

政府總部
運輸及房屋局
運輸科
香港花園道美利大廈



Transport and
Housing Bureau
Government Secretariat
Transport Branch
Murray Building, Garden Road,
Hong Kong

本局檔號 Our Ref.: THB(T)CR 1/16/581/99
來函檔號 Your Ref. CB1/P/A/6

電話 Tel.: 2189 7424
傳真 Fax.: 2136 8016

6 January 2010

Ms. Anita Sit
Clerk to Finance Committee
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road,
Central, Hong Kong

Fax: 2869 6794

Dear Ms Sit,

**Submission from the Professional Commons regarding
the Hong Kong section of
the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL)**

Thank you for your letter of 31 December 2009.

2. The Administration has provided to various committees of the Legislative Council a large volume of detailed information about the Hong Kong section of the XRL, covering the design, cost and site selection of the scheme, the strategic values, patronage, economic benefits and operating viability of the rail link, its interface with West Kowloon Cultural District, the special ex-gratia rehousing package, etc. At the request of Members, we have also elaborated on several issues to facilitate the Finance Committee's consideration of funding applications for the XRL project. The list of documents provided is at Enclosure.

3. At the request of Public Works Subcommittee, we have deposited the report on West Kowloon Reclamation Development Traffic Study (WKRDTs) at the Secretariat for Members' reference. The Study reviews the traffic conditions, identifies road improvement schemes to ease the existing traffic problems and recommends major road

infrastructure to meet the long-term traffic demand of the concerned district up to 2031 when the district should be fully developed.

4. Given its highly technical nature, the Report can be easily misunderstood or mis-interpreted. A more user-friendly Executive Summary of the Report has been published on the Transport Department's website for public consumption.

5. The road network enhancements as recommended by the WKRDTS serves ALL existing and future developments in West Kowloon, including the West Kowloon Cultural District, the XRL West Kowloon Terminus (WKT), office towers, residential buildings, etc. Even if the WKT were located elsewhere, the site would be used for other purposes which would likewise generate traffic in the area.

6. There are complaints about traffic jams in West Kowloon at present. The proposed major improvement works and traffic management would significantly relieve the traffic pressure in the district after they are in place in around 2015. The reserved capacity at 90% of the 41 junctions covered in the Study is forecasted to be well above 5% at all times during the day by 2031, representing healthy conditions i.e. most vehicles will be able to clear the junctions without waiting for more than one traffic signal cycle.

7. Only four out of the 41 junctions may require further enhancement in 2031. There is ample of time to review the situation and put in place improvement measures if necessary.

8. Regarding Professional Commons' request for access to information about studies on the XRL, we have fully and timely provided the relevant information to the Professional Commons in accordance with the Code on Access to Information. As a matter of fact, the organization has declined to collect some of the relevant information that we are prepared to provide them. We note that Professional Commons' have lodged a complaint with the Ombudsman. We have provided information to assist Ombudsman's consideration of the complaint. Meanwhile, we would refrain from providing further commenting on this case to avoid affecting the Ombudsman's consideration.

Yours sincerely,



(Fletch Chan)

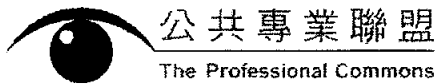
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

Enclosure

Date of Issuance	Paper	Subject
21/10/2009	Legislative Council Brief [CB(1)166/09-10(01)]	Authorisation of the Railway scheme of the Hong Kong section of the XRL
21/10/2009	Legislative Council Brief [CB(1)166/09-10(01)]	Funding arrangement; and Special rehousing package for households affected by the land resumption due to construction of the Hong Kong section of the XRL
22/10/2009	Presentation materials for Railways Subcommittee of the Transport Panel of the Legislative Council [CB(1)166/09-10(01)]	Latest development of the Hong Kong section of the XRL
6/11/2009	Presentation materials for Railways Subcommittee of the Transport Panel of the Legislative Council [CB(1)322/09-10(01)]	Infeasibility of "Kam Sheung Road Options" for the Hong Kong section of the XRL
13/11/2009	Information paper for Railways Subcommittee of the Transport Panel of the Legislative Council [LC Paper No. CB(1)389/09-10(01)]	XRL West Kowloon Terminus
13/11/2009	Information paper for Railways Subcommittee of the Transport Panel of the Legislative Council [LC Paper No. CB(1)356/09-10(02)]	Land and strata resumption in relation to the Hong Kong section of the XRL
13/11/2009	Information for Railways Subcommittee of the Transport Panel of the Legislative Council [CB(1)400/09-10(02)]	Special rehousing package for households affected by the land resumption due to construction of the Hong Kong section of the XRL
13/11/2009	Information for Railways Subcommittee of the Transport Panel of the Legislative Council [CB(1)400/09-10(03)]	Special rehousing package for households affected by the land resumption due to construction of the Hong Kong section of the XRL
16/11/2009	Presentation materials for Railways Subcommittee of the Transport Panel of the Legislative Council [CB(1)398/09-10(01)]	Construction cost of the Hong Kong section of the XRL

