b>Description</b>	<b><u>HK\$'000</u></b>
Feasibility study on electronic road pricing	4,792
HK Island North and Kowloon West district traffic studies	1,746
Tuen Mun and Yuen Long district traffic studies	2,835
Survey and demand analysis on Intelligent Transport System in Hong Kong	1,000
Study on future waterborne transport in Hong Kong	200
Consultancy to update the Parking Demand Study	1,878
Feasibility study on introducing trolley bus system in Hong Kong	2,200
Travel Characteristics Survey 2002	950
Surveys on ferry services	1,000

Bureau Serial No.

TB061

Question Serial No.

1439

Minor consultancies for traffic impact assessments 7,900

Total 24,501

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB062

Question Serial No.

1441

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) : Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : In order to improve the air quality of covered public transport interchanges (CPTIs), which ventilation system of CPTIs will be upgraded by Transport Department in 2001-02? What is the detailed programme and estimated cost for the upgrading of ventilation system?

Asked by : Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The ventilation system in 6 covered CPTIs will be upgraded in 2001-02 to improve the air quality. The upgrading works are scheduled to commence in mid-2001 for completion in mid-2002. The estimated cost for the upgrading works is \$26.91M. The 6 CPTIs to be upgraded are as follows :

- Kwai Hing MTR Public Transport Interchange
- Tsim Sha Tsui East Public Transport Interchange
- The Peak Public Transport Interchange
- Bayview Garden Bus Terminus
- Yen Chow Street Public Transport Interchange
- Sam Shing Public Transport Interchange

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB063

Question Serial No.

1442

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead : (No. & title) : 700 - General other non-recurrent

Programme :    (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer :    Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary :    Secretary for Transport

Question :    Up to now, what are the progress and results of item 533, the Tuen Mun and Yuen Long District Traffic Study? What are the main areas of work of the study in year 2001-02? What is the estimated expenditure of the study?

Asked by :    Hon TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :    The Tuen Mun and Yuen Long District Traffic Study is now nearing completion. We have investigated the various traffic and transport needs in the study area and identified a series of short, medium and long term measures to accommodate these needs. These measures aim to improve traffic circulation through construction of new roads and traffic management schemes, provide better environment for cyclists by linking up existing cycle tracks, enhance walking environment for pedestrians through new footbridges and pedestrian schemes, upgrade bus stop facilities as well as ease parking problems in the study area. We are now consolidating the study findings for consultation with the Tuen Mun and Yuen Long District Councils in the near future.

Our main area of work in 2001-02 is to finalise the study findings and recommendations in consultation with the two district councils. Subject to favourable feedback from the district councils, we will follow up with implementation of the proposals or with detailed investigations of the more complicated schemes.



Bureau Serial No.

TB063

Question Serial No.

1442

We have allowed an expenditure of \$ 2.835 million for this item in 2001-02, including some provision for more detailed investigation work.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB064

Question Serial No.

1443

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 – Transport Department Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme: (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : The Administration planned to implement in 2001 pedestrian schemes at 15 streets in Central, Wan Chai, Jordan and Sham Shui Po. How much resources have been reserved to investigate the feasibility of introducing similar schemes in more streets so that the air quality in the busy districts can be improved earlier? Will the District Councils and resident organisations be consulted?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : The Administration has reserved \$3 million under Subhead 700 Item 557 for the planning of more pedestrian schemes in areas where improvement to the pedestrian environment is considered necessary.

The District Councils and the parties affected, including resident organisations, will be fully consulted on the proposed pedestrian schemes.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB065

Question Serial No.

1444

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : How much financial provision will be allocated by the Government in the coming year on operating the vehicle examination centres? How many vehicle inspections are conducted daily? Are there plans for the centres to extend the emission test to all commercial vehicles? What are the details?

Asked by : Hon LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : A recurrent provision of about \$26 million is allocated for operating the four government-operated vehicle examination centres. These centres inspect about 340 vehicles per day, and conduct about 90 checks on taximeters daily.

Smoke test has always been a standing inspection item when commercial vehicles are presented for the compulsory annual inspection. Since October 2000, TD has implemented a strengthened smoke test on all commercial vehicles in all government-operated centres. The new test includes a test with the maximum engine speed, to prevent vehicle owners from tampering with the engine setting for achieving better test results. The extra work is absorbed by existing resources. A new emission test on LPG taxis was also implemented in November 2000.

