

**Replies to written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in examining
the Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03**

[Bureau Secretary/Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport]

[Session No. : 10] [File name: TB-e1.doc]

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
TB001	0016	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	153	Transport
TB002	0140	HO Chung-tai, Raymond	153	Transport
TB003	0355	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	153	Transport
TB004	0953	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	153	Transport
TB005	0954	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	153	Transport
TB006	1068	LAU Kong-wah	153	Transport
TB007	1101	LAU Kong-wah	153	Transport
TB008	1102	LAU Kong-wah	153	Transport
TB009	1103	LAU Kong-wah	153	Transport
TB010	1131	LAU Kong-wah	153	Transport
TB011	1158	LAU Kong-wah	153	Transport
TB012	0354	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	186	Management of Transport Services
TB013	0360	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	186	–
TB014	0382	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Planning and Development
TB015	0383	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
TB016	0384	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Management of Transport Services
TB017	0385	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	–
TB018	0386	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	–
TB019	0392	TAM Yiu-chung	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
TB020	0393	TAM Yiu-chung	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
TB021	0394	TAM Yiu-chung	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
TB022	0395	TAM Yiu-chung	186	Planning and Development
TB023	0396	TAM Yiu-chung	186	Planning and Development
TB024	0704	LAU Kong-wah	186	–
TB025	0705	LAU Kong-wah	186	Management of Transport Services
TB026	0706	LAU Kong-wah	186	–
TB027	0707	LAU Kong-wah	186	Planning and Development
TB028	0708	LAU Kong-wah	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
TB029	0991	LI Ka-cheung, Eric	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
TB030	1008	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	186	Planning and Development
TB031	1009	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
TB032	1010	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	186	Management of Transport Services
TB033	1014	LAU Kong-wah	186	–
TB034	0134	LAU Ping-cheung	706	–
TB035	0285	LI Wah-ming, Fred	706	–
TB036	0286	LI Wah-ming, Fred	706	–
TB037	0430	LEUNG Fu-wah	60	Capital Projects
TB038	0431	LEUNG Fu-wah	60	District and Maintenance
TB039	0472	LAU Kong-wah	60	–
TB040	0361	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	60	Railway Development
TB041	0364	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	60	Technical Services
TB042	0825	LAU Ping-cheung	60	District and Maintenance
TB043	0826	LAU Ping-cheung	60	District and Maintenance
TB044	0948	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	60	District and Maintenance
TB045	1176	LAU Kong-wah	60	District and Maintenance
TB046	1177	LAU Kong-wah	60	District and Maintenance
TB047	1197	LAU Kong-wah	60	–
TB048	1198	LAU Kong-wah	60	–
TB049	1026	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	100	Port Services

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB001

Head : 153 – Government Secretariat
 Transport Bureau

60 – Highways Department

91 – Lands Department

118 – Planning Department [Programme (1)]

186 – Transport Department

Subhead(No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0016

Programme : Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question :

Regarding consultancy studies for policy making and assessment commissioned by your Bureau and departments/offices under your Bureau,

(1) please provide the following details of the consultancy studies for which financial provision have been allocated in 2001-02:

Names of consultants (if available)	Contents of studies	Consultancy fees	Progress and follow-up action (in plan/in progress/ finished)	Government's follow-up action (if available)

(2) will any financial provision be allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2002-03? If yes, please provide the following details:

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

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply : (1) Details of the consultancy studies for policy making and assessment commissioned by Transport Bureau (TB) and Highways Department (HyD) in 2001-02 under Subhead 700 are as follows:

Names of consultants (if available)	Contents of studies	Consultancy fees (total) HK\$	Progress and follow-up action (in plan/in progress/finished)	Government's follow-up action (if available)
Wilbur Smith Associates Limited	The study serves to collect data and conduct researches on ways to optimise the utilisation of road harbour crossings. (TB)	4,200,000	In progress	-

Reply Serial No.

TB001

Question Serial No.

0016

Names of consultants (if available)	Contents of studies	Consultancy fees (total) HK\$	Progress and follow-up action (in plan/in progress/finished)	Government's follow-up action (if available)
Ove Arup & Partners HK Ltd	Consultancy study for reviewing the schedule of rates for highway term maintenance contracts (HyD)	450,000	In progress	-

(2) We do not intend to commission consultancy studies for policy making and assessment in 2002-03.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title _____ Secretary for Transport

Date _____ 19 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB002

Head : 153 – Government Secretariat
Transport Bureau

Subhead(No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0140

Programme : Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : The provision for 2002-03 is \$4.6 m (i.e. 5.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2001-02. One of the reasons is the increased requirement in capital expenditure for promoting road safety and railway development. Please inform:

- (a) In 2002-03, what is the estimated total expenditure for promoting road safety and railway development respectively? Comparing to the revised estimate for 2001-02, what is the increase in total expenditure respectively?
- (b) What measures have been planned for promoting road safety? How much resources will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : (a) In 2002-03, the expenditure on the Road Safety Campaign is estimated to be \$2.523 million. This represents an increase of 16.3% or \$354,000 when compared with the approved funding of \$2.169 million in 2001-02.

The total expenditure for the publicity campaign on railway development is estimated to be \$2.5 million, of which \$2 million will be spent in 2002-03. As it is a new item in 2002-03, we cannot compare the figures with the revised estimates in 2001-02.

- (b) The Road Safety Campaign 2002-03 will include the organisation of an annual large-scale road safety promotional event, production of road safety bulletins for distribution to the transport trade and members of the public, production of television and radio Announcements of Public Interest and posters and leaflets to arouse public awareness of road safety and to keep them informed of recently enacted road safety legislation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ NICHOLAS NG _____

Post Title _____ Secretary for Transport _____

Date _____ 19 March 2002 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB003

Head : 153 – Government Secretariat
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0355

Programme : Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : Three non-directorate posts will be deleted in 2002-03. Please inform how much saving in expenditure can be achieved as a result.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : Three time-limited posts (one Assistant Clerical Officer and two Personal Secretary II posts) will be deleted in 2002-03. The work done by these staff will be performed by non-civil service contract staff. A net saving of \$218,000 will be achieved as a result.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title _____ Secretary for Transport

Date _____ 19 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB004

Head : 153 – Government Secretariat
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0953

Programme : Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : In 2002-03, how much is the expenditure for promoting road safety?
Please give the details.

