

立法會
Legislative Council

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Paper for the Panel on Transport

Setting up of the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways

Purpose

This paper seeks the views of the Panel on Transport (the Panel) on the setting up of the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways (the Subcommittee) as suggested by members at the meeting on 14 October 2008. It sets out for members' consideration the proposed Terms of Reference of and work plan for the Subcommittee.

Background

2. In the last two legislative terms (2001-2004 and 2004-2008), a subcommittee was set up under the Panel to monitor issues relating to the planning and implementation of new railway projects as well as existing railway operation. In the last term, the subcommittee had provided annual reports to the Panel in June every year. The latest report provided to the Panel on 24 June 2008 is issued vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1988/07-08 (http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/reports/tp_rdpcb1-1988-e.pdf).

Proposed Terms of Reference of the Subcommittee

3. The proposed Terms of Reference of the Subcommittee in the 2008-2009 legislative session is at **Appendix**.

Subcommittee's proposed work plan

Railway planning and implementation

4. Based on the first Railway Development Strategy formulated in 1994 and the new Railway Development Strategy 2000 endorsed by the Chief Executive-in-Council in May 2000, the following component schemes have been identified to meet the railway network expansion needs up to the year 2016:

I. Completed projects/projects under construction	
Railway project	Present status
(a) MTR Tseung Kwan O Line	commissioned in August 2002
(b) West Rail	commissioned in December 2003
(c) East Rail Extension from Hung Hom to Tsim Sha Tsui	commissioned in October 2004
(d) Ma On Shan to Tai Wai Rail Link	commissioned in December 2004
(e) Disneyland Resort Line	commissioned in August 2005
(f) Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line	commissioned in August 2007
(g) Kowloon Southern Link	under construction for commissioning in 2009
(h) MTR Tseung Kwan O Extension (Phase II)	under construction for commissioning in 2009

II. Projects under planning	
Railway project	Present status
(a) Shatin to Central Link	under planning
(b) West Island Line	under planning
(c) South Island Line	under planning
(d) Northern Link	under planning
(e) Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link	under planning
(f) North Island Line	under planning
(g) Port Rail Line	under planning

5. To ensure provision of necessary and appropriate connecting transport services, the Subcommittee will oversee the co-ordination of public transport services to tie in with the new railway services before the commissioning of the new railway lines. As the actual timeframe for implementation of railway projects under planning will be subject to detailed studies on engineering feasibility and financial viability, the Subcommittee will monitor the progress of the related work to ensure timely delivery of railway infrastructure to meet

the transport needs of the travelling public.

Railway operation

6. Following the commissioning of new railway lines, the Subcommittee will have to address various problems identified during the initial stage of operation, and discuss with the Administration and the post-merger corporation on measures to enhance the performance and safety of railway services. The Subcommittee will also follow up with the Administration and the post-merger corporation issues relating to the performance and maintenance of existing railway lines.

Proposed time frame for completion of work

7. Given the number of new railway projects in the pipeline and the need to monitor the performance of new railway lines during the initial stage of operation, it is not envisaged that the Subcommittee can complete its work within a short period. The Panel will have to consider the need for continuation of the Subcommittee's work at the end of this legislation session.

8. In line with the existing practice, the Subcommittee will submit a progress report on its work to the Panel at the end of each legislative session. The Subcommittee may also submit a report to the Panel, as necessary, when it has completed its work relating to the review of a particular railway incident, or an important aspect of railway planning and operation.

Advice sought

9. Members are invited to consider the proposed Terms of Reference and work plan of the Subcommittee as set out above, in deciding on the setting up of the Subcommittee.

10. Subject to members' endorsement, the Secretariat will make arrangements for the first meeting and invite Panel members to signify membership for the Subcommittee.

Council Business Division 1

Legislative Council Secretariat

23 October 2008

Panel on Transport

Subcommittee on matters relating to railways

Proposed Terms of Reference

To follow up various issues relating to the planning and implementation of new railway projects, and the operation of existing railways as follows:

Planning and implementation of new railway projects

- (a) planning and financing of new railway projects;
- (b) environmental impact assessment of new railway projects;
- (c) resumption of land arising from the implementation of new railway projects under the Railways Ordinance (Cap. 519);
- (d) progress update on the implementation of new railway projects;
- (e) provision of supporting public infrastructure for new railway projects; and
- (f) co-ordination of public transport services arising from the commissioning of new railway lines.

Railway operation

- (a) performance of existing railway lines including train service performance and safety management;
- (b) maintenance programme; and
- (c) train service disruptions and breakdowns, and arrangements for handling emergency situations.

Matters relating to corporate governance of the post-merger corporation and fares should be dealt with by the Panel on Transport.