TD installed a chassis dynamometer (dyno) in the Kowloon Bay Vehicle Examination Centre (KB I) in early 2001. It is now under trial use. It is intended that 10% of the commercial vehicles presented to the centre will be smoke-tested by the dyno when it is fully operational in April 2001.

Bureau Serial No.

TB065

Question Serial No.

1444

TD also plans to install one more dyno in KB I and another one in the Tokwawan Centre subject to site availability, at an estimated total capital cost of \$9.2 million.

The 2 dynos will be operative in 2 years' time. By then, it is estimated that 50% of the commercial vehicles will be smoke-tested with the dynos each year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB066

Question Serial No.

1446

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :    (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer :    Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary :    Secretary for Transport

Question :    During the year 2001-02, what assistance will Transport Department provide to facilitate early replacement of diesel taxis by liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) taxis ?

Asked by :    Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-ye

Reply :    The Administration has developed a cash grant scheme to encourage diesel taxi owners to replace their vehicles early. The Transport Department is responsible for administrating the cash grant scheme, and a special team with 7 staff was set up in July 2000 to process applications for the grant.

The Transport Department maintains close liaison with the taxi trade, the major taxi dealers and vehicle suppliers on delivery, examination and licensing of new LPG taxis to ensure a smooth conversion of diesel taxis to LPG taxis.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB067

Question Serial No.

1447

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :                    (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer :      Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary :        Secretary for Transport

Question :      Apart from the switching to the use of ultra low sulphur diesel (ULSD), what other improvement measures on environmental performance will TD ask the franchised bus companies to pursue?

Asked by :      Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-yee

Reply :      Apart from the use of ULSD, Transport Department has asked the bus companies to undertake the following measures to improve their environmental performance :

- (a) to improve the environmental performance of their pre-Euro buses by either :
  - fitting them with diesel catalysts; or
  - replacing them by buses of Euro standard.
- (b) to conduct tests on the use of after-treatment devices such as soot filters and particulate traps to further reduce tailpipe emissions;
- (c) to deploy only Euro II buses on routes operating on the Causeway Bay corridor;
- (d) to rationalize bus services by, where appropriate, route cancellation or truncation, route amalgamation, frequency reduction, introduction of bus-bus interchange schemes, etc; and
- (e) to closely monitor their drivers in the control of idling engines at bus terminals.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title      Commissioner for Transport

Date      March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB068

Question Serial No.

1448

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What was the number of valid 10-year driving licence holders in 2000?

Asked by : Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee

Reply : As at the end of 2000, there were a total of 1.387 million holders of 10-year driving licences.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB069

Question Serial No.

1449

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :    (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Details on “To study the introduction of Vehicle Type Approval Regulations ”

Asked by : Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-ye

Reply : At present, there is no vehicle type approval legislation in Hong Kong. Vehicles imported to Hong Kong are approved based on the technical standards and requirements of the existing Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations and Road Traffic (Safety Equipment) Regulations, which are not adequately flexible to permit quick adaptation to new standards and technology.

The Transport Department is examining the need to introduce a new set of type approval regulations to improve and streamline the existing operation. It will also enable Hong Kong to respond promptly to changes in vehicle design and standards and to meet the global trend towards harmonization of vehicle technical regulations. We will consult vehicle manufacturers and vehicle importers on the detailed proposals which are expected to be available by the end of 2001.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001



Bureau Serial No.

TB070

Question Serial No.

1450

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme:    (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary :    Secretary for Transport

Question : Will the government raise the target on vehicle travelling speeds in urban areas and the New Territories?

Asked by: Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-yee

Reply : In the face of growing travel demand from new developments in the territory, we will seek to maintain the average peak hour travelling speed at a level above the ten-year average of 24 km/hr in urban areas and 39km/hr in suburban areas. In addition, we will continue to improve the road network and its management with a view to enhancing the utilisation of the network capacity. We will also review our target travelling speeds regularly taking into account prevailing traffic conditions in different areas.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : In 2001-02, what additional traffic management measures will Transport Department implement to ease traffic congestion in the Central Business District?

