

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in  
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing  
Session No. : 9**

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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)001**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0604

Programme: (4) Air Traffic Engineering and Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Developing a replacement plan for the existing radar, navigational aids and radio communication systems is among the matters requiring special attention in 2010-11. Please provide the details of the plan with the estimated expenditure and expected completion date.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

Many of the existing radar, navigational aids and radio communications systems have been in operation since the opening of the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) in 1998. With enhanced maintenance measures, the usable life of the systems is expected to be around 15 to 20 years.

In order to ensure that these systems will continue to support a safe, reliable, efficient and effective air transport system for the HKIA, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) has planned to develop an implementation programme for the replacement of the existing radar, navigational aids and radio communication systems by 2010-11. As part of the preparation work, CAD will conduct a market survey on the latest technology, formulate the overall replacement programme for the installation of individual systems and establish a cost estimate for the project.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NORMAN LO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director-General of Civil Aviation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15.3.2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)002**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0605

Programme: (5) Air Services

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the implementation of the noise abatement programme, please inform this Committee of the work targets, costs and scheduled completion date of this programme in 2010-11.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

In 2010-11, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) will continue to implement the noise abatement programme to minimise the nuisance caused by aircraft noise through design of flight paths, landing and take-off procedures, and prohibition of flights operated by aircraft which cannot meet international aircraft noise standards. CAD will study the feasibility of new noise abatement flight paths and procedures.

The estimated annual staff cost involved is about \$2.33 million. The study on new noise abatement flight paths and procedures is scheduled to be completed in 2010-11 with an estimated expenditure of about \$0.25 million in 2010-11. The annual recurrent repair and maintenance cost of the equipment and systems for monitoring aircraft noise is about \$1.85 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NORMAN LO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director-General of Civil Aviation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15.3.2010 \_\_\_\_\_



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)003**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0606

Programme: (5) Air Services

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the projects and initiatives on the development of heliports and provision of helicopter services, please advise this Committee:

- (a) the progress, expenditure involved and effectiveness of the projects and initiatives in the past two years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2009-10); and
- (b) the details of work, objectives, costs required and scheduled completion dates in 2010-11.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

- (a) In the past two years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2009-10) the following initiatives have been taken for the development of heliports and provision of helicopter services:
  - (i) to enhance cross-boundary helicopter services, the heliport at the rooftop of the Macau Ferry Terminal at Sheung Wan was expanded. A lease was granted to an operator in 2007 after an open tender exercise for the expansion and the operation of the heliport. The expansion project was completed in October 2009. After the expansion the capacity of the heliport was increased to 55 000 movements per year. The cost of the expansion of the heliport was borne by the heliport operator;
  - (ii) a licence was granted in May 2009 to a commercial helicopter service operator to allow shared-use of the temporary government helipad at the former Wan Chai Public Cargo Working Area with the Government Flying Service for the provision of domestic helicopter services, pending the re-provisioning of the permanent government helipad at the north-eastern corner of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre (HKCEC); and
  - (iii) a permanent government helipad is being built near the HKCEC to allow shared-use by the Government Flying Service and domestic commercial helicopter service operators. The total project cost of the government helipad, under Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 707 New Towns and Urban Area Development, is about \$59.1 million.

The above work is undertaken by CAD's existing staff as part of their normal duties under Programme (5). There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.

- (b) Concerning domestic helicopter services, the construction works for the permanent government helipad near the HKCEC commenced in January 2010 and are expected to be completed in about two years. CAD will continue to work with the helicopter industry in drawing up the detailed operational procedures for the helipad.

In relation to cross-boundary helicopter services, the Government has reserved a site in the Kai Tak Development Area for use as a second cross-boundary heliport in the future. CAD will be involved in the planning for the development of this heliport.

As far as CAD is concerned, only staff costs will be involved in the above initiatives and they have been included in the provisions under Programme (5).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NORMAN LO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director-General of Civil Aviation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15.3.2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)004**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2479

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the consultations conducted or to be conducted under various programmes for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies (if any), please provide the relevant information in the following format:

For those consultations for which funds have been allocated in 2009-10, please provide information in the following format:

Title/ content of consultation	Revised estimate (\$)	Progress (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Mode (e.g. written submissions, forums, focus groups) and number of consultations, names of groups consulted and number of people consulted	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the findings of the consultations and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
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Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

Consultation exercises carried out by the Civil Aviation Department in 2009-10 for the purpose of formulating or assessing major aviation policies include the following:

Title/ content of consultation	Revised estimate (\$)	Progress (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Mode (e.g. written submissions, forums, focus groups) and number of consultations, names of groups consulted and number of people consulted	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the findings of the consultations and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
1 Amendments to the Air Navigation (Dangerous Goods) Regulations and the Dangerous Goods (Consign-ment by Air) (Safety) Regulations	Absorbed in the day to day operational expenses	Completed	Consultation with the Technical Sub-committee of the Aviation Development Advisory Committee and the local air cargo stakeholders including the Hongkong Association of Freight Forwarding and Logistics Limited, the Hong Kong Shippers' Council, the Board of Airline Representatives Hong Kong, and the Airport Authority through written communication and/or meetings	The relevant amendment regulations became effective on 1 January 2010.	The relevant amendment regulations were gazetted on 23 October 2009 and a press release was issued on 21 October 2009.

2 Revision to liability limits specified in the Carriage	Absorbed in the day to day operational	Completed	Letters were issued to airlines operating scheduled services to and from Hong Kong, the Board of Airline Representatives Hong	The Carriage by Air (Revision of Limits of Liability) (Montreal	A press release was issued on 9 December 2009 concerning the
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by Air Ordinance (Cap. 500)	expenses		Kong, the Hongkong Association of Freight Forwarding and Logistics Limited, the Consumer Council, the Hong Kong Shippers' Council, and the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong to brief them on the required revision to the liability limits in Cap. 500 in respect of the carriage of passengers, baggage and cargo arising from a review conducted by the International Civil Aviation Organization.	Convention) Notice 2009 was gazetted on 11 December 2009 to announce the revision to be made to the liability limits specified in Cap. 500 starting from 30 December 2009.	Carriage by Air (Revision of Limits of Liability) (Montreal Convention) Notice 2009.
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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **NORMAN LO** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Director-General of Civil Aviation** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **19.3.2010** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)005**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2480

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the consultations conducted or to be conducted under various programmes for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies (if any), please provide the relevant information in the following format:

Are there any resources earmarked for conducting consultations in 2010-11? If yes, please provide the following information:

Title/ content of consultation	Expenditure (\$)	Progress (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Mode (e.g. written submissions, forums, focus groups) and number of consultations, names of groups consulted and number of people consulted	Will the findings be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2010-11 financial year? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

Consultation exercises planned to be carried out by the Civil Aviation Department in 2010-11 for the purpose of formulating or assessing major aviation policies include the following:

Title/ content of consultation	Expenditure (\$)	Progress (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Mode (e.g. written submissions, forums, focus groups) and number of consultations, names of groups consulted and number of people consulted	Will the findings be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2010-11 financial year? If no, what are the reasons?
1 Legislative proposals to amend the Air Navigation (Dangerous Goods)	To be absorbed in the day to day operational	Under planning	Consultation with the Technical Sub-committee of the Aviation Development	The consultation will start in early 2011 and is unlikely to be completed in the

Regulations and the Dangerous Goods (Consignment by Air) (Safety) Regulations	expenses		Advisory Committee and the local air cargo industry stakeholders through written communication and/or meetings	2010-11 financial year.
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2 Legislative proposals on Hong Kong Civil Aviation (Investigation of Accidents) Regulations (CAP. 448B) to incorporate the latest international requirements.	To be absorbed in the day to day operational expenses	Under planning	To be determined	The timeframe of consultation has not yet been decided.
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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **NORMAN LO** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Director-General of Civil Aviation** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **19.3.2010** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)006**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0124

Programme: (1) Flight Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) mentioned that it will enhance the Flight Time Limitations (FTL) Schemes of Hong Kong air operators in line with the development in international practice in 2010-11. Please advise :

- (a) In what ways are the existing FTL Schemes of Hong Kong air operators differ from international practice?
- (b) Will the FTL Schemes incur additional expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

