

**LegCo Panel on Transport
Subcommittee on matters relating to the
implementation of railway development projects**

Shatin to Central Link

Supplementary Information

We invited, on 15th January 2001, both railway Corporations to submit proposals for the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) and have, on the same day, issued the LegCo Brief. In the invitations, we required the Corporations to submit the proposals within six months.

2. Preparation of comprehensive project proposals by relevant Corporations for other major railway projects, have in the past, taken six to ten months and even 14 months in cases there were difficult issues. The assessment of the proposals took about four to eight months.

3. We have reviewed such experience with the particular situations of the SCL. The SCL will need to overcome the constraints imposed by the existing KCR and MTR systems and involve a number of interchange stations with them. There is also a need to minimise the traffic and environmental impacts, disruption to existing public facilities and land resumption, and at the same time achieve integration with planned land-use in new development and redevelopment areas and the earliest

completion dates, in phases if necessary. The competitive nature of the exercise will also drive the bidders to use their greatest effort to come up with the best schemes. The SCL will require a sufficiently long period for proposal preparation and assessment.

4. We share Members' as well as the public's wish for the early completion of the SCL. We have therefore required the Corporations to prepare the bidding proposals within an absolute minimum period of time and have allowed only another three to four months for their assessment. We thus expect the choice of operator for the SCL can be made about the end of this year. We consider this to be the absolute earliest achievable practicable programme.

Transport Bureau
6 March 2001