Asked by : Hon. Mrs LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply : In 2002-03, the expenditure on the Road Safety Campaign is estimated to be \$2.523 million. The Campaign will include the organisation of an annual large-scale road safety promotional event, production of road safety bulletins for distribution to the transport trade and members of the public, production of television and radio Announcements of Public Interest, posters and leaflets to arouse public awareness of road safety and to keep them informed of recently enacted road safety legislation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters NICHOLAS NG

Post Title Secretary for Transport

Date 19 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB005

Head : 153 – Government Secretariat
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0954

Programme : Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : Among matters requiring special attention in 2002-03, the bureau will oversee the alleviation of traffic congestion by implementing short term traffic improvement measures in the Central Business District; the planning of a gyratory system in Wan Chai; and the development of a programme for rationalising and enhancing operational efficiency of bus services along Nathan Road. Please give the details.

Asked by : Hon. Mrs LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply : To improve the traffic circulation and junction capacity in the Central Business District, we have already completed the following short-term traffic improvement measures:

- widening the carriageway for right-turn from Queen's Road Central (QRC) to Pedder Street;
- changes to lane demarcation on Ice House Street; and
- provision of yellow hatched marking on the eastern side of Pedder Street.

We will also complete before the end of 2002 further improvement measures as follows:

- rerouting of Ice House Street between Chater Road and Connaught Road Central (CRC) to two-way traffic;
- provision of an additional right-turn lane from Pedder Street to CRC eastbound;
- provision of an alternative right-turning facility on Queensway eastbound to Cotton Tree Drive southbound;
- provision of an exclusive right-turn lane on Queen's Road Central to Pottinger Street; and
- provision of an additional right-turn lane from Connaught Road Central eastbound to Rumsey Street southbound.

Reply Serial No.

TB005

Question Serial No.

0954

The Wan Chai gyratory system involves using Hennessy Road and Lockhart Road to form a one-way clockwise traffic circulation system to improve traffic flow capacity in the old Wan Chai area. The scheme will involve rerouting of a section of Lockhart Road, widening of pavements, shifting of a section of the tram track along Hennessy Road and providing two dedicated lanes to franchised buses. The Wan Chai District Council was consulted on the proposal in April 2001 and generally supported the scheme. We are currently conducting the detailed planning for the scheme after which we will be undertaking the detailed design work. The construction of the gyratory system will be in phases and its overall completion date is tentatively scheduled for 2007.

The rationalization of bus services along Nathan Road was started in October 2001 to reduce bus trips through the diversion or cancellation of duplicating bus services and the introduction of bus-bus interchange schemes. The first phase measures including the diversion of 15 bus routes to omit Star Ferry Bus Terminus were implemented in October 2001. Proposals for further rationalization involving 6 bus routes along Nathan Road have been included in the bus route development programme for 2002/03 and public views on the proposals are being sought.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title _____ Secretary for Transport

Date _____ 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB007

Head : 153 – Government Secretariat
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1101

Programme : Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : Please inform on the progress of the assessment of operators for the Shatin to Central Link. When will the result be announced? Have resources been earmarked for this in 2002-03?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The bid assessment for Shatin to Central Link is substantially completed. Decision has yet to be made on the operator award and such decision, once made, will be announced. Resources have been earmarked for this in 2002-03.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title _____ Secretary for Transport

Date _____ 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB008

Head : 153 – Government Secretariat
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1102

Programme : Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : Please inform on the progress of the preliminary planning of the Regional Express Line (REL). Have resources been earmarked for this in 2002-03?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : We are discussing with the Mainland authorities on the proposed express rail link connecting Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Hong Kong. In the meantime, the Highways Department is working on the route protection of the two possible alignments of this link within the territory. No resources need to be specifically earmarked for the REL in 2002-03.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ NICHOLAS NG _____

Post Title _____ Secretary for Transport _____

Date _____ 21 March 2002 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB009

Head : 153 – Government Secretariat
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1103

Programme : Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : What is the progress of the review on the initial phase of the pedestrian schemes? What is the view of the Administration on the proposal to implement a pedestrian scheme at Des Voeux Road Central? Have resources been earmarked for this in 2002-03?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The initial phase of the pedestrianisation programme covers Causeway Bay, Mongkok and Tsim Sha Tsui. Air quality checks conducted by the Environmental Protection Department showed that the level of respirable suspended particulates at pedestrianised streets in Causeway Bay and Mongkok dropped by 11% on average while the traffic noise at the same locations was estimated to have gone down by 3 to 6 dB(A). In addition, according to a questionnaire survey conducted by Transport Department last year, over 96% of the respondents supported the need for pedestrian schemes in Hong Kong and over 70% considered that the schemes implemented so far were effective or very effective in improving pedestrian safety and mobility.

The Administration has considered the proposal by the Institution of Planners to implement a pedestrian scheme at Des Voeux Road Central (DVRC). Our assessment is that the proposal would severely overload the junctions along DVRC, adversely affecting traffic flow in Central. The Traffic and Transport Committee of the Central and Western District Council has also expressed serious reservations over the proposed scheme when they were consulted in December 2001. The Administration therefore does not intend to pursue the proposal.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title _____ Secretary for Transport

Date _____ 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB010

Head : 153 – Government Secretariat
Transport Bureau

Subhead (No. & title) :
002 - Allowances

Question Serial No.

1131

Programme : Transport

Controlling Officer : Secretary for Transport

Question : What are the details for standard allowances and the consolidated overtime allowance for the Chauffeur grade?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The provision of \$3,277,000 under Subhead 002 – Allowances is for standard allowances, which cover mainly acting allowances and also overtime allowance (including consolidated overtime allowance), typhoon allowance and rain storm black warning allowance. The provision for consolidated overtime allowance for the Chauffeur grade is estimated at \$120,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ NICHOLAS NG

Post Title _____ Secretary for Transport

Date _____ 19 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB012

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.
000 Operational expenses

0354

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Please state the financial provision on salaries for creation of two posts for contract administration.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : Two Transport Officer II posts are to be created for administering the contracting out of the management of public transport interchanges. The annual salary for a Transport Officer II at mid point is \$313,680.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB013

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :
000 Operational expenses

Question Serial No.