Asked by : Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-ye

Reply : We have identified three critical junctions in Central Business District (Queen's Road Central/Pedder Street, Connaught Road Central/Pedder Street and Harcourt Road/Cotton Tree Drive) which are overloaded. We have developed the following traffic management schemes to tackle the problem:

- (a) Widening of the carriageway of Pedder Street at its junction with Queen's Road Central to improve vehicle turning movements, together with modification to the signal control at the junction to allow more green time for the right turn from Queen's Road Central to Pedder Street;
- (b) Imposing additional no-stopping restrictions along Pedder Street between Queen's Road Central and Des Voeux Road Central to improve the traffic flow;
- (c) Providing an additional right turning lane from Pedder Street to Connaught Road Central eastbound;
- (d) Banning of left turning traffic from Pedder Street to Connaught Road Central westbound except buses, and diverting such traffic via Chater Road and Ice House Street by routing the section of Ice House Street between Chater Road and Connaught Road Central two-ways; and
- (e) Reducing vehicular conflicts at the Harcourt Road/Cotton Tree Drive junction by banning the U-turn at Cotton Tree Drive, access to Cotton Tree Drive uphill being replaced by a new right turning facility from Queensway eastbound onto Cotton Tree Drive.

Bureau Serial No.

TB071

Question Serial No.

1451

We have obtained District Council's general agreement on the schemes. The District Council will be further consulted on the details.

We will also continue to implement measures where appropriate to rationalise bus services and re-organise bus stops in the Central Business District with a view to improving traffic flow in the area.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB072

Question Serial No.

1452

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :            (4) : Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : In year 2001-02, how will Transport Department improve the management of public transport interchanges?

Asked by : Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-yee

Reply : In 2001-02, Transport Department will improve the management of 10 to 15 public transport interchanges by contracting out the work to private companies. The contractor will be required to undertake all management responsibilities, including cleaning, regular inspections and providing complaint hotlines. This arrangement will enhance the efficiency and co-ordination of the management work on public transport interchanges.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB073

Question Serial No.

1456

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department    Subhead (No. & title) : ---

Programme:    (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What is the progress of the review on the implementation of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) and what is the expenditure for the review?

Asked by : Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing

Reply : The ITS Strategy Review has just been completed. It is recommended that a Transport Information System should be established for the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of comprehensive transport information. A new Traffic Management Framework should also be adopted to extend Area Traffic Control Systems to all new towns, to provide comprehensive traffic control and surveillance facilities on all existing and new expressways and to set up a Traffic Management and Information Centre to facilitate the co-ordination of territory wide traffic and incident management. The review was conducted in-house by staff of Transport Department and did not require additional resources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters    ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title    Commissioner for Transport

Date    March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB074

Question Serial No.

1458

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 186 - Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 General other non-recurrent

Programme: (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Referring to the Travel Characteristics Survey 2002 mentioned in Item 560:

- (1) What are the details of the survey?
- (2) Will travel characteristics of people with disabilities be included in the survey?
- (3) When will the survey be completed?

Asked by: Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan

Reply : (1) This is a large scale survey covering 2% (40,000) households in Hong Kong. The last survey was conducted in 1992. The details to be collected in the Travel Characteristics Survey 2002 (TCS 2002) will include primarily the socio-economic and trip making characteristics data of the public. The socio-economic data include the household and respondent particulars, while the trip making characteristics data cover passenger trip information including origins and destinations, departure and arrival times, trip purposes and modes of transport. Details of the routeings and journey times, including times spent in walking and waiting, will be included. However the exact questions to be asked will be drawn up closer to the time of the survey.

- (2) The TCS 2002 will collect the travel characteristics of people with disabilities together with those of other people in Hong Kong.
- (3) The TCS 2002 will be commissioned in late 2001 and the survey results will be available in mid 2003.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB075

Question Serial No.

0178

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 706 Highways

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : -

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : For Head 706, under the revised estimate for 2000-01 in respect of “Works completed, cancelled or curtailed”, what are the details for each project, such as its title, provision involved, the amount of curtailment, etc.? What are the reasons for cancellation or curtailment of each project?

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek

Reply : For Head 706, the revised estimate for 2000-01 in respect of “Works completed, cancelled or curtailed” is \$49,025,000. It is an aggregate total of expenditures of the following projects scheduled to be completed or payment to be finalised in the financial year 2000-01. No projects have been cancelled or curtailed.

<b>Sub-head (Code)</b>	<b>Approved Projects</b>	<b>Approved Project Estimate (\$'000)</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure to 31.3.2000 (\$'000)</b>	<b>Revised Estimate 2000-01 (\$'000)</b>
6034TB	Pedestrian subway and junction improvements at Pokfulam Road/Pokfield Road	19,000	16,585	167
6098TB	Reconstruction of the footbridge across Kwun Tong Road at Tsun Yip Lane, Kwun Tong	38,100	30,259	700
6116TB	Extension of O'Brien Road footbridge across Hennessy Road	28,240	24,303	3,601
6080TH	New Territories Circular Road improvements, Au Tau to Fan Kam Road – phases 1 to 4 and 6	1,064,000	1,061,393	500
6095TH	Route 5 – Sha Tin to Tsuen Wan – consultants' fees and investigations	35,000	25,163	10

Bureau Serial No.

