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Panel on Transport

**Background Brief on
Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge**

Purpose

This paper sets out the background to the planning of Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macao Bridge (HZMB), and summarizes Members' concerns about the project.

Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macao Bridge

2. In January 2003, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government jointly commissioned the Institution of Comprehensive Transportation to conduct a study, namely, "Transport Linkage between Hong Kong and Pearl River West". The study, completed in July 2003, concluded that the construction of a land transport link between HKSAR and the Pearl River West would contribute to the development of tourism, logistics, finance and trade in HKSAR, reinforce its status as an international shipping and aviation centre, and promote the economic integration between HKSAR and the Pearl River West. The study also confirmed the need for and urgency of such a link and recommended the construction of HZMB and early commencement of various studies, including environmental impact assessment and hydrology study, to confirm its technical feasibility.

3. On 4 August 2003, the State Council gave approval for the governments of HKSAR, Guangdong Province and the Macao Special Administrative Region (Macao SAR) to proceed with the preparatory work for HZMB. A HZMB Advance Work Coordination Group (AWCG) was then established by the three governments to coordinate and take forward the advance work for HZMB.

4. In parallel, the HKSAR Government had also engaged consultants to carry out investigation and preliminary design of HZMB and North Lantau

Highway Connection (NLHC) for connection to the local road network.

5. In February 2004, the AWCG commissioned the China Highway Planning and Design Institute (HPDI) to conduct a feasibility study for HZMB, and expert panel meetings were subsequently held to solicit comments and suggestions from experts from the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao. The various topical studies under the feasibility study were substantially completed in 2005. A number of follow-up technical studies were recommended to supplement the topical studies.

Alignment options of HZMB

6. Various alignment options had been put forward by HPDI for evaluation. They can be broadly classified into three categories – Northern Alignment, Southern Alignment and Extreme Southern Alignment. Since HZMB is a strategic road link connecting Hong Kong with Zhuhai and Macao, its alignment has to be agreed by the three governments. In April 2005, the National Development and Reform Commission organized an Expert Panel Meeting on HZMB Alignment in Zhuhai. Taking into account various considerations such as air draught requirements for navigation, airport height restrictions, development needs of the ports in Pearl River Estuary, the use of the Pearl River Estuary waters, environmental protection and hydrology, the Expert Panel unanimously recommended the Northern bridge-cum-tunnel alignment option with landings at San Shek Wan of HKSAR, Gongbei of Zhuhai and A Pérola of the Macao SAR.

Landing Location of HZMB

7. Geographically, the HZMB has to land in the western part of Hong Kong. The possible sites for landing can be grouped into three main areas: (a) Tuen Mun West; (b) South West Lantau and (c) North West Lantau. The Administration had compared the various options and recommended that North West Lantau was comparatively a better landing point, in view of its lesser environmental impact and closer proximity to Hong Kong International Airport and the Disneyland, which could bring cross boundary traffic directly to these destinations through a shorter connecting infrastructure.

8. In June 2005, the Finance Committee approved the Administration's funding proposal to engage consultants to carry out jointly with the governments of Guangdong Province and Macao SAR the conceptual design and advance technical studies for HZMB to define the requirements and scope of the HZMB project.

Consultation with the Panel on Transport

9. The Administration informed the Panel on Transport (the Panel) on the arrangement for taking forward the advance work for HZMB in August 2003. The Panel held two meetings on 29 September and 24 October 2003 to discuss with the Administration progress of the HZMB project. Members' support were also sought for an application of funding at an estimated cost of \$58.9 million for the Administration to undertake investigation and preliminary design study for the Hong Kong section of HZMB and NLHC.

10. On 25 June 2004, the Panel was briefed on the commissioning of HPDI by AWCG to conduct the feasibility study for HZMB. The Administration also informed the Panel of the setting up of a Project Office in Guangzhou to monitor the conduct of the feasibility study for HZMB. On 27 May 2005, the Administration informed the Panel of the latest developments of HZMB and consulted members on the proposed conceptual design and advance technical studies for HZMB at an estimated cost of \$26.8 million to define the requirements and scope of the HZMB project. The funding proposal was approved by the Finance Committee in June 2005.