0360

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Under operational expenses, please give a breakdown of the financial provision for delivering the initiatives under the railway development strategies, improving the management of cross-boundary traffic and public transport interchanges.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : The detailed breakdown is as follows:-

Description	Amount (\$m)
(a) Delivering the initiatives under the railway development strategies	5.6
(b) Improving the management of cross-boundary traffic	1.8
(c) Improving the management of public transport interchanges	20.3
Total	27.7

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB014

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0382

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Arising from the matters requiring special attention for the implementation of training programmes for taxi drivers, how many drivers are expected to participate in the programmes? What are the requirements of the manpower and financial resources? What are the details of the proposed measures to improve the quality of taxi services?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : Transport Department is considering a mandatory pre-service training programme for applicants of taxi driving licence. The training programme is expected to cover various topics such as customer service skills, language skills, map reading skills, taxi rules and regulations, road users' codes, basic taxi operation skills and driver improvement skills. We have estimated that about 9,000 applicants for taxi driving licence a year may attend the proposed training programme. As the training programme is proposed to be provided by private training schools to be authorized by the Transport Department, we do not require any significant additional resources to implement the scheme.

To improve the quality of taxi services, we have set up a Quality Taxi Services Steering Committee comprising representatives from the taxi trade to plan and implement improvement measures for taxi service. In the coming year, we have several proposed improvement measures, including the renewal of taxi driver identity cards, launching of a taxi driver commendation scheme to give recognition and encouragement to taxi drivers with good conduct and service performance, introducing a taxi ambassador scheme to help promote quality taxi service to both local people and the tourists, designating more taxi pick-up and drop-off points to facilitate taxi operations, and exploring the provision of quality shelters and information display panels at taxi stands.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

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

TB015

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0383

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

- Question :
- a. With reference to Programme (2) on the need to be polite to customers when issuing licences, please list out the number of complaints about impolite behaviour of staff received by Transport Department in the past three financial years, and the cost involved in processing those complaints.
 - b. Under Programme (2), it mentions that the franchised bus companies will be encouraged to install emission reduction devices on buses. What are the concrete encouragement measures? At present, how many buses are installed with these emission reduction devices? What is their proportion in terms of the total franchised bus fleet?
 - c. What is the cost of the web-based computer system to replace the Vehicles and Drivers Licensing Integrated Data (VALID) III system and the number, rank and salary points of posts created for developing the project? When did the VALID III system start operation? Did Government estimate the expected life span of that system?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- a. The number of complaints about impolite behaviour of licensing staff received over the past three financial years were –

1999-2000	1
2000-2001	3
2001-2002	5

The cost involved in processing complaints varies depending on the individual circumstances of each case. Given that the number of such complaints is small, the cost involved is limited.
- b. TD holds regular meetings with the bus companies to discuss their programme of installing emission reduction devices on buses and to exchange information on the trials being undertaken on the more innovative devices.

Reply Serial No.

TB015

Question Serial No.

0383

Diesel catalysts (CATs) are proven effective emission reduction devices for use on buses with pre-Euro or Euro I engines while continuous regenerating traps (CRTs) are being tested on buses with Euro II or III engines. At present, a total of 2,660 franchised buses have been installed with either CATs or CRTs. This represents 42% of the entire franchised bus fleet. TD will continue to work with the bus companies to develop programmes to retrofit emission reduction devices on buses with Euro engines.

- c. Finance Committee approved on 29 June 2001 \$110 million for replacement of the the VALID III system together with the staffing proposals listed below:

Rank	Number of posts	Duration (man-months)	Pay scale
Chief Transport Officer	1	24	MPS Pt 45-49
Senior Systems Manager	1	39	MPS Pt 45-49
Executive Officer I	1	12	MPS Pt 28-33
Executive Officer II	1	24	MPS Pt 12-27
Senior Computer Operator	1	24	MPS Pt 21-28
Computer Operator I	2	48	MPS Pt 16-20
Computer Operator II	2	48	MPS Pt 4-15

The VALID III system has been in operation since November 1991. Its expected life span is about 10 years and is now due for replacement.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB016

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

0384

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

- Question :
- a. Regarding the performance measure to attend to traffic accidents and vehicle breakdown inside government tunnel areas within two minutes, the Administration has adjusted it from 99% in 2001 to 95% in 2002. Why ?
 - b. Regarding the performance measure to attend to traffic accidents and vehicle breakdown on the Lantau Link within six minutes, the Administration has adjusted it from 99% in 2001 to 95% in 2002. Why ?
 - c. Please explain why the financial provision for management of transport services increased by 104%, from \$71.7M in 2000/01 to \$146.4M in 2001/02 ?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- a. We have planned for a target of 95% for 2002-03 because the new management contracts for two government tunnels (Cross Harbour Tunnel and Aberdeen Tunnel) will take effect in September 2002. The performance of the new operators has yet to be assessed. It must, however, be stressed that a target of 95% is in itself a stringent standard requiring a high level of performance.
- b. For the Lantau Link, the boundary of the management area would be extended to cover Tsing Yi North Coastal Road and Ma Wan Link Road in 2002. The extended management area may possibly lead to more demand for attendance to traffic accidents. Hence the Administration has set a target of 95% for 2002.
- c. The increase in the financial provision for management of transport services in 2001-02 is mainly due to the commissioning of a number of major projects in the year such as improvement of environment and management of covered public transport interchanges, acquisition of equipment and vehicles for tunnel operations, acquisition and upgrading of equipment to improve efficiencies in incident handling and information dissemination of emergency transport news.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB017

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :
000 Operational expenses

Question Serial No.

0385

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

- Question :
- a. The revised estimate for 2001-02 of \$12,010,000 for Allowances under Subhead 000 Operational expenses represents an increase of 22% over the actual expenditure for 2000-01. What are the reasons for the increase?
 - b. What type of allowances is included in “Job-related allowances” under Subhead 000?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

- Reply :
- a. The increase was mainly to provide for payment of allowance for possible overtime work required for traffic surveys and for handling a possible pre-budget rush for licensing services. However, we contracted out the traffic surveys and were able to take successful measures to avoid a pre-budget rush. Both these efforts helped to reduce overtime payment and, therefore, we expect the actual expenditure in 2001-02 to be close to that in 2000-01.
 - b. The job-related allowances are extraneous duties allowance, hardship allowance, shift duty allowance and on-call duty allowance.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ROBERT FOOTMAN** _____

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **20 March 2002** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB018

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

Question Serial No.