TB075

Question Serial No.

0178

Sub-head (Code)	Approved Project	Approved Project Estimate (\$'000)	Actual Expenditure to 31.3.2000 (\$'000)	Revised Estimate 2000-01 (\$'000)
6173TH	Route 5 – Sha Tin to Tsuen Wan, Shing Mun section	809,000	773,196	10
6206TH	Lai Chi Kok Road improvement	43,000	30,071	1,195
6282TH	Footbridge across Lei Yue Mun Road at Tsui Ping Road	44,500	35,112	100
6546TH	Reconstruction of major roads in the territory, 1994-95 programme, phase I	281,600	233,687	125
6549TH	Rock Hill Street extension and stage 2 of Kennedy Town traffic management measures	58,300	53,699	324
6571TH	Reconstruction of major roads in the territory, 1995-96 programme, phase I	132,000	107,691	425
6037TI	Transport interchange at Diamond Hill	47,110	33,706	1,235
6052TI	Public transport terminus at Kowloon Tong adjacent to Kowloon Tong MTR/KCR station	14,900	6,887	213
6058TI	Public transport interchange at Site B of the Comprehensive Development Area associated with the Tai Kok Tsui Airport Railway Station	18,770	0	18,770
6064TI	Public transport interchange in Siu Sai Wan	21,650	0	21,650
Revised Estimate				49,025

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Y C LOPost Title Director of HighwaysDate March 2001



Bureau Serial No.

TB076

Question Serial No.

0451

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 60 - Highways Department Subhead(No. & title) :736TH - Deep Bay Link

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Financial Secretary indicated this year that the construction of the Shenzhen – Hong Kong Western Corridor (SWC) and Deep Bay Link (DBL) should be confirmed quickly. Please advise what is the current progress of the negotiation between Hong Kong and Mainland? What is the cost to be shared by the Government for these two projects? What is the initial assessment for resumption of land in terms of area?

In 2001-2002 financial year, what will be carried out by the Government for the SWC and DBL projects?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply : We are now discussing with the Mainland side on the arrangements for the implementation of the Shenzhen – Hong Kong Western Corridor (SWC).

As regards the cost to be shared by the Government, the Deep Bay Link (DBL) project will be wholly funded by the Government as it is within the Hong Kong SAR territory. We have already earmarked a sum of \$10.8 billion for the construction of the DBL. For the SWC project, the financing arrangements are still being considered.

As regards the extent of land resumption for DBL, the preliminary assessment indicates that it would be about 56 ha based on the current preferred scheme. For the SWC project, the land requirement has not been established yet and will be assessed in due course.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Y C LO

Post Title Director of Highways

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB077

Question Serial No.

0452

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 60 - Highways Department      Subhead (No. & title) : 582TH - Central Kowloon  
Route – consultants' design fees and site  
investigations

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Transport

Question: Last year, the Government replied that the preliminary design of the Central Kowloon Route would be completed in the 3rd Quarter of 2000-2001 (Question Serial No. TB0038). It is stated in the Draft Estimates, "To continue on the preliminary design of the Central Kowloon Route". Is this because of a delay of the completion date of the concerned design? If affirmative, what is the cause? And when will it be completed?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: The preliminary design of Central Kowloon Route (CKR) was carried out based on an alignment compatible with the original scheme of South East Kowloon Development (SEKD). In view of the public objection under the Town Planning Ordinance, a revised scheme for the SEKD, involving a smaller scale of reclamation and a different road layout, was put up for public consultation in July 2000. It was therefore necessary to review the alignment of the CKR to match the new layout of SEKD and we have identified a new alignment. We plan to complete the preliminary design for the new alignment by the third quarter of 2002-2003.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Y C L O \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Highways \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001 \_\_\_\_\_

Bureau Serial No.

TB078

Question Serial No.

0453

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 60 – Highways Department    Subhead (No. & title) : ---

Programme:    ( 2 ) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : (a) The number of excavation permits issued by the authority is about one thousand higher than the estimated number of 23500. What is the reason? Please provide breakdown of the figures according to utility undertakings.

