

香港特別行政區

立法會

財務委員會主席

劉惠卿議員

尊敬的劉惠卿議員：

關於：財委會審議高鐵撥款

您好！得悉立法會財委會將於2010年1月8日審議高速鐵路撥款事宜，我謹代表公共專業聯盟的「新高鐵專家組」（下稱「專家組」），要求派員出席上述會議，理由如下：

專家組在2009年10月7日發表了名為「貫通南北」的新高鐵方案後，引起公眾熱烈討論，隨後獲立法會鐵路事宜小組委員會邀請，在11月6日出席會議解釋新方案，政府代表在同一會議上對新方案提出多項質疑。

一、為了向議員解答政府的質疑，專家組曾在11月10日、15日及17日三次致函立法會鐵路事宜小組委員會，要求派員出席會議，但均不得要領。劉健儀議員更在17日的會議上誤稱專家組一直沒有解答政府的質疑（儘管專家組已在15日向立法會提出兩份技術文件，見要求劉健儀議員致歉的附函），使議員產生誤解，而這些誤解在隨後的立法會會議上一直沒有得到糾正，但政府代表則在立法會會議上，不斷質疑專家組的方案。因此，為了確保程序公義，財委會有義務讓專家組成員出席會議，以示公允，並讓議員充份掌握正反兩方的資訊。

二、另一方面，專家組最近獲得兩份政府當局有關高鐵的文件，而這些文件均未有向全體立法會議員公開，專家組成員願意將有關文件的分析向議員解說，免使議員在欠缺資訊的情況下作出決定。

鑑於以上的特殊情況，我懇請財委會在1月8日的會議上，騰出30分鐘供專家組成員解說，以便立法會能履行政程序公義，並使財委會成員能夠掌握全面資訊，為公眾對高鐵項目作出負責任的決定。

候覆。

公共專業聯盟主席

黎廣德

2010年1月4日

Nov 17, 2009

Hon Miriam Lau,

Chair, Legco Railway Subcommittee

Dear Hon Ms Lau,

Re: Mis-representation of the Professional Commons' position

In the Railway Subcommittee meeting today, you openly claimed the Subcommittee had never received any response from the Professional Commons since the last meeting with Government on November 6. Yet in fact, the Professional Commons had sent in two submissions to the Subcommittee during the past seven days. The first letter was sent to you on November 10 with a list of questions for the Administration, and the second letter on November 15 with one press statement and two detailed technical documents.

The receipt of these two submissions were acknowledged by the Legco Secretariat on Nov 16 (attached below).

We are disappointed that in your capacity as Chair of the Subcommittee, you had overlooked our submissions and mis-represented our position publicly. We consider this to be a serious matter as it not only deprives all Legco members of the chance to consider our submissions, but also gives the community a negative impression on the Professional Commons.

In view of the above, we would like to seek a formal apology from you on this matter.

Furthermore, we note that the Administration has not yet responded to our list of requested supplementary information, which was forwarded by the Legco Secretariat to the Administration earlier. We hope you will take up your duty as Chair of the Subcommittee and seek a timely response from the Administration.

As stated in our letters earlier, we would like to re-iterate our request for a formal presentation to the Railway Subcommittee before the matter is to be considered by the Public Works Subcommittee.

Yours sincerely,



Albert Lai

Chairman, The Professional Commons

cc. All Legco members

15 November 2009

Hon. Miriam Lau

Chair

SubCommittee on Matters Relating to Railways, Panel on Transport

Legislative Council

panel_t@legco.gov.hk

Dear Hon. Ms. Lau,

Subject: Request for Information and Further Hearing

Further to our letter dated 10 November 2009, we are still awaiting Government's response to the questions raised, which were related to the Government paper tabled at your Subcommittee meeting on November 6.

Due to the complexity of the issues, we would like to iterate our request for a presentation at your next Railway Subcommittee meeting, so that we can offer Legco members a chance to hear our comprehensive response to Government's comments.

We also attach here for your attention a press statement and two technical reports released by us on 15 November, 2009. We trust these are relevant to your members' deliberation on the issue, and hence we hope that they can be distributed to all your members prior to the Subcommittee meeting on Nov 16 morning.

Yours sincerely,



Albert Lai

Chairman, The Professional Commons

cc. All members of the Legislative Council

Attachments:

Annex I: Press Statement by Express Rail Expert Group on 15 Nov 2009

Annex II: Technical Document on "Airport Railway Capacity", Express Rail Expert Group

Annex III: Technical Document on "Land Resumption and Construction Cost Estimates", Express Rail Expert Group

10 November 2009

Hon. Miriam Lau

Chair

SubCommittee on Matters Relating to Railways, Panel on Transport

Legislative Council

panel_t@legco.gov.hk

Dear Hon. Ms. Lau,

Subject: Request for Information and Further Hearing

Thank you for inviting us to the Railways SubCommittee meeting last Friday. At the meeting, Government officials and engineers from the Highways Department and the MTR Corporation presented a 59-page document in response to our proposal for an Integrated Option of the Express Railway. The document is however incomplete and the arguments contained therein can only be substantiated by further information from Government.

To assist Legco members to assess the validity of Government comments, we have prepared a list of questions that requires clarification by Government. We suggest that the Subcommittee may forward the list to Government and seek further information. Once the Subcommittee obtains these information, we would appreciate it if we could be provided with a copy so that we can prepare our response properly.

Due to the complexity of the issues, we believe it is essential that Legco members be given a chance to hear our comprehensive response to Government's comments in a Railway Subcommittee meeting. We hereby request that we can make a full presentation at the next meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Albert Lai

Chairman, The Professional Commons

cc. All members of the Legislative Council

Essential Information required from Government to substantiate their claims against the Professional Commons' proposal in the Legco Railway Subcommittee meeting held on 6 Nov 2009

1. Detailed explanation on the underperformance of the cross harbour tunnel for Airport Express Line (AEL) and Tung Chung Line (TCL) (32 train/hr) as compared with the original design (40 train/hr);
2. How long will an arriving long haul train be occupying:
 - a) the incoming and outgoing fan area; and
 - b) the platform for loading and unloading before moving to the depot;
3. Will the depot be primarily used by either short haul trains or long haul trains? If not, please list out the operational usage of the depot the trains, such as on site cleaning, etc;
4. Will WKT perform on site cleaning or/and stabling activities for long haul trains so that these trains need not to move to the depot?
 - a) If yes, how many long haul trains can stay at the platform before departure and how many trains will be required to move to the depot before departure;
 - b) If no, how many trains will be required to move to the depot before departure;
5. Whether the maximum capacity of the 26-km tunnels in handling long haul train per day taking into consideration of the total number of short haul trains, the loading and unloading time at the platform, the travelling time to and from the border, the travelling time to and from the depot, safety distance, etc.
6. In a bid to facilitate a better understanding of the WKT options, please provide the following reports, if exist:
 - a) Report on Predicted Patronage for the Express Rail Link;
 - b) Report on Proposal Train Services for the Express Rail Link, including any reports from the Ministry of Railways;

- c) Report on the Rail Operation Arrangements for the West Kowloon Terminus. (Note: These are probably not the correct titles but it is the content which is important.)

In addition, we believe that our former requests of information could provide useful evidence to figure out the comparative advantages of the two XRL options and thus help Legco members to assess the merits of the options.