Programme :

0386

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

- Question :
- a. Regarding the item 564 “Quality public light bus services promotion projects” under sub-head 700, what are the projects and why no expenditure has been made so far? Does the Government plan to incur the expenditure in 2002-03? If yes, what will be the estimated expenditure? If not, what is the reason for not doing so?
 - b. For the “Preparatory work prior to the opening of West Rail and subsequent coordination work”, why there is that there is no expenditure so far? Will the Administration estimate that the concerned expenditure will be used in 2002-03? If yes, what will be the estimated expenditure? If no, what will be the reason?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- a. The projects include a public light bus (PLB) passenger satisfaction survey, workshops for PLB operators, training courses for PLB drivers and newsletters on PLB services, which are planned for 2002-03. At present planning and preparations are being made and no actual expenditure has therefore been incurred so far.

We aim to complete all the projects in 2002-03 and the total expenditure is estimated to be \$800,000.

- b. Transport Department has been using existing resources to handle the early stage of the preparatory work and therefore there is no expenditure in 2001-02. In 2002-03, additional resources would be required for this project and the estimated expenditure will be \$0.681M for collecting and updating travelling and patronage data. Further expenditure of \$1.744M is expected to be used in the following two financial years for preparatory work such as preparing operation plan for public transport re-organisation and contingency plan and also for subsequent co-ordination work such as post railway opening survey to monitor passenger demand and travel behaviour etc.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB019

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0392

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : How many franchised buses are installed with the emission reduction devices? What is their proportion in terms of the total franchised bus fleet? What is the projected no. of buses to be installed with such devices in 2002/03? What are the measures and plans to speed up the bus companies' installation work and what are the costs involved ?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : At present, a total of 2,660 franchised buses have been installed with emission reduction devices. This represents 42% of the entire franchised bus fleet.

Diesel catalysts (CATs) are proven effective emission reduction devices for use on buses with pre-Euro or Euro I engines. All pre-Euro buses except those due for scrapping this year have already been retrofitted with CATs. As for buses with Euro I engines, 735 (over 50%) of them are already fitted with CATs and it is the bus companies' initial plan to retrofit CATs on another 100 buses in 2002/03. Transport Department (TD) is working with the bus companies to retrofit CATs on more Euro I buses. In addition, continuous regenerating traps (CRTs) are being tested on buses with Euro II or III engines. The bus companies intend to develop programmes to retrofit CRTs on buses with Euro II or III engines subject to the result of the trials. The capital cost of a CAT is about \$15,000 and that of a CRT is about \$45,000. The costs are borne by the bus companies.

TD will continue to hold regular meetings with the bus companies to discuss their programmes of installing emission reduction devices on buses and to exchange information on the trials being undertaken on the more innovative devices.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03

Reply Serial No.

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

TB020

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0393

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : How many bus routes in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and new development areas and NT will be affected by the proposed bus rationalisation measures?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : 61 bus routes will be involved in the rationalization proposals for 2002. Their distribution is as follows:

- (1) Hong Kong Island: 13 routes
- (2) Kowloon: 7 routes
- (3) The New Territories: 34 routes
- (4) Cross-harbour services: 7 routes

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03 Reply Serial No.
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TB021

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.
Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services 0394

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : How much is estimated in the 2002-03 Estimates in promoting road safety through education and publicity? How is that compared with 2001-02?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2002-03, the expenditure on Road Safety Campaign is estimated to be \$2.523 million. This represents an increase of 16.3% or \$345,000 when compared with the approved funding of \$2.169 million in 2001-02.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB022

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0395

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Regarding the introduction of bus-bus interchange schemes, why is the number of planned schemes for 2002 less than the actual number of schemes implemented in 2001 (21 schemes) by 5? What is the estimated expenditure in connection with the introduction of the planned schemes in 2002?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : A total of 21 BBI schemes were introduced in 2001. For 2002, 16 schemes are being planned for introduction at this stage. Planning and implementation of bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes is an on-going exercise which is one of the tools to enhance bus services to better meet passenger demand. The actual number of schemes that will be implemented in the year may increase as more schemes are developed in consultation with the operators and the District Councils.

There are no expenditures on Government in connection with the introduction of BBI schemes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB023

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0396

Programme: (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : How many diesel taxis and public light buses have been assisted for conversion to LPG taxis and environmentally friendly public light buses (PLBs), and their proportion of the total fleet of taxis/PLB?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : As at 1.3.2002, about 14,600 taxis (80% of the total taxi fleet) have been converted to LPG taxis under the LPG taxi grant scheme. For public light buses, the Administration has put forward a proposal for the incentive scheme for PLB conversion and is at present having discussions with the PLB trade and the Legislative Council on it. So far about 50 PLBs (1% of the PLB fleet) have been converted to LPG PLBs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB024

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

603 - Plants, vehicles and equipment

0704

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

- Question :
- a. The approved commitment for subhead 603 – Plant, vehicles and equipment is \$22,570,000 as compared with the revised estimate of \$2,308,000 for 2001-02. Why is there a difference of over 80%?
 - b. Would the government consider revising the figures appropriately?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

- Reply : a. The approved commitment for a Capital Account item is the approved total cost of a proposal over a period of years. The revised estimated expenditure for 2001-02 represents the estimated amount expected to be expended during the year. For proposals on plant and equipment, a certain amount of lead time is required for the planning, design, procurement and installation of the equipment and for the related building works. Normally, the bulk of the expenditure is incurred upon the delivery of the equipment and completion of the capital project.

As regards Subhead 603, the approved commitment for the following projects amounts to \$22,570,000:-

	\$'000
(i) Replacement of two forklift vehicles by one heavy recovery vehicle for Cross-Harbour Tunnel	4,280
(ii) Installation of two chassis dynamometers and building of test chambers in the To Kwa Wan Vehicle Examination Centre and Kowloon Bay Vehicle Examination Centre	9,200
(iii) Replacement of two tunnel washer vehicles for the Cross-Harbour Tunnel and the Airport Tunnel in To Kwa Wan	6,190
(iv) Replacement of passenger lift at the Administration Building of Cross-Harbour Tunnel	2,900

Items (i), (ii) and (iii) were first included in the 2001-02 Estimates. Having regard to the lead time required for the procurement of these equipment, we have estimated that \$2,308,000 would be expended in 2001-02. The bulk of the provision will be expended in 2002-03 when the equipment is scheduled to be delivered and,

Reply Serial No.