(b) What is the number of excavation permits involving works on carriageway and footway respectively? What is the percentage difference compared with 1999?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

(a) The number of excavation permits issued in year 2000, grouped by utility undertakings, is as follow:

Utility Undertaking	No. of Excavation Permit Issued in 2000
CLP Power	6,751
Drainage Services Department	1,139
Hong Kong and China Gas	1,264
Hong Kong Cable	939
Hong Kong Tramways	78
Hongkong Electric	3,204
Hutchison Global Crossing	2,758
New T&T	211
New World Telephone	129
PCCW-HKT	2,132
Water Supplies Department	3,169
Others	2,781
Total	24,555

Bureau Serial No.

TB078

Question Serial No.

0453

The total number of excavation permits to be issued for each year is estimated based on the statistics of past years and forecast on economic growth. The actual number for year 2000 is 1,055 more than the estimation. It may be due to higher than expected economic recovery in 2000 which has led to an increased demand in utility services.

(b) The number of excavation permits with works on carriageway and footway respectively in 1999 and 2000 is as follow :

Year	Number of Excavation Permit		
	Wholly on carriageway	Wholly on footway	Partly on carriageway and footway
1999	2,947	15,866	3,898
2000	3,491	17,144	3,920
Percentage Change	+18.5%	+8.1%	+0.6%

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Y C LO

Post Title Director of Highways

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB079

Question Serial No.

0454

**Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02**  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO**  
**WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 60 - Highways Department     Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme:     (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Regarding the investigation of automated data collection methods on road surface conditions in year 2001, what are the details and the associated forecast expenditure?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply: The automated road condition data collection methodology is being considered to replace the current method of collecting road condition data manually and on-foot which is subjective, labour-intensive and time-consuming. The investigation study will examine the most appropriate and cost-effective automated data collection equipment to be installed on a vehicle. This methodology will enhance the accuracy of the data collected and improve the cost effectiveness and efficiency of highway maintenance. A consultancy for the investigation at approximately \$1.3M will be conducted in June 2001. Subject to the outcome of this study, a full-scale automated road condition survey covering the whole territory, including collection of new and updated road inventory, will be implemented.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Y C LO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Highways

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB080

Question Serial No.

0455

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 60 - Highways Department     Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : (a) The estimated expenditure for the maintenance of roadside slope in 2000 was \$128 million, whereas the actual expenditure was \$85 million, what were the reasons for the drastic decrease in the expenditure for the maintenance of roadside slopes? Has Government completed the plan of last year, i.e. the improvement of 95 slopes, and has it implemented the Engineer Inspections of 3000 slopes of this kind? (Refer to the Bureau serial no TB093 last year.)

(b) In 2001, what will be the specific plan of Government in slope maintenance? What will be the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon LAU Kong-wah

Reply : (a) Highways Department has achieved its target in 2000 of improving 95 roadside slopes by prescriptive measures and arranging Engineer Inspection to 3000 slopes. The reduction in slope maintenance expenditure in 2000 is partly due to the continuing drop in tender prices of the new works contracts. In addition, due to the relatively dry summer, there was less slope deterioration and smaller number of slope failure incidents which have resulted in less urgent maintenance and emergency repair works.

(b) In 2001, Highways Department plans to improve a further 75 slopes. As these slopes are generally larger and mostly along busy roads, improvement works have to be carried out in stages to minimize traffic disruption and to comply with current higher site safety requirements. Longer time will also be necessary in designing and organizing the works to cater for site difficulties and to provide enhanced appearance compatible with the surrounding environment. However, there is no reduction in our resources to be put into this area of work.

Bureau Serial No.

TB080

Question Serial No.

0455

Although the number of slopes to be improved is reduced in 2001, it would not pose any hazard to the road users. The recent slope maintenance audit has found that our slope maintenance system is satisfactory and up to the required standard and none of the roadside slopes inspected has been found to be in immediate danger.

During the current year, we will arrange Engineer Inspection to 2500 slopes. These slopes are mainly located in the New Territories as most of the urban area slopes have already been inspected. Our estimated expenditure on slope works in 2001 is \$85 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Y C LO

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 14 March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB081

Question Serial No.

0558

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 60 – Highways Department      Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme :            (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary :    Secretary for Transport

- Question : (a) In the year 2000, in which region/location did Highways Department install Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment for monitoring and maintenance? Please list out the relevant project and its expenditure.  
(b) In the year 2001, what is the detailed plan and estimated cost for Highways Department to install Global Positioning System equipment?

