

Panel on Transport

Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 13 November 2006)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Port Rail Link

To be confirmed

Last discussed at the Subcommittee meeting on 29 June 2004.

The proposed Port Rail Link will provide a freight rail corridor from Lo Wu to a new port rail terminal at Kwai Chung, via either East Rail or West Rail. According to the Administration, the timing for this rail line will depend on the build-up of rail freight demand. Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) is now studying the feasibility of this rail link.

The Administration advised that it was still waiting for KCRC to revert on its proposal on the rail link.

2. West Island Line (WIL)

April 2007

In June 2005, the Administration advised that MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) should be asked to proceed with the preliminary planning and design of the proposed WIL, involving the extension of the MTR Island Line (heavy capacity rail) from Sheung Wan to Kennedy Town with two intermediate stations at Sai Ying Pun and University. Negotiations with the MTRCL on the detailed scope, cost and implementation programme for the WIL should commence.

3. Shatin to Central Link (SCL)

To be confirmed

Last discussed at the Subcommittee meeting on 4 March 2005.

The Administration is examining the SCL proposal of KCRC and the proposed SCL Scheme in the joint report submitted by MTRCL and KCRC on their assessment of the feasibility of a merger. The Administration will make a decision on the way forward for the SCL as soon as possible.

4. Broadcasting of advertisements and programmes carrying sounds by KCRC in its train compartments and distribution of pamphlets and conduct of other promotional activities inside MTR stations

This item was proposed by Mr Albert CHAN.

Mr Albert CHAN considered it necessary to review the situation of enforcement of certain regulations in the Mass Transit Railway By-laws (Cap. 556B) and Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation By-laws (Cap. 372B). He pointed out that the broadcasting of advertisements and programmes carrying sounds by KCRC in its train compartments had been causing disturbance to passengers. He also observed that recently, some commercial entities were allowed to distribute pamphlets and conduct other promotional activities inside MTR stations and these commercial activities had caused nuisances to passengers. He was also concerned that the abovementioned activities might contravene the relevant provision(s) under the respective By-laws.

(Note : The Administration has suggested that the subject matters are mainly concerned with the Railway Corporations' power under the By-laws, which will be reviewed by the Bills Committee on Rail Merger Bill during the discussion of the Rail Merger Bill).