TB024

Question Serial No.

0704

where appropriate, installed. Item (iv) is a new item approved in late 2001. The bulk of the expenditure is expected to be discharged in 2003-04 upon the delivery and installation of the passenger lift.

- b. The revised estimated expenditure for 2001-02 of \$2,308,000 represents the latest financial requirement in 2001-02 taking into consideration the progress of the procurement exercise and the works project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB025

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0705

Programme (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : With regard to the trial scheme for electronic parking meters to accept Octopus, what is the funding arrangement? What are the findings?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The trial scheme was undertaken from November 2000 to September 2001 involving installation of Octopus operated parking meters at 200 parking spaces in busy areas. The total cost of the trial was about \$3m.

The trial showed that the Octopus operated meters performed satisfactorily in an outdoor, off-line, unattended environment technically. The trial also revealed good public acceptance of Octopus as a payment card for parking meters.

In view of the success of the trial scheme, the Administration plans to seek funds in the coming few months to gradually replace the existing meters with new Octopus operated meters. Subject to funding approval of the Finance Committee, the new meters will be implemented in stages from late 2002/early 2003 as the existing meters come to the end of their useful life.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB026

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

700 General other non-recurrent

0706

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : With regard to the item “Survey and demand analysis on the application of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) in Hong Kong”, what are the funding details? What are the analysis results?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The estimate includes costs for producing publicity materials, conducting a survey, analyzing the results and preparing a report on the findings and recommendations. The focus will be on the latest development in the ITS applications worldwide and the potential for private/public sector collaboration. We will finalise arrangements in the coming months.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03 Reply Serial No.
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TB027

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

0707

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : The estimated expenditure for Traffic Impact Assessments (TIAs) in the coming year is \$3.7M. This far exceeds the revised estimate of \$2.7M in the previous year by 37%, and is also much higher than the actual expenditure of \$0.308M in 2000-01. Please list the number of TIAs in question and their details.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : We plan to carry out 2 new consultancy studies in 2002-03. The first study consists of 2 sites in Area 48, Tuen Mun East. We are identifying additional sites (about 3 nos.) for inclusion in the second consultancy study to be carried out in the same year. The estimate of \$3.7M includes funds required for settling fees for TIAs which commenced in the year 2001-02 for completion in 2002-03, and also funds for the updating of the Base District Traffic Models, which can increase the efficiency and consistency in carrying out TIAs.

In the year 2001-02, we commenced TIAs for the following sites:

- a. Sau Mau Ping Phases 13 & 14
- b. Choi Wan Road/Jordan Valley (Phase 1)
- c. Choi Wan Road/Jordan Valley (Phase 2)
- d. Choi Wan Road/Jordan Valley (Phase 3A & 3B)
- e. Anderson Road Quarry, Stage II
- f. Lam Tin Phases 7 & 8
- g. Tin Hau Temple Road, North Point
- h. Site Z, Area 1, Tai Po Temporary Market

The revised estimate of \$2.7M includes funds required for settling fees for TIAs which commenced in the year 2000-01 for completion in 2001-02.

Reply Serial No.

TB027

Question Serial No.

0707

In the year 2000-01, we commenced TIAs for the following sites:

- a. No. 21, 23 & 25 Borrett Road, Central
- b. Fung Shing Street, Ngau Chi wan at New Kowloon Inland Lot (NKIL) No. 6351
- c. Fung Shing Street, Ngau Chi Wan at New Kowloon Inland Lot (NKIL) No. 6350

These TIAs were completed in 2001-02. Hence a substantial portion of the TIA consultancy fee was carried forward to 2001-02 for settlement.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB028

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0708

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What are the reasons for creating seven posts to take over from ITSD the maintenance of the Vehicles and Licensing Integrated Data (VALID) System? What are the responsibilities of these seven staff? Will there be any overlapping of responsibilities with existing technical staff in Transport Department (TD)?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The VALID III System primarily supports the driving and vehicle licensing functions in Transport Department (TD). It also provides data sharing capability for eight other user departments. Since 1991 there has been a team of seven staff in ITSD responsible for the day-to-day support and maintenance of the VALID III System and for implementing system enhancements. The team comprises one System Manager, three Analyst/Programmer I and three Analyst/Programmer II.

In line with the policy for departments to take business ownership of IT, TD will, with effect from 1.4.2002, take over the maintenance and enhancement of the VALID III System from ITSD. The existing team of staff will be posted to TD and seven posts will be created. Upon the creation of these posts in TD, there will be a corresponding deletion of the same number of posts in ITSD.

The main duties of these seven posts are to maintain and enhance the VALID III application system and provide technical advice and support on IT applications in TD.

There will not be any overlapping of duties between these seven staff and existing technical staff in TD.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB029

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0991

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Please provide information including justifications, post title, duties and rank etc. of directorate posts to be created in 2002-03.

Asked by : Hon. LI Ka-cheung, Eric

Reply : We have included resources under Subhead 000 for a proposed supernumerary Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer post at D1 level in 2002-03 for three years subject to further review on its permanent need.

The proposed post would be responsible for delivering Government commitments in promoting vehicle safety, supporting environmental initiatives in transport-related areas and reviewing international regulations and standards for vehicle design and construction.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB030

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1008

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

- Question :
- a. What is the purpose of the survey on goods vehicle trip characteristics to be carried out in 2002-03 by Transport Department?
 - b. During 2002-03, how would Transport Department assist in promoting the conversion of diesel public light buses (PLBs) to environmentally friendly vehicles? What are the specific measures?

Asked by : Hon. Mrs LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

- a. The purpose of the planned survey in 2002-03 is to collect up-to-date data on the characteristics of goods vehicle movements in Hong Kong, so as to enable better planning and enhancement of the transport model developed in the Third Comprehensive Transport Study (i.e. the CTS-3 model). The last such survey was carried out in 1992.
- b. Co-ordination of the scheme for conversion to environmentally friendly PLBs is led by the Environment and Food Bureau (EFB). Transport Department (TD) has been helping to liaise with the PLB trade on the trial of alternative-fuelled light buses in 2000-01 and to collect their feedback on the vehicle performance, the locations of the LPG filling stations and the proposed incentive scheme on voluntary replacement announced by EFB in November 2001. Views and suggestions gathered from the consultations on the proposed incentive scheme are being considered by EFB.