Asked by : Hon LAU Kong-wah

- Reply : (a) In the year 2000, Highways Department (HyD) installed a Global Positioning System (GPS) on the three long span cable supported bridges in the Tsing Ma Control Area; viz., the Tsing Ma Bridge, Kap Shui Mun Bridge and Ting Kau Bridge. The system is to monitor the real-time displacements of the bridges which can be used to ascertain the health conditions of the bridge structures. The total cost of the GPS including 29 sets of GPS sensory systems and the consultant fee is \$8.4 million, of which \$5.6 million and \$2.8 million are charged to:
- (i) 2488TH – Lantau Fixed Crossing – Contracts 1 & 2; and
  - (ii) 6537TH – Ting Kau Bridge and Approach Viaduct respectively.
- (b) In the year 2001, HyD will purchase 3 sets of GPS equipment at an estimated cost of \$1.05 million. These equipment are portable and could be set up at various locations where required for control surveys and monitoring surveys. HyD plans to extend the use of GPS equipment to all engineering surveys for highways projects in Hong Kong.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      Y C LO

Post Title      Director of Highways

Date      March 2001



Bureau Serial No.

TB082

Question Serial No.

0954

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 60 - Highways Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme:    ( 1 ) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary :    Secretary for Transport

Question :    According to the two targets for the measurement of key performance, i.e. expenditure on capital projects for the year incurred as scheduled (%) and works contracts completed in accordance with agreed programmes (%), why is it that the actual figures in 2000 are lower than the plan figures and thus fail to meet the established targets?

Asked by:    Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-yee

Reply :    (a) The main reasons for underspending on capital projects for 2000 are as follows:

- (i) lower tender prices;
- (ii) delay in commencement of construction works and consultancy studies due to longer time required to resolve environmental issues and objections to gazettal; and
- (iii) slow progress of works by contractors.

- (b) Only one of our 12 contracts cannot be completed in accordance with the agreed programme. This contract is Improvement to Tuen Mun Road - Tai Lam Section. The delay is mainly due to the unforeseen ground conditions which have made slope excavation more difficult and necessitated substantial slope stabilisation works.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters                      Y C L O

Post Title                      Director of Highways

Date                      March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB083

Question Serial No.

0982

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 60 - Highways Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

- Question : (a) Will the contract conditions specify the use of recycled materials or provide incentives to the contractors for their use? If the answer is affirmative, what are the details? If no, what are the reasons?
- (b) What are the measures taken to coordinate the works of different contractors of different government projects to ensure recycled materials produced from one project will be purchased/reused in other projects?

Asked by : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply : (a) In general, conditions are stipulated in the contracts to require the contractors to submit Waste Management Plans (WMPs) for approval before commencement of construction. A waste segregation area will be allocated to maximize the amount of construction and demolition (C&D) materials generated to be reused. Highways Department will ensure that the day-to-day operations on site comply with the approved WMPs. The Department will also record the disposal, reuse and recycling of C&D materials for monitoring and auditing purposes. In addition, the Department continues to research into recycled materials for use in road construction and has produced draft specifications to allow the use of recycled roadbase and sub-base in pavement construction, which will be promulgated after the trial is successful.

Bureau Serial No.

TB083

Question Serial No.

0982

- (b) The recyclable materials produced from highways works are generally crushed concrete, excavations from cuttings and road formations as well as asphalt pavement. The excavated materials from cuttings and road formations are reused on site wherever possible in road embankment and pavement construction. Surplus materials are co-ordinated by the Public Fill Committee chaired by the Director of Civil Engineering to go into reclamation, other earth filling projects and landfills. These requirements will be specified into the contracts accordingly.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Y C L O

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Highways

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB084

Question Serial No.

1088

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 60 - Highways Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : With reference to the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) which will pass through a lot of densely populated areas, what is the estimated area of private land required to be resumed? What sort of resources has been reserved to rehouse the affected residents in order to enable smooth resumption to take place?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : The route of the SCL as shown in the Railway Development Strategy 2000 is an indicative alignment at strategic level. The refined final alignment will be subject to detailed engineering studies by the successful operator of this line. At present, we have not got sufficient information to estimate the land requirements and thus the resources to be required to meet the housing needs arising from this project.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Y C L O

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Highways

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB085

Question Serial No.

1089

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 60 - Highways Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What are the various works included in the project implementation plan for the Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line project in the 2001 Estimate and their respective progress? Would the implementation plan have to be amended in view of the appeal relating to the Environmental Impact Assessment Report?

Asked by : Hon LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : The works in respect of the Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line project include liaison with KCRC on the detailed design, environmental impact assessment, calling for tenders and commencement of construction; liaison with objectors to the scheme to resolve their objections; and submission of the scheme for authorisation under the Railways Ordinance. KCRC and the Administration will proceed with the implementation plan once the statutory EIA processes for the Spur Line are completed.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Y C LO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Highways

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB086

Question Serial No.