- (a) The air operators' FTL Schemes have been established in accordance with the requirement of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and with reference to international best practices. The FTL requirement document is reviewed and enhanced by CAD in consultation with the industry, taking into consideration the latest developments in international practices and in the light of operational experience. The latest version of the requirement document will incorporate the ICAO's concept of fatigue risk management.
- (b) The above work is undertaken by the existing staff of CAD as part of their normal duties under Programme (1). No additional expenditure is required.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NORMAN LO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 12.3.2010



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department                      Subhead (No. & title):

Programme:                      (3) Air Traffic Management

Controlling Officer:              Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau:              Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In Matters Requiring Special Attention, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) mentioned for years that it would continue to co-ordinate with neighbouring Area Control Centres (ACCs) to rationalize and optimize the airspace design of the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region. Please advise:

- (a) What kind of work is involved in the co-ordination? How can we take advantage of our strength in having more international flights?
- (b) What is the progress of the co-ordination? In particular, is there a division of labour already? Has it enhanced the aircraft movements in the region? Please provide the relevant figures.
- (c) Will any additional expenses be incurred?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

- (a) The co-ordination between the CAD and the neighbouring ACCs mainly involves the development of short term and long term measures to enhance the airspace design and increase air route capacities. Enhancement measures are being developed in phases based on the principles of joint airspace planning, use of common standards and harmonized flight procedure design. Currently, we are providing air navigation services to 93 airlines operating scheduled services to 148 destinations. Throughout these co-ordination processes, the CAD shared our experience in handling international air traffic, airspace and flight procedure design with our neighbouring ACCs, thereby enhancing the overall airspace capacity in the PRD region in a collaborative manner.
- (b) The co-ordination has made steady progress with various measures implemented in phases. Through the collaborative effort of Hong Kong CAD, the Civil Aviation Administration of China and the Macao Civil Aviation Authority, an additional handover point and a corresponding air route have been established between the Guangzhou and Hong Kong Flight Information Regions to cater for flights overflying Hong Kong and landing in Guangzhou. The initiative has enhanced the air route capacities for flights operating to and from northern China.

In addition, a set of shortened arrival routes for aircraft from the west and north of Hong Kong was also introduced in October 2009. Since then, each flight arriving Hong Kong from the Mainland, Southeast Asia or Europe using the new routes has been able to save up to about 210 km in flight journey or 14 minutes in flight time.

As regards the long-term airspace and air traffic management planning, the ACCs concerned have established a special working group to optimize regional airspace design; to standardize interface and protocols of air traffic control systems; and to establish additional civil air routes for flights

operating to and from the Mainland.

While efforts are being made to enhance the use of the PRD airspace, CAD has been taking measures to gradually increase the runway capacity of the two existing runways of the Hong Kong International Airport, with a view to achieving the target of 68 aircraft movements per hour by 2015.

- (c) The above co-ordination work is undertaken by CAD's existing staff as part of their normal duties under Programme (3) and there is no additional expense involved.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 12.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)008**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0171

Programme: (1) Flight Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Civil Aviation Department (CAD) mentions that for local flight crew examinations, the number of examination papers processed was 3 818 in 2008 and 1 098 in 2009 and is estimated to be 1 280 in 2010. The decrease in the number of local flight crew examination papers processed in 2009 was due to local airlines recruiting fewer direct entry pilots as a result of the economic downturn, while the 2010 figure is based on the estimated increase in the number of aircraft on the Hong Kong Civil Aircraft Register in 2010. Please advise:

- (a) Apart from the projection made according to the figures in the Hong Kong Civil Aircraft Register, is there any other information indicating a decrease in the number of local flight crew examinations in 2010?
- (b) As the number of the examinations significantly decreases, how much expenditure will be reduced accordingly?
- (c) How to ensure that local airlines will continue to train local pilots and accord priority to recruiting them?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

- (a) The number of flight crew examinations is market-driven and subject to fluctuations of the global economy. Since there are signs of recovery in the airline business as indicated by a gradual increase in flight movements from the latter half of 2009, we expect a mild increase in the demand for flight crew examinations in 2010.
- (b) The decrease in expenditure due to the decrease in the number of examination papers processed is minimal. The workload of the Personnel Licensing Office responsible for processing the examination papers is reviewed regularly and CAD will flexibly redeploy their staff to perform other duties as necessary.
- (c) The recruitment and training policies of flight crew are the sole responsibility of the air operators. The key role of CAD is to approve the training programmes and examination arrangements for the training schemes of the local pilots established by Hong Kong air operators in accordance with established procedures.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 15.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)009**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department    Subhead        000 –  
(No. & title):    Operational expenses

Question Serial No.

0293

Programme:

Controlling Officer:        Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau:        Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is expected that there will be an increase of 32 non-directorate posts in the Civil Aviation Department in 2010-11. What posts will be added? What are their purposes?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

New Post(s) to be added in 2010-11	Purposes
1    Air Traffic Control Officer I	To oversee the overall operations of the Air Traffic Control Centre and Tower, and administer the deployment of operational controllers.
10   Air Traffic Control Officer II	To provide manning for new control positions.
4    Air Traffic Control Officer II	To strengthen the capacity for contingency manning in order to maintain a sustainable level of service delivery for air navigation services.
4    Air Traffic Control Officer II	To strengthen the service of Air Traffic Flow and Capacity Manager.
6    Air Traffic Control Officer III / Student Air Traffic Control Officer	To provide manning for new control positions and extend service hours for existing control positions.
1    Senior Operations Officer (Aviation Administration)	To enhance support to staff training and development.
1    Operations Officer (Aviation Administration)	
1    Senior Electronics Engineer	
1    Senior Operations Officer (Senior Operations Inspector)	To cope with the increase in service demand in relation to the safety oversight on Hong Kong air operators and Hong Kong registered aircraft for Flight Standards and Airworthiness Division.
1    Operations Officer (Airworthiness)	
1    Operations Officer (Aviation Administration)	To provide additional staff support for Air Traffic Management Standards Office.
1    Electronics Engineer	

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NORMAN LO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director-General of Civil Aviation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15.3.2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)010**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0757

Programme: (2) Airport Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is mentioned under “Matters requiring Special Attention in 2010-11” that the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) will monitor airfield enhancement works at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), including the design and construction of additional parking stands and associated taxiway system in the mid-field of the HKIA. Please advise on the progress and timetable (including commencement and completion dates) of the enhancement works and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

The HKIA is operated by the Airport Authority (AA) under an aerodrome licence issued by the CAD. The CAD is responsible for monitoring the airfield enhancement works at the HKIA to ensure that these new facilities meet aerodrome licensing standards.

According to the AA, it will carry out, using its own funding, the mid-field expansion project to provide additional aircraft stands and apron facilities and a new passenger concourse in phases, having regard to the increase in the air traffic demand. The preliminary study on the project will be completed in 2010.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 16.3.2010



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)011**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0758

Programme: (3) Air Traffic Management

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding improvement on the efficiency of air traffic management for further enhancement of the runway capacity, please inform this Committee of the relevant work plan for this year (i.e. 2010-11). The original design capacity of the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) at Chek Lap Kok is 80 to 85 movements per hour, but the estimated capacity for 2010 will only be enhanced to 60 movements per hour, an increase of two movements per hour over 2009. What are the factors on which the estimate is based? Is the estimate too conservative? Will it be possible to exceed the target of 60 movements per hour this year (i.e. 2010-11)?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

In order to further enhance the runway capacity, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) will continue to work hand in hand with the airline operators to assess the traffic demand and to enhance the air traffic management and flight procedures. CAD will also work with the Airport Authority (AA) to improve the airfield infrastructure at the HKIA. Furthermore, CAD will continue to liaise with the civil aviation authorities of the Mainland and Macao to improve the use of airspace and co-ordination of air traffic management in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region.