In facilitating the conversion, TD would render all the necessary administrative assistance to pass information to operators and would, subject to the approval of the Finance Committee, ensure the smooth implementation of the incentive scheme and the quick release of any financial assistance to the concerned operators.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB031

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1009

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

- Question :
- a. When was the target of conducting spot checks on 14 franchised buses a day set up? In view of the recent increase in the number of franchised buses, will the Administration consider to increase the number of daily spot checks?
 - b. TD will amend the legislation in 2002-03 to require lap belts and high back seats to be provided on new public light buses (PLBs). Have TD worked out the difference in price between existing PLB and PLB with seat belts and high back seats? If yes, please provide the detailed figures.

Asked by : Hon. Mrs LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

- a. Our target to conduct spot checks on 14 franchised buses a day on weekdays was first set in 1999. We planned for the same target for 2002. The purpose of spot checks is to help ensure that franchised bus operators would maintain their buses in satisfactory condition when providing services. By conducting spot checks on 14 franchised buses a day, there would be about 3,500 checkings a year, which could cover about half of the current fleet of about 6,300 franchised buses. Apart from the spot checks, all franchised buses are examined by the Transport Department annually for roadworthiness before their licences are renewed. In view of this, we do not plan to increase the number of spot checks.
- b. In formulating the proposal on requiring new PLBs to install lap belts and high back seats, we have approached all PLB importers to seek their input regarding the cost implications of the proposal.

Since the new legislation requires strengthening of the vehicle platform for seat anchorage, modification of existing PLB models is necessary. The importers indicated that an accurate estimate could not be provided at this point in time, but judging from the scale of modification required, their initial views were that the vehicle price would increase by no more than 10% (i.e. around HK\$30,000).

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB032

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1010

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What are the detailed plans to improve the physical environment of public transport interchanges?

Asked by : Hon. Mrs LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

Transport Department has the following plans to improve the environment of public transport interchanges (PTIs) in 2002-03 :-

- (a) to contract out the management of about 20 PTIs to improve the quality of service to the public;
- (b) to upgrade the ventilation systems in 4 covered PTIs with a view to improving the air quality;
- (c) to carry out monitoring surveys to check the air quality of about 20 covered PTIs; and
- (d) to commence works to improve the physical environment of the covered public transport interchange at Tin Hau in 2002.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB033

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.
000 - Operational Expenses

1014

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : The estimate of 2002-03 for Contract Maintenance under Subhead 000 Operational Expenses is \$83,616,000. This represents an increase of 51.5% over the revised estimate of \$55,200,000 for 2001-02 and of over 100% over the actual expenditure of \$41,524,000 for 2000-01. Please explain the increase of over 50% in two years' time and provide details of the contract service and maintenance work.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The major contract service and maintenance work includes the management and maintenance of the traffic control and surveillance systems and a number of transport facilities and services, including public transport interchanges, the Mid Levels Escalator and Walkway System, towing and recovery services for the North Lantau Highway, the extended section of Tate's Cairn Tunnel and the Tung Chung Road.

The revised estimate of \$55,200,000 for 2001-02 represents an increase of \$13,676,000 over the actual expenditure in 2000-01. This is mainly attributed to the additional resources for contracting out the management of 14 public transport interchanges and the towing and recovery services for North Lantau Highway.

The estimate for 2002-03 is \$28,416,000 higher than the revised estimate for 2001-02. This is mainly due to additional provision for rolling out the programme of contracting out the management of a further batch of about 20 public transport interchanges; enhancing the management and control of Tung Chung Road; and the maintenance cost of new traffic control and surveillance systems.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2002

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

TB034

0134

Head :706 – Highways

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : (a) The estimated expenditure for 6715TH Route 10 – North Lantau to Yuen Long Highway (NLYLH) – Investigation and Preliminary Design (IPDA) in 2002-03 is \$1,239,000. Could the government inform the Council of the contents of the expenditure?

(b) The estimated expenditure for 6738TH - Route 10 (NLYLH) - detailed design of the southern section in 2002-03 is \$34,923,000. Could the government inform the Council whether the item would be affected by the delay of Item 6519TH - Route 10 (NLYLH) - detailed design of northern section. What contingency plan does the government have?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : (a) The estimated expenditure of \$1,239,000 for 2002-03 is for the payment of consultant's fee of the existing IPDA in respect of the environmental impact assessment and finalisation works, as well as for the cost of additional site staff services in the ground investigation contract of Route 10 southern section.

(b) PWP Item 6738TH and Item 6519TH cover the detailed design of the southern section and the northern section of Route 10 (NLYLH) respectively. The two parts can proceed separately. The detailed design of southern section is still underway and we do not expect that this would be affected by the plans for the northern section of Route 10.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____ Y C LO

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB035

Question Serial No.

0285

Head : 706 – Highways

Subhead (No. & title) :

6150TB: Reconstruction of two
footbridges across Choi Hung Road near
Shatin Pass Road and Tai Shing Street

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Item 6150TB Reconstruction of two footbridges across Choi Hung Road near Shatin Pass Road and Tai Shing Street is expected to commence in the fourth quarter of the coming year. When will the Administration submit the funding application to the Public Works Subcommittee of Finance Committee? Please provide a brief account of the works schedule and the scope. And when will be the scheduled completion date?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : Our current plan is to submit the project to PWSC for upgrading to Cat. A in the first half of the next legislative session. The proposed works are scheduled to commence in March 2003 for completion in September 2004. The scope of the project will include:

- (i) demolition of the existing footbridge and construction of a covered footbridge with lifts across Choi Hung Road near Shatin Pass Road;
- (ii) demolition of the existing footbridge and construction of a covered footbridge with lifts across Choi Hung Road near Tai Shing Street with connection to Tai Shing Street Market; and
- (iii) associated works including landscaping works, drainage works, electrical and mechanical works.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C L O

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB036

Question Serial No.

0286

Head :706 Highways

Subhead(No. & title) :

6044TR MTR Tseung
Kwan O Extension—
widening of the diverted
Yau Tong Road

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What is the progress of the following project item? How will the provision be used in the coming year?

