

香港特別行政區政府

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

政府總部
環境運輸及工務局
局長辦公室
香港花園道三號
花旗銀行大廈十樓



Office of the Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and Works
Government Secretariat
10/F., Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road, Hong Kong

本局檔號 Our Ref.

來函檔號 Your Ref.

Tel. No. : 3110 2788

Fax No. : 3110 2700

21 May 2007

Hon Miriam Lau Kin-ye, GBS, JP
Chairman
House Committee
LegCo Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
Jackson Road
Central
(Fax: 2530 9167)

Dear Chairman,

**Rail Merger -
Suggestion to form a sub-committee for
studying the draft merger-related subsidiary legislation**

At the meeting of the Bills Committee on Rail Merger Bill held on 30 March 2007, I set out the Administration's target timetable to complete the legislative exercise for the rail merger within the current legislative session on or before 11 July 2007. Under this plan, the Second Reading Debate on the Bill would be resumed on 6 June 2007 so that if the Bill is approved, the merger-related subsidiary legislation would be laid on the table of the Legislative Council on 13 June 2007 to allow for the necessary period for the vetting procedures.

Thanks to the cooperation and support of Honourable Members in the past few months, I note that the Bills Committee has completed its deliberation of the Bill and will report to the House Committee on 25 May 2007. I intend to give notice to the Legislative Council shortly for resuming the Second Reading Debate on the Bill on 6 June 2007.

The merger-related subsidiary legislation includes (i) amendments to the existing Regulations made under the Mass Transit Railway Ordinance (MTR Ordinance), Cap 556 and the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation Ordinance (KCRC Ordinance), Cap 372 which would involve negative vetting procedures and (ii) amendments to the existing By-laws made under these two Ordinances respectively as well as amendments to a notice made under the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation By-laws, Cap 372B, which would involve positive vetting procedures. The amendments to these subsidiary legislation are mainly technical, principally for expanding the scope of the existing Regulations and By-laws made under the MTR Ordinance to incorporate the relevant parts of the existing Regulations and By-laws made under the KCRC Ordinance as a consequence of merging the operations of the MTR and KCR systems.

To facilitate the Legislative Council in examining the subsidiary legislation and to allow sufficient time for Members to study the content of these subsidiary legislation, the House Committee may wish to consider, at its next meeting, forming a sub-committee to study the draft amendments to the said Regulations and By-laws in advance.

We will deposit a copy of the draft subsidiary legislation in the Legislative Council Secretariat separately. Subject to the decision of the House Committee, the Administration is prepared to brief Members on the content of the draft subsidiary legislation as soon as the sub-committee is formed.

Yours sincerely,



(Dr Sarah Liao)
Secretary for the Environment,
Transport and Works

c.c. Mrs Vivian Kam, Clerk to House Committee
(Fax: 2509 0775)