The operating environment of the HKIA is unique, with high terrains together with a complicated and restrictive airspace surrounding the airport. Despite these constraints, we aim to further increase the runway capacity to 61 movements per hour by end March 2011, and then progressively to 68 movements per hour by 2015. We have worked out this runway capacity enhancement plan taking into account the time required for a number of measures to be introduced, such as the work required to conduct detailed assessments to confirm the safety of the new operating procedures; the time required for all concerned parties to be properly trained and get used to the new procedures; the testing, evaluation and transition to the use of the new air traffic control systems now being procured, and the additional manpower to be properly trained to provide the air traffic control service.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

NORMAN LO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

15.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)012**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0759

Programme: (3) Air Traffic Management

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

With regard to the work to continue to co-ordinate with neighbouring Area Control Centres (ACCs) to rationalise and optimise the airspace design of the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region, please advise what will be the work progress in 2010-11, and are there any plan and target established for the related work this year?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

In 2010-11, the Civil Aviation Department in collaboration with the neighbouring ACCs in the PRD, will continue to pursue the optimisation of the airspace and associated air traffic management co-ordination in the region. Specifically, :

- (i) As regards the long-term airspace and air traffic management planning, the ACCs concerned have established a special working group to optimise regional airspace design and to standardise interface and protocols of air traffic control systems. Work planned for the year includes a feasibility study on creating an additional handover point and to establish additional civil air routes for flights overflying the Hong Kong Flight Information Region and operating to and from the Mainland; and
- (ii) We will study the possible means to enhance the co-ordination process for departure flights and exchange of air traffic services information among the PRD airports.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NORMAN LO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director-General of Civil Aviation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15.3.2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)013**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0760

Programme: (3) Air Traffic Management

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) mentioned that it would refine air traffic operating procedures and improve air traffic control (ATC) and air navigation facilities to enhance flight safety and capacity of the Hong Kong Flight Information Region (HKFIR). Please provide details and schedule of the work. What is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

CAD is committed to enhancing flight safety and capacity of the HKFIR through regular reviews of the air traffic operating procedures and improvements to ATC as well as air navigation facilities. In 2010-11, CAD will:

- (i) continue the progressive implementation of the new air traffic planning and arrival sequencing system to assist ATC operations, and
- (ii) rationalise the air route structure to the south of the HKFIR.

The work items associated with the above developments are mainly related to procedure design and ATC workflow refinement. They are to be undertaken by CAD's existing staff as part of their normal duties in air traffic management and there is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **NORMAN LO** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Director-General of Civil Aviation** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **15.3.2010** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)014**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0761

Programme: (3) Air Traffic Management

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The financial provision in 2010-11 has increased by \$20.3 million (6.6%) compared with the revised estimate of 2009-10, one of the reasons was to fill vacancy and to create 25 new posts. How many vacant posts are required to be filled? What are the vacant and new posts? What is the expenditure for each of these posts?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

As at 1 March 2010, there are 10 vacancies within the air traffic control officer grade. The 25 new posts to be created are one Air Traffic Control Officer I (ATCO I), 18 Air Traffic Control Officer II (ATCO II) and six Air Traffic Control Officer III (ATCO III)/ Student Air Traffic Control Officer (SATCO). The notional annual mid-point salary value for each of these posts are :

- (i) ATCO I – \$981,000
- (ii) ATCO II – \$750,120
- (iii) ATCO III/SATCO – \$343,200

In 2010-11, the Civil Aviation Department plans to recruit 30 SATCOs to fill the new and vacant posts.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 15.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)015**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0762

Programme: (3) Air Traffic Management

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the air traffic control staff, how many staff will be recruited this year (i.e. 2010-11)? What will be the expenditure involved? For the training of air traffic control staff, how many staff will need to undergo training? What will be the expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply:

In 2010-11, the Civil Aviation Department plans to recruit 30 Student Air Traffic Control Officers, and the annual staff cost in terms of the notional annual mid-point salary is \$10.3 million. These 30 new recruits will have to undergo training and the required training provision in 2010-11 is \$8.67 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NORMAN LO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director-General of Civil Aviation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15.3.2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)016**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0596

Programme: (1) Flight Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

On enhancing the Flight Time Limitations (FTL) Schemes of Hong Kong air operators, what were the work progress and expenditure involved in 2009-10? What are the work objectives and estimated expenditure for 2010?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

The air operators' FTL Schemes have been established in accordance with the requirement of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and with reference to international best practices.

In 2009-10, the FTL requirement document was reviewed and enhanced by the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) in consultation with the industry, taking into consideration the latest developments in international best practices and in the light of operational experience. The latest version of the requirement document, which is planned to be published in 2010-11, will incorporate the ICAO's concept of fatigue risk management. The air operators of Hong Kong are expected to submit their revised schemes to CAD for approval before the end of 2010-11.

The above work is undertaken by the existing staff of CAD as part of their normal duties under Programme (1). No additional expenditure is required.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NORMAN LO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director-General of Civil Aviation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 12.3.2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)017**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0597

Programme: (1) Flight Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the liaison with overseas aeronautical authorities on mutual recognition of aircraft maintenance organisations, what were the work progress of the department and the expenditure involved for the past two years (i.e. 2008-09 and 2009-10)? What are the work objectives and estimated expenditure for 2010-11?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

In the past two years, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) signed an arrangement with Singapore on mutual recognition of aircraft maintenance organisations. The mutual recognition arrangement obviates the need for repetitive audit work on aircraft maintenance given that the standards of the maintenance organisations at the partner countries are assured by the oversight from their respective civil aviation authorities. It provides more business opportunities to the Hong Kong maintenance organisations and the flexibility to the Hong Kong air operators in selecting their maintenance contractors.

The above work is undertaken by CAD's existing staff as part of their normal duties under Programme (1) and there is no additional expenditure involved. The expenditure on meetings and inspections to establish the co-operation arrangement were \$40,000 and \$54,000 in 2008-09 and 2009-10 respectively.

CAD will continue to explore new co-operation arrangements with other civil aviation authorities and refine the existing co-operation arrangements. The estimated expenditure for this purpose is \$122,000 in 2010-11.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **NORMAN LO** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Director-General of Civil Aviation** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **15.3.2010** \_\_\_\_\_



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)018**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0599

Programme: (3) Air Traffic Management

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In the past two years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2009-10), what are the progress, expenditure and effectiveness of the work of improving the efficiency of air traffic management in order to further enhance the runway capacity? What are the targets and estimated expenditure in 2010-11?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

In the past two years, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) implemented a series of enhancements to flight procedures and airspace to improve the air traffic management efficiency and increase the runway capacity. For the past two years (i.e. 2008-09 and 2009-10), CAD enhanced the Radar Data Processing and Display System to accommodate additional ATC controller working positions and the Standard Instrument Arrivals procedures to the Hong Kong International Airport respectively.

With these enhancement measures, the runway capacity had been increased from 55 movements per hour in April 2008 to 59 movements per hour by end March 2010. We plan to further increase the runway capacity to 61 movements per hour by end March 2011, and then progressively to 68 movements per hour by 2015.

To support these services, 24 air traffic controller posts were created during 2008-09 and 2009-10 and another 25 air traffic controller posts will be created in 2010-11. The annual staff cost of these additional posts in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value are \$18 million and \$16.54 million respectively.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 15.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)019**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1849

Programme: (3) Air Traffic Management

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the recruitment and training of air traffic control staff by the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) in the past two years (i.e. 2008-09 and 2009-10), please provide the details, reasons and expenditure involved. Please also provide the objectives and estimated expenditure for their recruitment and training in 2010-11.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

CAD recruited 15 and 31 Student Air Traffic Control Officers (SATCO) respectively in 2008-09 and 2009-10 to fill up vacancies in the Air Traffic Control Officer grade. All these new recruits have to undergo specific training in order to be qualified as fully-fledged air traffic control officers, which includes overseas flying training, basic aerodrome control and radar control techniques courses, and aviation English language training. The recruitment and training expenditure involved in 2008-09 and 2009-10 is \$4.45 million and \$8.41 million respectively.

In 2010-11, CAD plans to recruit 30 SATCOs. The recruitment and training provision required in 2010-11 is \$10.27 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NORMAN LO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director-General of Civil Aviation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15.3.2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)020**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1850

Programme: (5) Air Services

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding air services, please advise:

- (a) the number of complaints received by the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) each year in the past two years (i.e. 2008-09 and 2009-10), details of the complaints and the follow-up actions taken; and
- (b) the time generally required to process and resolve the problems.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

- (a) The number of complaints which CAD received in 2008-09 and 2009-10 is tabulated below:

Financial Year	Complaints about airlines' tariffs, such as fuel surcharges	Complaints about flight delays and cancellations	Total
2008-09	9	4	13
2009-10*	1	3	4

\*from 1 April 2009 to 5 March 2010

Following the established practice, CAD has looked into the above complaints and, where applicable, approached the airlines concerned for more information. After clarifying the relevant matters, CAD has replied to the complainants and, where necessary, requested the airlines concerned to take appropriate actions to address the problems identified.