6044TR MTR Tseung Kwan O Extension—widening of the diverted Yau Tong Road

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : Construction works for widening of the diverted Yau Tong Road are progressing smoothly, with the site formation and road drainage works substantially completed. The road construction works will be completed by the target opening date of the MTR Tseung Kwan O Extension in August 2002.

The provision for 2002-03 is to meet the expenditure for the on-going construction works.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____ Y C L O

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB037

Head : 60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0430

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : According to two of the targets in respect of the Capital Projects, the Highways Department expected that the works contracts commenced in accordance with agreed programmes (%) is only 90% while the works contracts completed in accordance with agreed programmes (%) is only 95% this year. It is apparently inferior to the performance of last year with all the works contracts commenced and completed in accordance with agreed programmes. What are the criteria for the department to set the targets? What are the works contracts fail to be commenced and completed in accordance with agreed programmes? What are the reasons for the failure? What is the estimated loss arising from the delay of commencement and completion of the works contracts?

Asked by : Hon. Leung Fu-wah

Reply : In preparing the Controlling Officer's Report by the end of each year, we draw up a baseline plan each for the commencement and completion of capital works contracts in the following year for the purpose of monitoring. Based upon our experience in the past few years, we consider setting the target level of achievement at 90% and 95% respectively for commencement and completion of contracts is realistic. Indeed, we have been maintaining this level of target achievement for years. The relevant target and actual level of performance on commencing/completion contracts over past five years are appended below -

Performance level (%)		1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Commence	Target	90	90	90	90	90
	Actual	100	95	90	100	-
Complete	Target	95	95	95	95	95
	Actual	92	100	92	100	-

While we are trying our best endeavour to ensure timely commencement/completion of contracts, our experience indicates that full achievement of the baseline plan may not be always attainable in reality. Reasons for

Reply Serial No.

TB037

Question Serial No.

0430

slippage in commencing/completing the contracts according to the baseline plan may include longer processes for getting through statutory and/or funding approval procedures, availability of land as well as some unforeseeable constraints to construction activities like lengthy inclement weather, poor performance of contractors, utility obstructions, difficult underground conditions etc. Under normal circumstances, slippage in contract commencement carries no financial implication. The financial implication for delay in contract completion may vary and can only be realistically assessed according to the merits of individual cases.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C L O

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 21 March 2002

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

TB038

0431

Head : 60 Highways Department

Subhead(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : According to the new indicator as from 2002, the estimated percentage of the items of non-compliance with excavation permit (EP) conditions per total number of items inspected(%) is 16% this year, which is 2% higher than the actual figure of last year. What are the criteria for the department to set the estimated standard of the indicator? Why the number of works having the items of non-compliance with EP conditions is expected to be higher than that of last year? Has the department reviewed whether there are loopholes in the EP conditions which would easily lead to the non-compliance of the contractors? If affirmative, are there any improvement measures? What are the resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Fu-wah

Reply : The percentage of non-compliance was 7% in the first quarter of 2001. Since April 2001, Highways Department (HyD) has improved the quality of audit inspections and strengthened the control on utility sites, resulting in an increase in the number of non-compliance items being identified. This figure rose steadily to a peak of 24% resulting in an average non-compliance figure of 14.4% in year 2001. The non-compliance figure has gradually stabilized at 24% in early 2002 as utility undertakings (UUs) implement improvement measures in response. It is expected that the trend will decrease towards the latter half of 2002 when the improvement efforts by UUs become more prominent. We anticipate a figure of 16% can be achieved and therefore this new indicator is fixed for year 2002.

The 46 standard excavation permit (EP) conditions currently adopted comprehensively stipulate the requirements for street excavation works. They are regularly reviewed and the last update was in year 2000. In addition to the EP conditions, a set of guidance notes for audit inspections has been issued in April 2001 and a set of photo references illustrating the required standard has also been issued in January 2002. These are made available to the UUs and contractors so that they are fully aware of the compliance standard expected. After the introduction of the amendment bill for the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance to LegCo in April 2002, HyD will conduct a detailed review on the EP conditions to bring them in line with the amended Ordinance. No additional resources are required for this review.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C LO

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-0 Reply Serial No.
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TB040

Head : 60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0361

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Regarding the Railway Development Programme, the provision for 2002-03 is \$4.6 million (6.1%) higher than the revised estimate for 2001-02 which is mainly due to staffing cost. Please provide me the provision breakdown on salary increment for staff, creation of posts and additional provision for the appointment of non-civil service contract staff.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The breakdown of the increase in provision is:-

	<u>\$ Million</u>
a. Salary increment for staff	1.3
b. Net creation of 2 nos. of civil service engineering posts	2.1
c. Appointment of 3 nos. of non-civil service contract engineering staff	1.2
Total	<u>4.6</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters Y C LO

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 19 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB041

Head : 60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0364

Programme : (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Establishment & maintenance of survey control networks for cross-boundary highway project is one of the matters requiring special attention in technical services programme in 2002-03. Please give the details of the financial provision on this project.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : In 2002-03, the technical service for establishing the survey control networks for cross-boundary highway projects is to determine the conversion constants between the two local coordinates and height systems used in Hong Kong and Shenzhen. The staff resource for planning, field observation and computation will be absorbed by the existing establishment. The actual financial provision is for the building of survey beacons for the proposed Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor. The fund required will not exceed HK\$50,000 which is chargeable under the Block Vote allocation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C L O

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB042

Head : 60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0825

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : In 2002/03, the Highways Department will enhance the standard of streetscape through installation of more high quality pavers in footpaths. Please provide the list of materials to be used, the estimated cost involved and the cost difference compared with the existing materials?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : In the year 2002-03, Highways Department will use the following four types of high quality pavers in selected areas such as Tsim Sha Tsui, Causeway Bay and Central Districts so as to enhance the streetscape standard :

- a) clay pavers,
- b) artificial granite blocks,
- c) wet mix concrete pavers, and
- d) high pressure concrete pavers.