Date of Issuance	Paper	Subject
17/11/2009	Information paper for Railways Subcommittee of the Transport Panel of the Legislative Council [LC Paper No. CB(1)399/09-10(01)]	Patronage forecast and operational viability of the XRL
17/11/2009	Presentation materials for Railways Subcommittee of the Transport Panel of the Legislative Council [CB(1)423/09-10(01)]	West Kowloon Terminus
17/11/2009	Presentation materials for Railways Subcommittee of the Transport Panel of the Legislative Council [CB(1)423/09-10(03)]	Patronage of cross boundary traffic
17/11/2009	Presentation materials for Railways Subcommittee of the Transport Panel of the Legislative Council [CB(1)423/09-10(02)]	Road networks in the West Kowloon New Development Area
20/11/2009	Information paper to Yau Tsim Mong District Council with copy to the Railways Subcommittee of the Transport Panel of the Legislative Council [CB(1)464/09-10(01)]	Strata resumption in Tai Kok Tsui in relation to the Hong Kong section of the XRL
23/11/2009	Discussion paper for Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council [PWSC(2009-10)68]	Funding application for the Railways works of the Hong Kong section of the XRL project
23/11/2009	Discussion paper for Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council [PWSC(2009-10)69]	Funding application for the Non-railways works of the Hong Kong section of the XRL project
23/11/2009	Discussion paper for Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council [PWSC(2009-10)72]	Special ex-gratia payments in relation to the Hong Kong section of the XRL
27/11/2009	Information paper for Railways Subcommittee of the Transport Panel of the Legislative Council [LC Paper No. CB(1)503/09-10(01)]	Detailed cost breakdown of the Hong Kong section of the XRL project
27/11/2009	Information paper for Railways Subcommittee of the Transport Panel of the Legislative Council	Patronage, economic benefit and operational viability of the XRL

Date of Issuance	Paper	Subject
	[LC Paper No. CB(1)503/09-10(02)]	
27/11/2009	Information paper for Railways Subcommittee of the Transport Panel of the Legislative Council [LC Paper No. CB(1)503/09-10(03)]	Transport arrangement in West Kowloon
14/12/2009	Information paper for Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council [PWSCI(2009 -10)15]	Various issues relating to the of the Hong Kong section of the XRL, including the tendering procedures, operational viability, the planning of Kam Sheung Road, coordination with West Kowloon Cultural District, precedent cases of village resite, and consultation as regards strata resumption in Tak Kok Tsui
17/12/2009	Letter to the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council	Various issues relating to the of the Hong Kong section of the XRL, including the patronage and economic benefit, environmental impact assessment, tendering procedures, coordination with West Kowloon Cultural District, strata resumption in Tak Kok Tsui, colocation, consultation, etc.



Urgent

23 December 2009

Hon Emily Lau
Chair, Finance Committee
Legislative Council

Dear Ms Lau,

Re: Essential Outstanding Information on Express Rail Project

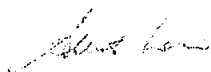
With regard to the Finance Committee's deliberation on the Express Rail Project, we would like to bring to your attention that the following project documents are still being kept in secret by the government, despite numerous requests by the Professional Commons and the Expert Group since October 2, 2009:

1. Full Feasibility Studies Reports conducted by MTRC and its consultants on behalf of the government, including but not limited to a CBM traffic modeling and patronage forecast study conducted by MVA;
2. Full Economic and Financial Analyses reports conducted by MTRC and its consultants on behalf of the government;
3. Government officials' comments on the above reports, and their instructions to MTRC and their consultants during the drafting of those reports in the form of correspondence and meeting minutes.

As the Finance Committee will soon reconvene to discuss this Project, may we suggest that you forward the above information request to the Administration, and request that these reports be made available for inspection by legislators and their advisors prior to the next meeting. Although some of the information from these reports have been extracted and presented in the form of Legco papers, such information are highly selective in nature and are not able to present a full picture on this complex project.

The recent revelation on the understated traffic congestion problems from the West Kowloon Reclamation Traffic Study, the full report of which was only released to legislators about one week before the last Finance Committee meeting, is a good example. We believe it is grossly unfair for the government to deprive your committee members of such essential information before making decisions on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Ir Albert Lai
Chairman, The Professional Commons
cc. Members of Legco Finance Committee