- (b) Depending on the complexity of individual cases, the time required for handling each complaint ranges from one to four weeks in general.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NORMAN LO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director-General of Civil Aviation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15.3.2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)021**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1862

Programme: (5) Air Services

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Has the Government conducted any study on increasing the helicopter services between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta (PRD) Region? What is the progress and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

A Consultancy Study on Helicopter Traffic Demand and Heliport Development in Hong Kong (the Study), which was commissioned by the Civil Aviation Department (CAD), was completed in 2002. The cost of the Study was around \$3.38 million. According to the Study, there would be potential demand for cross-boundary helicopter services to Macao and the PRD.

Following up the recommendations of the Study, the Government embarked on a project to expand the heliport at the Macau Ferry Terminal to cater for the anticipated increasing demand in cross-boundary helicopter services. After an open tender exercise, a lease was granted to an operator in 2007 for the expansion and the operation of the heliport and the expansion project was completed in October 2009, thereby increasing the capacity of the heliport to 55 000 movements per year.

In addition, the Government has reserved a site in the Kai Tak Development Area for use as a second cross-boundary heliport in the future. The two cross-boundary heliports should be able to provide sufficient capacity to meet the forecast demand up to at least 2020.

The above work is undertaken by CAD's existing staff as part of their normal duties under Programme (5). There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NORMAN LO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director-General of Civil Aviation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 15.3.2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)022**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0066

Programme: (1) Flight Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In regard to “flight crew and aircraft maintenance licences issued” under the Indicators, please provide the following information:

- (a) The respective numbers of flight crew licences and aircraft maintenance licences issued in 2009; and
- (b) The respective estimated numbers of flight crew licences and aircraft maintenance licences to be issued in 2010.

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

The requested information is as follows :

	(a)	(b)
	<u>2009 (Actual)</u> Number	<u>2010 (Estimate)</u> Number
flight crew licences	1 472	1 842
aircraft maintenance licences	190	238

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **NORMAN LO**

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Director-General of Civil Aviation**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **12.3.2010**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)023**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0067

Programme: (3) Air Traffic Management

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is stated in paragraph 16 under the programme that the Administration will “recruit and train up more air traffic control staff to meet air traffic services demand” in 2010-11. With regard to this, please provide the following information:

- (a) the time frame for the recruitment exercise to start;
- (b) the grades and numbers of staff to be recruited; and
- (c) the training budget.

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

In 2010-11, the Civil Aviation Department plans to recruit 30 Student Air Traffic Control Officers. Recruitment will commence in April 2010 and the training provision required in 2010-11 is \$8.67 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NORMAN LO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director-General of Civil Aviation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 12.3.2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)024**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0222

Programme: (3) Air Traffic Management

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In the Brief Description of this Programme, the Administration states in paragraph 14 that the declared runway capacity of the Hong Kong International Airport will be increased to 60 movements per hour in 2010. In this connection, please provide the following information:

- (a) What is the maximum capacity of the two existing runways on an hourly basis?
- (b) When will the capacity of the two existing runways be exceeded according to projection?
- (c) Does the Administration have any plan to increase the runway capacity and what is the amount of funds that will be involved?

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

- (a) The maximum hourly capacity for the existing two runways is currently set at 58 movements per hour.
- (b) & (c)

According to the Civil Aviation Department's runway capacity enhancement plan, the capacity of the existing two runways will be progressively increased to 68 movements per hour by 2015. With this and the midfield expansion project to be carried out by the Airport Authority, the handling capacity of the airport is expected to cope with air traffic demand up to 2020.

The above increase in the runway capacity will be achieved by the use of the new air traffic control systems now being procured, and the additional manpower to provide the air traffic control service. In this connection, 25 new air traffic controller posts will be created within 2010-11. The annual staff cost of the 25 air traffic controller posts in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value is \$16.54 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 12.3.2010



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)025**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0224

Programme: (4) Air Traffic Engineering and Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

With respect to the statements that the Department will “develop a replacement plan for the existing radar, navigational aids and radio communication systems” and “continue ... the study and trials of the satellite-based CNS/ATM Systems” under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11, please provide the following information:

- (a) the reason for replacing the existing radar, navigation aids and radio communication systems, as well as the estimated cost required in 2010-11; and
- (b) the scope, content, timeframe of the study of the satellite-based CNS/ATM Systems, as well as the estimated cost required in 2010-11.

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

- (a) Many of the existing radar, navigational aids and radio communications systems have been in operation since the opening of the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) in 1998. With enhanced maintenance measures, the usable life of the systems is expected to be around 15 to 20 years.

In order to ensure that these systems will continue to support a safe, reliable, efficient and effective air transport system for the HKIA, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) has planned to develop an implementation programme for the replacement of the existing radar, navigational aids and radio communication systems by 2010-11. As part of the preparation work, CAD will conduct a market survey on the latest technology, formulate the overall replacement programme for the installation of individual systems, and establish a cost estimate for the project.

- (b) The scope for the study and trials of the CNS/ATM Systems is to plan for the transition from the existing terrestrial-based to the new satellite-based systems with reference to the latest requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization as well as international developments. It mainly covers the procurement and setup of trial system for conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the various system elements to establish the operational/engineering requirements, system configuration and implementation programme for the elements that are applicable to the operating environment of Hong Kong.

The current programme up to 2015-16 mainly covers:-

- i. Aeronautical telecommunications using advance data link and satellite technology for ground-to-ground and air-to-ground communications among air traffic controllers, pilots and other aviation stakeholders;
- ii. Operational trial on use of electronic flight strip system for air traffic control operations;
- iii. Performance-based navigation using Global Navigation Satellite System;
- iv. Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast for enhanced surveillance; and
- v. Satellite-based navigation system like Ground-based Augmentation System for precision approach and landing at the HKIA.

The estimated expenditure in 2010-11 is \$31 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 15.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)026**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0238

Programme: (5) Air Services

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

According to paragraph 24 under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11, the Administration indicated that it would continue to “regularly review the demand for helicopter services and take forward projects and initiatives on the development of heliports and provision of helicopter services”. With respect to the above statement, please provide the following information:

- (a) the annual domestic helicopter movements from 2007-08 to 2009-10;
- (b) the annual helicopter movements to Mainland China, Macao and Taiwan from 2007-08 to 2009-10;
- (c) the annual cross-boundary helicopter movements to regions other than Mainland China from 2007-08 to 2009-10;
- (d) the number and location of civil heliports in Hong Kong;
- (e) the amount involved in the project on the provision of helicopter services to be implemented in 2010-11; and
- (f) the specific details and relevant expenditure of the initiatives to be implemented in 2010-11.

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

- (a) The numbers of domestic helicopter movements in the following financial years are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of movements</u>
2007-08	3 007
2008-09	2 204
2009-10	2 663 (Figures up to December 2009)

- (b) There were no helicopter flights between Hong Kong and the Mainland and between Hong Kong and Taiwan from 2007-08 to 2009-10. The numbers of helicopter movements between Hong Kong and Macao in the following financial years are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of movements</u>
2007-08	17 436
2008-09	16 598
2009-10	12 120 (Figures up to December 2009)

- (c) Further to the information in (b) above, there were no helicopter services between Hong Kong and other places from 2007-08 to 2009-10.