The estimated cost for using the high quality pavers in 2002-03 is \$60 million, which is about two to three times that of traditional paving blocks.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C L O

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB043

Head : 60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0826

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : As a new indicator as from 2002, the estimated expenditure on road cleanliness, streetscape enhancement and greening of shotcreted slopes is \$115,000,000. What is the breakdown of the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Ping-cheung

Reply : The breakdown of the estimated expenditure of \$115 million in the estimate is listed below:

	\$ Million
- Road cleanliness	7
- Streetscape enhancement	80
- Slope greening	28
	<hr/>
	115
	=====

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C LO

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 20 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB044

Head : 60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

0948

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Regarding the matters requiring special attention in 2002/03, the Highways Department will monitor and enhance the performance of the Utility Management System to facilitate control and co-ordination of utilities road opening works and continue to tighten up control on road excavation activities. However, according to the new indicators including the average duration of road excavation works per excavation permit (day), the number of inspections carried out on utility excavation, the items of non-compliance with excavation permit conditions per total no. of items inspected (%) and the number of unattended sites for utility excavations per total no. of excavation permits (%), why did the department expect that it can only maintain the indicator of last year or obtain a slight increase?

Asked by : Hon. Mrs. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply : We have estimated that the average excavation permit duration will slightly increase from 58.9 days in 2001 to 60 days in 2002 because we have taken into account the 20-year watermain renewal programme of Water Supplies Department and other main drainage systems by Drainage Services Department, which on average require a longer duration per excavation permit.

On the number of inspections carried out on utility excavations, we have already significantly increased the number from 43,782 inspections in 2000 to 53,640 inspections in 2001. We intend to slightly increase the number of inspections to 54,000 in 2002.

Since April 2001, Highways Department has improved the quality of audit inspections and strengthened the control on utility sites, resulting in an increase in the number of unattended sites and items not complying with excavation permit conditions being identified. The percentage of non-compliance was only 7% in the first quarter of 2001. Since control was tightened, the figure rose steadily to 24% in the last quarter resulting in an average non-compliance figure of 14.4% in 2001. In early 2002, the non-compliance figure has stabilized at 24% as utility undertakings

Reply Serial No.

TB044

Question Serial No.

0948

implement improvement measures in response. It is expected that the trend will decrease towards the latter half of 2002 when utility undertakings further improve their works and the effects become more prominent. Based on the above factors, we anticipate that the average non-compliance percentage would be 16% in year 2002.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C L O

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03 Reply Serial No.
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TB045

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

Programme : (2) District & Maintenance

1176

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What are the details of the proposed increase of \$47.5 million this year?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The breakdown of the increase in provision is:-

	<u>\$ Million</u>
a. Increased provision for road maintenance and requirements for newly completed roads	27.2
b. Salary increment for staff	5.1
c. Full year provision for filling of vacancies in 2001-02	7.1
d. Creation of 6 civil service technical posts	2.2
e. Employment of non-civil service contract staff	7.5
f. Offset by the deletion of 14 civil service posts due to disbandment of Direct Labour Force	(1.6)
Total	47.5

Signature _____

Name in block letters Y C LO

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB046

Head : 60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

1177

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : Regarding the creation of six posts in 2002-03 for conducting field audit inspections for excavation permit, what are the details of work? Is there any similar unit within the Highways Department which could share the work?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The 6 posts to be created form part of the prosecution team to be established to enforce the proposed amendment to the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance scheduled for introduction to LegCo in April 2002. The prosecution team will comprise 9 staff with 3 Inspector of Works (IOWs) and 6 Assistant Inspector of Works (AIOWs). Three AIOWs will be re-deployed from within Highways Department while the funding of the other six posts (3 IOWs and 3 AIOWs) has been included in 2002-03 Estimate.

The prosecution team will take immediate follow-up actions on cases of non-compliance with Excavation Permit conditions identified from site audit inspections. The follow-up actions include screening for serious offences, collecting evidence and taking prosecution actions under the relevant Ordinances. Currently, there is no designated unit within Highways Department undertaking similar work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C LO

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB047

Question Serial No.

1197

Head : 60 Highways Department

Subhead(No. & title) : 700 General other non-
recurrent`

519 Road record
management study

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What are the details concerning the use of the provision for the Road Record Management Study?

Asked by : Hon. Lau Kong-wah

Reply : The Road Record Management Study comprises two parts: Part 1 is an engineering study and Part 2 is on data conversion services. The engineering study is a consultancy that reviewed the latest pavement maintenance practice and pavement management systems, and recommended the way forward for the Hong Kong situation. The total cost was HK\$955,179 and was completed in Feb 2001. The data conversion services is another consultancy that converts existing road inventory data into the required digital format and enhances an existing computer system to maintain the converted road data. It costs HK\$4,850,000 and is expected to be completed in July 2002.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____ Y C L O _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 21 March 2002 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB048

Question Serial No.

1198

Head : 60 Highways Department

Subhead(No. & title) : 700 General other non-
recurrent

522 Consultancy study
for reviewing the
schedule of rates for
highway term
maintenance contracts

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Bureau Secretary : Secretary for Transport

Question : What are the details concerning the use of the provision for the consultancy study for reviewing the schedule of rates for highway term maintenance contracts? What are the findings of the study?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The consultancy study at a lump sum fee of \$450,000 commenced in January 2002.

The study aims at preparing a new set of base rates for works for Highways Department term contracts and finding a method for the future adjustment of the rates. The results of the study are due to be available in May 2002.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Y C LO

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 21 March 2002

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2002-03
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
WRITTEN/SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

TB049

Question Serial No.

1026

Head: 100 Marine Department

Subhead(No. & title):

Programme: (2) Port Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Marine

Bureau Secretary: Secretary for Transport

Question: During 2002-03, what are the specific measures to improve the general environment and user-friendliness of the marine ferry terminals?

Asked by: Hon. Mrs LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply: The main measures to improve the general environment and user-friendliness of the marine ferry terminals include the following –

- (a) Enhancing the efficiency of the air-conditioning system by replacing aged equipment, insulation and machinery.
- (b) Renewing internal fabrics, including the ceiling and floor finishing, of the passenger waiting halls.
- (c) Enlargement of the queuing area at the immigration hall at the departure level in China Ferry Terminal.
- (d) Upgrading illumination at some areas.
- (e) Replacement of escalators and their polycarbonate cover.
- (f) Renewal of seating in the waiting areas.
- (g) Renewal and upgrading of signage.
- (h) Replacement of the closed-circuit television and public address systems.
- (i) Refurbishment of ferry-boarding platforms and ramps.

Signature _____

Name in block letters S. Y. TSUI

Post Title Director of Marine

Date 20 March 2002