1090

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 60 - Highways Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : There will be a reduction in the number of design completed for roadside slope improvement next year. What are the reasons? Will this affect the safety of the road users?

Asked by: Hon LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : We are in fact planning to include more larger slopes along busy roads for improvement in 2001. These improvement works have to be carried out in stages which will require longer time to construct in order to minimise disruption to traffic. The construction periods of our slope improvement works are also being lengthened by the need to provide intensive scaffoldings to meet specific site safety requirements. So while the number of works item is reduced, there is no reduction in our resources to be put into this area of work.

In addition to slope improvement, we have also stepped up our routine slope inspection and maintenance programme. The recent slope maintenance audit has found that our slope maintenance system is satisfactory and up to the required standard. None of the roadside slopes inspected has been found to be in immediate danger.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Y C LO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Highways

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB087

Question Serial No.

1275

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 60 - Highways Department     Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : The Budget briefing mentioned that Highways Department would assist in deciding and selecting major infrastructure projects for privatisation. What are the projects selected in year 2000-01 and planned to be selected in year 2001-02 for study on suitability of privatisation?

Asked by: Hon LAU Chin-shek

Reply : At the moment, we have not identified any major highway infrastructure projects for study on suitability of privatisation during the years 2000-01 and 2001-02. We will keep our projects in view to see whether any suitable candidate can be identified for inclusion into such study.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Y C LO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Highways

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB088

Question Serial No.

1276

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 60 - Highways Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : (a) The percentages of the expenditure on capital projects for 1999 and 2000 incurred as scheduled are both 89% only, which are much lower than the targets of 100%, why is it so? Is there any measure to ensure that the target of 100% can be met in 2001?

(b) Only 92 % of the works contracts have been completed in accordance with agreed programmes in 2000. What are the titles, nature, contents, contract amounts of the works contracts not yet completed and their reasons for not having been completed as scheduled?

Asked by : Hon LAU Chin-shek

Reply : (a) The main reasons for underspending on capital projects for 1999 and 2000 are:

- (i) lower tender prices;
- (ii) delay in commencement of construction works and consultancy studies due to longer time required to resolve environmental issues and objections to gazettal; and
- (iii) slow progress of works by contractors.

For the year 2001, in order to meet our target, we shall continue to closely monitor the prevailing market conditions, supervise the progress of works contracts and project planning works.



Bureau Serial No.

TB088

Question Serial No.

1276

- (b) Only one of our 12 contracts (therefore accounting for 8%) cannot be completed in accordance with the agreed programme. This contract is Improvement to Tuen Mun Road – Tai Lam Section. The details are as follows:

Contract: Contract No. HY/98/01  
Improvement to Tuen Mun Road – Tai Lam Section

Description of works: Construction of a 1.4km section of the Kowloon-bound carriageway of Tuen Mun Road near Siu Lam. Works comprise -

- (i) addition of a climbing lane;
- (ii) widening of the lane width to expressway standard; and
- (iii) addition of standard hard shoulder.

The contract involves mainly slope cutting and stabilization works adjacent to Tuen Mun Road, retaining wall and road construction works.

Contract Sum: \$268M

Reasons for delay: The unforeseen ground conditions have made slope excavation more difficult and have necessitated substantial slope stabilization works. These slope works, which are carried out adjacent to the busy Tuen Mun Road, have taken more time to ensure completion in a safe manner. As at end 2000, 81% of works have been completed. We expect that the works can be substantially completed by May 2001.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Y C L O

Post Title Director of Highways

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB089

Question Serial No.

1277

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 60 - Highways Department      Subhead (No. & title) :  
6557TH – Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island  
Eastern Corridor Link – Consultants' fees and  
investigations

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What is the current progress of the design of the Central-Wan Chai Bypass project and the expected development for the financial year 2001-02? What is the expected completion date for the project?

Asked by: Hon LAU Chin-shek

Reply : We are now carrying out the preliminary design and Environmental Impact Assessment Study for the Central-Wan Chai Bypass project taking into consideration the latest proposal for the Central Reclamation Phase III and Wan Chai Development Phase II projects.

During the next financial year, we expect that the Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be completed and submitted to the Director of Environmental Protection for approval under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance. We would also undertake public consultation and arrange for gazetting the project under the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance.