- (d) There are three heliports/helipads, two owned by the Government and one owned by the private sector, where helicopter passenger flights can operate. The heliport at the rooftop of the inner pier of the Macau Ferry Terminal at Sheung Wan is owned by the Government and operated by a commercial operator for cross-boundary services under a lease. The temporary government helipad in Wan Chai adjacent to the entrance of the Cross Harbour Tunnel is used by the Government Flying Service and a domestic helicopter service operator. The helipad owned by the private sector is at the rooftop of the Peninsula Hotel for domestic helicopter services.
- (e) & (f) A permanent government helipad is being built near the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre to allow shared-use by the Government Flying Service and domestic commercial helicopter service operators. The total project cost of the government helipad, under Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 707 New Towns and Urban Area Development, is about \$59.1 million. The construction works commenced in January 2010 for completion in about two years.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 12.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)027**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1132

Programme: (1) Flight Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Why has the Civil Aviation Department failed to meet the target set for flight operations and cabin safety inspections in the past two years, i.e. 2008 and 2009?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

As a result of the global economic downturn in the latter part of 2008 and in 2009, the number of flights operated by the airlines had reduced in the last two years. The number of flight operations and cabin safety inspections was therefore slightly adjusted. The manpower released was redeployed to cope with other more urgent tasks during that period. These include the preparation for a safety oversight audit on Hong Kong conducted by the International Civil Aviation Organization from February to March 2009 and the subsequent follow-up actions, as well as the assessment and approval of the safety management systems of air operators.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NORMAN LO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director-General of Civil Aviation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 16.3.2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)028**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1133

Programme: (4) Air Traffic Engineering and Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Air Traffic Engineering and Standards Division is implementing the replacement of the air traffic control (ATC) systems. Please advise:

- (a) What is the progress of the replacement of the ATC systems?
- (b) Would the replacement incur additional expenditure for the Civil Aviation Department (CAD), such as in providing training for staff in the operation of the new systems?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

- (a) The CAD is closely working with the Government Logistics Department in the procurement of the new ATC systems and the progress has been satisfactory. It is anticipated that the new equipment/systems will be delivered in phases starting from end 2010. Upon satisfactory installation, testing and commissioning of the new ATC systems, the new ATC centre is scheduled for operation by end 2013.
- (b) The new ATC systems will enhance the operational efficiency and capacity of the CAD's air traffic control services. Comprehensive training programmes are being developed to ensure that all technical and operational staff are familiarised with the new ATC systems. Since provision has been made for the equipment contractors to provide technical and operational training, additional funding for training by the CAD is not necessary.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 16.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)029**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead 000 – Operational  
(No. & title): expenses

Question Serial No.

0173

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please provide the following information on the procurement of services of employment agencies (EAs) by the department from 2006-07 to 2009-10 in the form of a table :

- (a) the number of contracts signed with the EAs;
- (b) the contract sum and term of service for each EA;
- (c) the number and duties of workers supplied under each contract signed with EAs;
- (d) details of the pay of workers supplied under each contract signed with EAs including monthly salaries and daily wages;
- (e) the percentage change in the number of EAs, the number of contracts, the number of workers employed and the total expenditure in each year over the previous year;
- (f) if more than one EA was hired to supply workers, please list the number and the total value of contracts awarded to each EA, and the number of workers supplied under it;
- (g) the highest, median and lowest pay of workers supplied under it;
- (h) the proportion of workers supplied by the EAs in the existing staff in the department in each year; and
- (i) the proportion of expenditure on procuring the services of the EAs in departmental expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

	Type of Contract	2009-10 (Note 1)	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07
(a),(e)&(f) Number of contracts signed with EAs	Others	2 (-33.3%)	3 (NA)	-	-
	T-contract (Note 2)	5 (0%)	5 (0%)	5 (+66.7%)	3
(b) Contract sum for each EA (\$ million)	Others	0.06 to 0.14 (-81.3%) (Note 3)	0.75 (NA)	-	-
	T-contract (Note 2)	0.13 (+116.7%) to 2.7 (+68.8%)	0.06 (-14.3%) to 1.6 (+33.3%)	0.07 (-79.4%) to 1.2 (+33.3%)	0.34 to 0.9

(b) Term of service for each EA	Others	6 months (+50%) to 17 months (-5.6%)	4 months (NA) to 18 months (NA)	-	-
	T-contract (Note 2)	4 months (+100%) to 12 months (0%)	2 months (0%) to 12 months (0%)	2 months (-83.3%) to 12 months (0%)	12 months
(c),(e)&(f) Number of workers supplied by each EA and their duties	Others	1 (-85.7%) General office support	7 (NA) General office support	-	-
	T-contract (Note 2)	1 (0%) to 7 (+40%) Professional information technology support and system development	1 (0%) to 5 (0%) Professional information technology support and system development	1(0%) to 5 (25%) Professional information technology support and system development	1 to 4 Professional information technology support and system development
(d) and (g) Details of the pay of workers supplied under each contract signed with EA, including monthly salaries and daily wages highest, median and lowest salaries	Others	The contracts Civil Aviation Department (CAD) entered into with the EAs specified the service charged by the EAs in providing agency workers. CAD generally does not specify the wages of agency workers, except with regard to the wages of non-skilled workers. Hence, the information requested is unavailable to CAD.			
	T-contract (Note 2)				
(e) Number of EAs	Others	2 (+50.0%)	1 (NA)	-	-
	T-contract (Note 2)	5 (0%)	5 (0%)	5 (+66.7%)	3
(e)Total expenditure to each EA for the year (\$ million)	Others	0.03 (-40.0%) to 0.32 (-36.0%)	0.50 (NA)	-	-
	T-contract (Note 2)	0.13 (+116.7%) to 2.7 (+68.8%)	0.06 (-14.3%) to 1.6 (+33.3%)	0.07 (-79.4%) to 1.2 (+33.3%)	0.34 to 0.9
(h) Proportion of workers supplied by the EAs in the existing staff in the department (Note 4)		1.9%	2.4%	1.2%	0.9%



(i) Proportion of expenditure on procuring the services of the EAs in departmental expenses	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%
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NA = Not applicable

*figures in ( ) denotes percentage of change*

Note 1 Position as at 28.2.2010.

Note 2 T-contract refers to term contracts centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

Note 3 The highest sum is used as the comparable base.

Note 4 The percentage of agency workers as compared with total staff which includes the establishment and non civil service contract staff is for a specific date only and is not representative of the situation for the concerned financial year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 15.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)030**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead 000 – Operational  
(No. & title): expenses

Question Serial No.

2362

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

- (a) Please provide information on the employment and anticipated employment of temporary staff to provide services from 2007-08 to 2010-11:

	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Number of temporary staff employed	()	()	()	()
Total expenditure on salaries of temporary staff employed	()	()	()	()
Percentage of temporary staff employed in the total number of staff in the department	()	()	()	()

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

- (b) Please provide a breakdown of the number of temporary staff by length or anticipated length of employment for each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11:

Length of employment	Number of staff in 2010-11	Number of staff in 2009-10	Number of staff in 2008-09	Number of staff in 2007-08
6 months	()	()	()	()
1 year	()	()	()	()
2 years	()	()	()	()
3 years	()	()	()	()
More than 3 years	()	()	()	()

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

(a) and (b) The Civil Aviation Department has not employed any temporary staff other than the non-civil service contract staff in the three years from 2007-08 to 2009-10 and has no plan to employ any temporary staff in 2010-11.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 16.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)031**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead 000 –  
(No. & title): Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

2363

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please provide information on outsourced services (including property management, security, cleansing, telecommunications and information technology, statistics, etc., but excluding construction works) in the format set out below:

	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Total number of outsourced service contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total value of outsourced service contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total number of workers employed under outsourced service contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of posts under outsourced service contracts replaced by permanent staff employed by the Government	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

For the next three years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13), how many posts under outsourced service contracts can be replaced by permanent staff employed by the Government?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

(a) The details of the outsourced services of the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) are as follows :

	<b>2010-11</b> (Note 1)	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2008-09</b>	<b>2007-08</b>
Total number of outsourced service contracts (Note 2)	-	9 (+12.5%)	8 (+14.3%)	7 (NA)
Total value of outsourced service contracts (\$ million) (Note 3)	-	11.92 (+132.4%)	5.13 (-55.7%)	11.59 (NA)
Total number of workers employed under outsourced service contracts (Note 4)	-	31 (+29.2%)	24 (-17.2%)	29 (NA)
Number of posts under outsourced service contracts replaced by permanent staff employed by the Government	-	0 (NA)	0 (NA)	0 (NA)

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

Note 1: Figures are not available as the number of outsourced service contracts varies from time to time in the light of changing service needs and operational requirements.

Note 2: It represents the number of outsourced service contracts awarded in the concerned financial year.

Note 3: Contract duration lasts from one month to two years.

Note 4: Only those contracts with specified minimum number of staff to be supplied are counted.

(b) There is no plan to create civil service post to replace the existing outsourced service contracts in the coming three financial years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 16.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)032**

Head: 28 – Civil Aviation Department

Subhead 000 –  
(No. & title): Operational  
expenses

Question Serial No.