Summary of Member's views

11. Members expressed concerns on the following when discussing the HZMB projects:

- (a) choice of alignment and the location for the landing point of HZMB in Hong Kong;
- (b) the traffic impact of HZMB on the existing local road network and implementation plan for connecting transport infrastructure for HZMB;
- (c) cumulative environment impacts of HZMB on Hong Kong and the need to adopt a unified standard with the Mainland in environmental impact assessment;
- (d) financing arrangements for HZMB;
- (e) tolling strategy and toll adjustment mechanism of HZMB;
- (f) locations of boundary crossing facilities and the mode of operations;
- (g) implementation timetable of HZMB;

- (h) measures to facilitate the participation of Hong Kong based companies in the project; and
- (i) review of the land use planning in the vicinity of HZMB.

Recent Developments

12. The Council passed a motion at its meeting on 7 February 2007 on "Expediently implementing the construction of cross-boundary transport infrastructures between Hong Kong and the Mainland". The wording of the motion is in **Appendix A**.

13. The three governments have reached a consensus on the financing and way forward of HZMB on 28 February 2008. It was agreed that the three governments would be responsible for the construction and operation of the boundary crossing facilities and the connecting roads to the bridge within their own territory. They also agreed to share the amount of the subsidy by adhering to the principle of equalization of cost-to-benefit ratios. Private investment will be invited for the construction of the main body of the bridge. The three governments will share the funding gap according to the above principle. On the basis of the consensus reached on the financing package, the project's feasibility study report will be revised while AWCG will start the preparatory work for tendering.

Relevant papers

14. A list of relevant papers is in **Appendix B**.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
24 April 2008

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Expeditiously implementing the construction of cross-boundary
transport infrastructures between Hong Kong and the Mainland”
moved by Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 7 February 2007**

Motion as amended by Hon Albert HO Chun-yan

“That, as the Government has announced its Action Agenda to tie in with the National Eleventh Five-Year Plan and fully affirmed the importance of cross-boundary cooperation between Hong Kong and the Mainland, this Council urges the Government to expedite the construction of various cross-boundary transport infrastructures between Hong Kong and the Mainland, such as the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, Liantang Eastern Corridor and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, and to resume the ferry services between Shatin and Eastern Guangdong, etc; at the same time, the Government should expeditiously review and expedite the construction of ancillary facilities for cross-boundary transport infrastructures within Hong Kong’s territory, including:

- (a) Route 10 (Northern Section), the Tuen Mun Western Bypass, Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link, Tuen Mun Eastern Bypass and the easterly link road connecting Deep Bay Link with Route 3, and taking proactive measures to optimize the use of Route 3; and
- (b) expeditiously completing the extension of Tuen Mun Road and widening part of its expressway section to four-lane carriageway;

to comprehensively enhance the integration with the Mainland’s transport infrastructures, so as to promote sustainable and steady development of Hong Kong’s economy.”

Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge

Meeting date	Committee	Papers/Items
29.9.2003	Transport Panel (TP)	Administration's paper on Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr02-03/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0929cb1-2346-1e.pdf http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr02-03/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0929cb1-2492-1e.pdf http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr02-03/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0929cb1-128-1e.pdf
29.9.2003	TP	Minutes of meeting http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr02-03/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp030929.pdf
24.10.2003	TP	Administration's paper on Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/english/panels/tp/papers/tp1024cb1-192-1e.pdf
24.10.2003	TP	Minutes of meeting http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp031024.pdf
25.6.2004	TP	Administration's paper on Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the Northwest New Territories Traffic and Infrastructure Review http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0625cb1-2180-2e.pdf
25.6.2004	TP	Minutes of meeting http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr03-04/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp040625.pdf
27.5.2005	TP	Administration's paper on Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and North Lantau Highway Connection http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0527cb1-1605-3e.pdf http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0527cb1-1742-1e.pdf

Meeting date	Committee	Papers/Items
		Administration's paper on Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0527cb1-1992-1e.pdf
27.5.2005	TP	Minutes of meeting http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr04-05/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp050527.pdf
7.2.2007	Council	Motion debate on "Expeditiously implementing the construction of cross-boundary transport infrastructures between Hong Kong and the Mainland". http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0207-translate-e.pdf