The entire Central-Wan Chai Bypass is currently scheduled to be completed in 2011. The service road network associated with the Central Reclamation Phase III and Wanchai Development Phase II will be completed as from 2006 in phases to provide interim relief to traffic congestion.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Y C LO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Highways

Date \_\_\_\_\_ March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB090

Question Serial No.

1278

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 60 - Highways Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme:      (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer :      Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary :      Secretary for Transport

Question :      The Railway Development Strategy 2000 (RDS-2000) recommends a number of railway projects. Apart from the Shatin to Central Link (SCL), Island Line Extensions (ILE) and the Kowloon Southern Link (KSL), what is Highways Department's latest timetable for the other railway development projects?

Asked by :      Hon LAU Chin-shek

Reply :      According to the RDS-2000, out of the six recommended railway projects, the SCL, ILE and KSL are more urgent. Government has already invited the two railway corporations to submit proposals by July for these three projects. The remaining three projects, viz. the Northern Link (NOL), the Regional Express Line (REL) and the Port Rail Line (PRL) are either less urgent or dependent on commercial initiatives. Their implementation timings depend on transport demands and will be closely monitored. We will also complete the preparatory works so that we can initiate the implementation processes for these projects without delay if required.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      Y C L O  
\_\_\_\_\_

Post Title      Director of Highways  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date      March 2001  
\_\_\_\_\_

Bureau Serial No.

TB091

Question Serial No.

1279

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 60 - Highways Department    Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : In 2000, 10 transport and planning studies requiring railway development input were undertaken. There are 11 such studies in 2001. What are the study scopes and estimated costs for these studies.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-chek

Reply : The ten studies for which we provided railway planning input in 2000 continued into 2001. With the addition of the "Western District Development Study", there are totally 11 studies in 2001.

The full titles and the estimated study costs are given below:

**Transport and planning studies in 2000 and 2001**

	Title	Estimated Cost
1.	Planning and Development Study on NWNT	\$56M
2.	Planning and Development Study on NENT	\$42M
3.	Study on SENT Development Strategy Review	\$5M
4.	Stage II Study on Review of Metroplan and the Related Kowloon Density Study Review	\$9M
5.	Studies on Integration of New Railways with Other Public Transport Services	\$8M
6.	Remaining Development in Tung Chung and Tai Ho Comprehensive Feasibility Study	\$13M

Bureau Serial No.

TB091

Question Serial No.

1279

	Title	Estimated Cost
7.	Comprehensive Feasibility Study for the Revised Scheme of South East Kowloon Development	\$23M
8.	Hong Kong 2030 – Planning Vision and Strategy	\$7M
9.	Central Reclamation III	\$36M
10.	Wan Chai Development Phase II	\$60M

**Transport and planning study in 2001**

11.	Western District Development Study	In-house
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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters Y C L O

Post Title Director of Highways

Date March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB092

Question Serial No.

0958

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head 100 Marine Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme: (2) Port Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What is the number of passenger ferries using the marine ferry terminals per annum in the past three years?

Asked by: Hon Mrs Miriam LAU Kin-yee

Reply : The number of ferry vessels providing cross-boundary services at the two marine ferry terminals in the past three years (as of end of the year) is as follows –

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of vessels</u>
1998	74
1999	81
2000	73

The number of trips made by these vessels inbound and outbound between Hong Kong and various destination ports is –

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of trips</u>
1998	131,047
1999	120,557
2000	120,355

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      S Y TSUI

Post Title      Director of Marine

Date      March 2001

Bureau Serial No.

TB093

Question Serial No.

0410

Examination of draft Estimates of Expenditure 2001-02

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Head : 43 - Civil Engineering Department

Programme : (2) – Port and Marine Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Civil Engineering Department will create four posts to handle the maintenance of the immersed tubes of the Cross-Harbour Tunnel and the fender systems of the franchised and licensed ferry piers. Are the four posts permanent? Will the posts be deleted after the completion of the maintenance of the Cross-Harbour Tunnel? What are the ranks of the four posts?

Asked by : Hon LAU Wong-fat

Reply : This Department will create four permanent civil service posts to meet the maintenance requirements of the immersed tubes of the Cross-Harbour Tunnel and the fender systems of the franchised and licensed ferry piers. The four posts to be created are 1 Senior Engineer, 1 Engineer, 1 Inspector of Works and 1 Assistant Inspector of Works. The maintenance works, which include regular inspection, repairs and monitoring, will be required as long as the Cross-Harbour Tunnel and ferry piers are in service.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. LAU CHING-KWONG

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Civil Engineering

Date \_\_\_\_\_

14 March 2001