2364

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

- (a) Please provide the following information on the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff to provide services:

	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Number of NCSC staff	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total expenditure on the salaries of NCSC staff	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff converted to civil servants				
Number of NSCS staff who had chances for conversion to civil servants on permanent terms but failed to do so	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the department	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

- (b) Please provide a breakdown of the number of NCSC staff by length of employment for each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11 in the following table:

Length of employment	Number of NCSC staff in 2010-11	Number of NCSC staff in 2009-10	Number of NCSC staff in 2008-09	Number of NCSC staff in 2007-08
6 months – 1 year	( )	( )	( )	( )
1 year – 3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
3 years – 5 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
5 years – 10 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
10 years – 15 years	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

- (c) In the coming three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13), how many NCSC staff will be able to convert to civil servants on permanent terms?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

**Reply:**

(a)

	2010-11 (Note 2)	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Number of NCSC staff (Note 1)	-	51 (+59.4%)	32 (0%)	32 (NA)
Total expenditure on the salaries of NCSC staff (\$million)	-	8.89 (-13.5%)	10.28 (+11.7%)	9.2 (NA)
Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servants (Note 3)	-	1	2	0
Number of NCSC staff who had chances for appointment as civil servants on permanent terms through open recruitment but have failed to do so (Note 4)	-	0 (-100%)	1 (NA)	0 (NA)
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the department (Note 5)	-	6.5% (+51.2%)	4.3% (-2.3%)	4.4% (NA)

Note 1 : Part-time NCSC staff has been included.

Note 2 : Figures are not available as the number of NCSC staff varies from time to time in the light of changing service needs and operational requirements

Note 3 : It refers to those NCSC staff of the department who were subsequently selected through open recruitment and appointed to civil servant posts of the same rank within the department.

Note 4 : It refers to those NCSC staff of the department who were subsequently not selected through open recruitment for appointment to civil servant posts of the same rank within the department.

Note 5 : Total number of staff includes establishment and number of NCSC staff as at 31 March of the concerned financial year.

(b)

Length of employment	Number of NCSC staff in 2010-11 (Note 2 of (a))	Number of NCSC staff in 2009-10	Number of NCSC staff in 2008-09	Number of NCSC staff in 2007-08
6 months – 1 year	-	25 (+177.8%)	9 (-52.6%)	19 (NA)
1 year – 3 years	-	20 (0%)	20 (+81.8%)	11 (NA)
3 years – 5 years	-	5 (+150.0%)	2 (+100%)	1 (NA)
5 years – 10 years	-	1 (0%)	1 (0%)	1 (NA)
10 years – 15 years	-	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (NA)

(c) Serving NCSC staff, like all other candidates, may apply for civil service posts in response to recruitment advertisements. Qualified candidates will be selected on basis of merits. We are therefore unable to estimate the number of NCSC staff who will be able to be appointed as civil servants on permanent terms in the coming three years, i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ NORMAN LO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director-General of Civil Aviation \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 16.3.2010 \_\_\_\_\_





- (c) As part of the investigation and preliminary design, an environmental impact assessment (EIA) study is being carried out for the TKO-LTT and CBL. The EIA will study any traffic noise impact on the adjacent residential estates. If needed, appropriate noise mitigation measures will be adopted.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date 17.3.2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)034**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

2515

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Subhead  
Development Department (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Provision of Land and Infrastructure

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

As the Cross Bay Link, Tseung Kwan O is the first vehicular bridge with cycle track, are there any resources set aside at the design stage for examining ways to enhance the safety of the bridge to reduce the number of falling off or plunging incidents in the future?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Hak-kan

Reply :

The Tseung Kwan O Cross Bay Link is now in the investigation and preliminary design stage. As part of the investigation, we will look into various safety aspects that may arise during the operation stage of the bridge, including whether additional measures should be put in place to avoid accidental falling from the bridge or suicide incidents.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date \_\_\_\_\_

17.3.2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)035**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0199

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department      Subhead  
(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Port and Marine Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11, when will the design for the dredging works for Kwai Tsing Container Basin be completed? What are the details of works and expenditures involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The design for the dredging works for Kwai Tsing Container Basin, with an estimated cost of \$11 million, will be completed in the first half of 2011. The project involves dredging the sea-bed of the Basin and its approach channel to a level of about 17.5 metres below Chart Datum to allow for unrestricted access of ultra large container ships. The estimated expenditure for the project can only be worked out upon completion of design works.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date \_\_\_\_\_

17.3.2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)036**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0763

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department      Subhead  
(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Port and Marine Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Transport and Housing Bureau

Question :

Under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11, the Civil Engineering and Development Department will commence the design for the additional floors at Central Piers 4, 5 and 6. Please advise on the time table for the relevant work (including the dates of commencement and completion of the works), and the estimated expenditures involved for the design.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

We are in the process of employing consultants to undertake the design and site investigation works for the additional floors at Central Piers 4, 5 and 6. We expect that the above works, with an estimated cost of \$12 million, will commence in mid 2010 and take about one year to complete. We will map out the programme for the construction works upon completion of the design and site investigation works. The project is subject to planning permission and funding approval.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17.3.2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)037**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Question Serial No.

0764

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Subhead  
Development Department (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Port and Marine Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

The Civil Engineering and Development Department will continue the design for the dredging works for Kwai Tsing Container Basin this year (i.e. 2010-11). What is the progress of the relevant work? Is there any time table (including the dates of commencement and completion of the works)? What will be the estimated expenditures involved for the design?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The design for the dredging works for Kwai Tsing Container Basin is on-going and will be completed in the first half of 2011. Upon completion of the design, we will map out the programme for the construction works. The estimated expenditure for the design work is about \$11 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_

JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date \_\_\_\_\_

17.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)038**

Question Serial No.

1925

Head : 42 – Electrical and Mechanical Services  
Department

Subhead:

Programme : (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer : Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

The Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics has been implemented since 2007. Please list out the number of registrations by year and by service class. What measures has the Government taken to promote the 3-year registration renewal requirement? Have any resources been reserved to cope with the future workload arising from new applications and registration renewals?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The number of registrations on a cumulative basis under various service classes in the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics are tabulated below :

<b>Year</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
No. of registered vehicle mechanics (all Service Classes)	3 416	8 940	9 788
No. of registered vehicle mechanics in Body Service Class	626	1 336	1 495
No. of registered vehicle mechanics in Electrical Service Class	312	1 025	1 136
No. of registered vehicle mechanics in Mechanical Service Class	2 400	6 295	6 875
No. of registered vehicle mechanics in Specific Service Class	250	695	867

*Note : a vehicle mechanic can register in more than one Service Class*

To promote renewal of registration before the expiry of the 3-year period, Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) has issued reminders to all registered vehicle mechanics six months before the expiry of their registrations.

EMSD has set up the Vehicle Maintenance Registration Unit to process all new applications and registration renewals. If necessary, internal resources will be redeployed within EMSD to cope with any upsurge of workload.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ Chan Hung-Cheung, Stephen \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)039**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead  
(No. & title):

000 Operational  
Expenses

Question Serial No.

1392

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The expenditure on capital projects under design and construction by consultants in 2010 is \$4,837 million. This amount is larger than that of 2008 and 2009 (i.e. \$3,130.8 million and \$2,593 million). Please explain the reasons for the increase and provide a detailed list of capital projects for which consultants' services are required in 2010 and the name of the consultants involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

The increase in the estimate for capital projects under design and construction by consultants in 2010 is mainly due to the fact that a number of major capital projects undertaken by consultants has advanced to construction stage. Such projects include the Central-Wanchai Bypass, the reconstruction and improvement of Tuen Mun Road (expressway section), the traffic improvements to Tuen Mun Road Town Centre Section and the widening of Tolo Highway, which just started works in 2009-10. As construction progresses, the anticipated expenditure under these projects is expected to increase substantially in 2010.

The capital projects undertaken by consultants, which will / are expected to incur expenditure in 2010, are listed below:-

Public Works Project Item	Project title	Name of Consultant
6162 TB	Extension of footbridge network in Tsuen Wan — Footbridge A along Tai Ho Road	Scott Wilson Ltd.
6557 TH	Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link — consultants' fees and investigations	AECOM Asia Company Limited
6561 TH	Widening of Tolo Highway between Island House interchange and Ma Liu Shui interchange	AECOM Asia Company Limited



Public Works Project Item	Project title	Name of Consultant
6579 TH	Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link	AECOM Asia Company Limited
6582 TH	Central Kowloon Route — consultants' design fees and site investigations	Mott MacDonald - Meinhardt - Hyder Joint Venture
6746 TH	Reconstruction and improvement of Tuen Mun Road	Ove Arup & Partners HK Ltd.
6751 TH	Widening of Tolo Highway/Fanling Highway between Island House Interchange and Fanling—detailed design and ground investigation	Hyder-Arup & Veatch Joint Venture
6764 TH	Retrofitting of noise barriers on Tsing Tsuen Bridge at Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan approaches	Ove Arup & Partners HK Ltd.
6765 TH	Retrofitting of noise barriers on Tseung Kwan O Road	Ove Arup & Partners HK Ltd.
6787 TH	HZMB Hong Kong section and North Lantau Highway Connection — investigation and preliminary design	Ove Arup & Partners HK Ltd.
6791 TH	Enhancement of bridge parapets and roadside barriers	AECOM Asia Company Limited
6792 TH	Reconstruction and improvement of Tuen Mun Road — detailed design and associated site investigations	AECOM Asia Company Limited
6796 TH	HZMB — Conceptual design and advance technical studies	Various studies under different consultancies are being carried out in the Mainland
6800 TH	Retrofitting of noise barriers at Kwun Tong Bypass	Ove Arup & Partners HK Ltd.
6805 TH	Retrofitting of noise barriers on Fanling Highway (MTR Fanling Station to Wo Hing Road)	Meinhardt Infrastructure and Environment Ltd.
6807 TH	Retrofitting of noise barriers on Fanling Highway (Po Shek Wu Road to MTR Fanling Station)	Meinhardt Infrastructure and Environment Ltd.
6819 TH	Traffic improvements to Tuen Mun Road Town Centre Section	AECOM Asia Company Limited
6828 TH	Tuen Mun—Chek Lap Kok Link and Tuen Mun Western Bypass — investigation and preliminary design	AECOM Asia Company Limited
6834 TH	HZMB - Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (BCF) (excluding Automated People Mover)	Consultancy not yet awarded

Public Works Project Item	Project title	Name of Consultant
6835 TH	HZMB - preconstruction works	Various studies under different consultancies are being carried out in the Mainland
6836 TH	Improvement to Sham Tseng Interchange	AECOM Asia Company Limited
6837 TH	HZMB - Hong Kong BCF - investigation and preliminary design	Ove Arup & Partners HK Ltd.
6839 TH	HZMB Hong Kong BCF – detailed design and site investigation	Jacobs China Ltd.
6843 TH	Widening of Tolo Highway between Island House Interchange and Tai Hang	Hyder-Arup & Veatch Joint Venture
6844 TH	HZMB - Hong Kong Link Road	Consultancy not yet awarded
6019 TC	Area traffic control and closed circuit television system for Tuen Mun and Yuen Long districts	Delcan Arup Joint Venture
6022 TC	Replacement of area traffic control and closed circuit television systems for Kowloon, Tsuen Wan	Delcan International Corporation
6026 TC	Implementation of the closed circuit television system for existing strategic roads	Ove Arup & Partners HK Ltd.
6027 TC	Implementation of the closed circuit television system in the urban areas and their vicinities	Ove Arup & Partners HK Ltd.
6028 TC	Speed map panels in the New Territories	Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Ltd.
6100 TX	About 160 minor works items, including investigation / design / implementation of improvement / enhancement works for slopes, provision of lifts at existing footbridges and subways, etc.	C M Wong & Associates Ltd., Halcrow China Ltd., AECOM Asia Company Ltd., Scott Wilson Ltd., Hyder Consulting Ltd., Atkins China Ltd., Mott MacDonald Hong Kong Ltd., Ove Arup & Partners HK Ltd., Mannings (Asia) Consultants Ltd.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 17.3.2010



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)040**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead  
(No. & title):

000 Operational  
Expenses

Question Serial No.

1393

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please provide information on the latest progress of the following projects:

- i. Central Kowloon Route
- ii. Hiram's Highway Improvement Stage 2

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

- i. Central Kowloon Route (CKR)

Having established the preferred alignment of CKR, we are currently refining the preliminary design, as well as the Environmental Impact Assessment, taking into account public opinion gathered in the public engagement process. We expect to complete the investigation and preliminary design of CKR in 2010.

- ii. Hiram's Highway Improvement Stage 2

Highways Department has commissioned a consultant to undertake an investigation study for the project. The study includes formulation of various improvement and construction options, which will later serve as the basis for public consultation. Highways Department has convened two public forums to collect public views on the improvement proposals. Detailed assessments on engineering feasibility, cost, implementation programme, environmental impact, sustainability and land requirements are now being carried out in light of public views received. Upon completion of the assessments, Highways Department will consult the Sai Kung District Council on the assessment results.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 15.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)041**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational  
(No. & title): expenses

Question Serial No.

1394

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please provide details about and the expenditure involved of the pedestrian schemes implemented in different regions in the past three years (i.e. from 2007-08 to 2009-10) and those scheduled for the coming year (i.e. 2010-11):

Region	Location	Expenditure Involved	Progress
Hong Kong	e.g. Causeway Bay		
Kowloon			
New Territories			

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

Details of the pedestrian schemes implemented in 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10, and those scheduled to commence in 2010-11 are as follows:

Region	Location	Actual Expenditure		Estimated Expenditure		Progress
		(\$ million)		(\$ million)		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	
Hong Kong	East Point Road and Great George Street (between East point Road and Paterson Street)				0.9	Under planning
	Lee Garden Road	0.1				Completed in November 2002
	Lockhart Road (between Cannon Street and East Point Road)		0.1	1.5	0.1*	Completed in November 2009.
	Paterson Street (between Great George Street and Kingston Street) and Great George Street (between Paterson Street and Gloucester Road)	0.2				Completed in February 2003

Region	Location	Actual Expenditure		Estimated Expenditure		Progress
		(\$ million)		(\$ million)		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	
	Yun Ping Road (between Kai Chiu Road and Leighton Road)	0.3	0.1			Completed in December 2007
Kowloon	Apliu Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	0.2				Completed in February 2007
	Fuk Wa Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	0.7	0.1	0.1		Completed in October 2007
	Fuk Wing Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)		0.4	0.5	0.1*	Completed in January 2010
	Kweilin Street (between Yu Chau Street and Un Chau Street)				0.3	Under construction
	Nam Cheong Street (between Un Chau Street and Yu Chau Street)	0.2	0.2			Completed in March 2008
	Pei Ho Street (between Yu Chau Street and Un Chau Street)	0.2	0.3	0.3		Completed in May 2008
	Yu Chau Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	0.6	0.2	0.2	0.1	Under construction
	Argyle Street (between Fa Yuen Street and Nathan Road)				0.2	Construction works scheduled to start in 2010-11
	Bowring Street (between Nathan Road and Parkes Street)		0.2	0.9	0.2 *	Completed in October 2009
	Nanking Street (between Nathan Road and Shanghai Street)	0.5				Completed in May 2006
	Ning Po Street, Saigon Street and Pak Hoi Street (between Nathan Road and Shanghai Street)	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.3	Under construction
	Parkes Street (between Jordan Road and Saigon Street)				0.5	Under construction
	Peking Road (between Nathan Road and Hankow Road)				0.7	Construction works scheduled to start in 2010-11
	Pilkem Street (between Jordan Road and Austin)	0.3	0.2			Completed in May 2008

Region	Location	Actual Expenditure		Estimated Expenditure		Progress
		(\$ million)		(\$ million)		
		2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	
	Road)					
	Sai Yeung Choi Street South (between Nelson Street and Soy Street)				0.5	Construction works scheduled to start in 2010-11
	Shanghai Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	0.7	0.2	0.1		Completed in May 2009
	Soy Street (between Sai Yeung Choi Street South and Fa Yuen Street)				0.1	Construction works scheduled to start in 2010-11
	Temple Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	0.2				Completed in June 2006
	Woosung Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)		0.2	0.2	0.2	Under construction
	Prat Avenue (between Hart Avenue and Chatham Road South)					The planning and design work is scheduled to commence in 2010-11 and payments are expected to be due in 2011-12.
New Territories	There is no pedestrian scheme works in the New Territories.					
Total		4.3	2.4	4.1	4.2	

\* Pending finalisation of accounts, payments of works completed towards the end of 2009-10 are expected to be due in 2010-11.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 19.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)042**

Head: 60 - Highways Department      Subhead      000 Operational  
(No. & title):                              Expenses

Question Serial No.

0218

Programme:                              (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please provide information in tabular form for the seven and five planning studies carried out by consultants in 2009 and 2010 respectively, including the name of the consultant, description, expenditure, progress or result, etc.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply:

The information about the planning studies is tabulated as follows:-

**Planning studies carried out by consultants in 2009**

	Title	Name of Consultant	Description	Estimated Expenditure of the study (\$million)	Progress / Result
1	Restructuring and Enhancement of the Railway Development Study Model	MVA Hong Kong Limited	To enhance and update the existing model by adopting the updated transport parameters.	1.3	The consultancy was completed. The enhanced model is used by in-house staff for railway planning and development.
2	Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) Monitoring and Verification for Design and Site Investigation Phase – Investigation	Jacobs China Limited	To carry out monitoring and verification on the MTR Corporation Limited's (MTRCL's) design and site investigation works.	23.3	The consultancy is on-going.



	Title	Name of Consultant	Description	Estimated Expenditure of the study (\$million)	Progress / Result
3	Consultancy for Checking of MTRCL's On-cost of Hong Kong section of XRL	PYPUN Engineering Consultants Limited and PYPUN-KD & Associates Limited JV	To conduct an independent assessment on on-cost of the Hong Kong section of XRL proposed by MTRCL.	0.4	The consultancy was completed. The on-cost was reviewed and adjusted.
4	Independent Design Review of Hong Kong section of XRL Electrical & Mechanical (E&M) System - Investigation	Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund	To carry out an independent design review for the E&M systems of the Hong Kong section of XRL to ensure proper interface and interoperability of the railway systems between the Hong Kong section and Mainland section.	18.5	The consultancy is on-going.
5	Consultancy Study on Impact of Hong Kong section of XRL on Hong Kong Economy	PolyU Technology and Consultancy Co. Ltd.	To provide independent consultancy advice on the impact of XRL on Hong Kong Economy.	0.6	The consultancy was completed and a final report was prepared.
6	Constructability of West Kowloon Station	Scott Wilson	To assess the constructability and engineering issues arising from the construction of the West Kowloon Terminus.	1.1	The consultancy was completed. The constructability of the West Kowloon Terminus was confirmed.
7	Independent Checking of the Funding Arrangement of the South Island Line (SIL) (East)	PYPUN Engineering Consultants Limited and PYPUN-KD & Associates Limited JV	To carry out an independent assessment of the financial arrangement of the SIL (East) project based on preliminary design	2.5	The consultancy is on-going

**Planning studies to be carried out by consultants in 2010**

	Title	Name of Consultant	Description	Estimated Expenditure of the study (\$million)	Progress /Result
1	Hong Kong section of XRL Monitoring and Verification for Design and Site Investigation Phase – Investigation <sup>(Note)</sup>	Jacobs China Limited	To carry out monitoring and verification on MTRCL's design and site investigation works.	23.3	The consultancy is on-going.
2	Independent Design Review of Hong Kong section of XRL E&M System – Investigation <sup>(Note)</sup>	Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund	To carry out an independent design review for the E&M systems of the Hong Kong section of XRL to ensure proper interface and interoperability of the railway systems between the Hong Kong section and Mainland section.	18.5	The consultancy is on-going.
3	Hong Kong section of XRL Monitoring and Verification Consultancy for Construction, Testing and Commissioning	Not yet appointed	To carry out monitoring and verification on MTRCL's construction, testing and commissioning works.	Consultancy not yet awarded	Not yet commenced.
4	Independent Checking of the Funding Arrangement of the SIL (East) based on detailed design and updated information	Not yet appointed	To carry out an independent assessment of the financial arrangement of the SIL (East) project based on detailed design and updated information.	Consultancy not yet awarded	Not yet commenced.
5	Independent Checking of the Funding Arrangement of the Kwun Tong Line (KTL) Extension	Not yet appointed	To carry out an independent assessment of the financial arrangement of the KTL Extension project.	Consultancy not yet awarded	Not yet commenced.

Note: This is an ongoing study continued from 2009.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 17.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)043**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead  
(No. & title):

000 Operational  
Expenses

Question Serial No.

2481

Programme: -

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding consultations conducted or to be conducted under various programmes for the purpose of policy formulation and assessment, please provide the relevant information in the following format: For consultation projects for which funds have been allocated in 2009-10, please provide information in the following format:

Name / subject matter of the consultation project	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of consultation (under planning /in progress/ completed)	Mode of consultation (e.g. written submissions, consultative forums, focus group meetings), number of times, name of bodies consulted and number of people consulted	Administration's follow-up action on the consultation results and progress made (if any)	If the consultation is completed, have the results been released to the public? If yes, through what channels? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

No consultation on policy formulation and assessment on the programmes under Head 60 has been conducted in 2009-10.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 19.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)044**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead  
(No. & title):

000 Operational  
Expenses

Question Serial No.

2482

Programme: -

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding consultations conducted or to be conducted under various programmes for the purpose of policy formulation and assessment, please provide the relevant information in the following format: Have resources been reserved for conducting consultation exercises in 2010-11? If yes, please provide information on the following:

Name/ subject matter of the consultation project	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of consultation (under planning/in progress/ completed)	Mode of consultation (e.g. written submissions, consultative forums, focus group meetings), number of times, name of bodies consulted, and number of people consulted	If the consultation is scheduled for completion in the 2010-11 financial year, will the consultation results be released to the public? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

There is no plan for consultation activities on policy formulation and assessment under all programmes in 2010-11.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 19.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)045**

Head: 60 - Highways Department                      Subhead                      000 Operational  
(No. & title):    Expenses

Question Serial No.

2286

Programme:                      (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11 of the Transport and Housing Bureau, it was mentioned that the Administration will continue to foster closer co-operation between the Hong Kong International Airport and Shenzhen International Airport and to take forward the planning of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line (WEL) (previously known as Hong Kong-Shenzhen Airport Rail Link) in collaboration with the Shenzhen authorities. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee of the latest progress of the planning of the WEL; clarify earlier media reports about the deferment of the implementation of the WEL and advise on the expenditures incurred and manpower involved from the commencement of the studies?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The proposed Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line (WEL) is intended to be a multi-function cross-boundary railway. It will provide cross-boundary passengers with environmentally friendly and efficient railway services between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. It will also facilitate the development of the Northwest New Territories (NWNT) and Qianhai in Shenzhen. Through this railway project, we would also like to enhance the cooperation between the two airports in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, and provide convenient services for passengers of the two places. This may result in a win-win situation.

The preliminary feasibility study on the WEL has confirmed the technical feasibility. We have signed with the Shenzhen Municipal Government the "Cooperation Arrangement on Advancing WEL", under which both parties agree to continue with the relevant in-depth studies on WEL. As one of the major functions of the WEL is to promote the development of Qianhai and NWNT, it is important for the design of the WEL to take into consideration the planning of these two areas. With the development of Qianhai and NWNT being pushed ahead, more planning parameters for these areas will be available. This will enable us to conduct in-depth studies on the WEL, and investigate various alignment options and their respective patronage forecasts, the functionality of the railway, its technical standards, operational and service requirements, etc. Upon completion of these studies, when we have more concrete information, we will consult the public, inviting the community to express views on the development of WEL.

Since the financial year of 2008-09, we have deployed a total of around \$23 million to investigate the preliminary feasibility of the proposed WEL. The manpower involved in taking forward the studies was absorbed by internal redeployment and hence there was no additional manpower.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)046**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational  
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

1413

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Highways Department's estimated expenditure on planning studies carried out by consultants for 2010 is \$148 million, which is three times the actual expenditure in 2009 (\$44.7 million). Please inform this Committee of the reasons for the increase and provide a breakdown of the expenditure of the studies.

Asked by: Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina

Reply:

The increase in the estimated cost for planning studies for 2010 is primarily attributed to the need to monitor and verify the construction, testing and commissioning of the Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL).

The information about the planning studies is tabulated as follow:-

**Planning studies carried out by consultants in 2009**

	Title	Description	Estimated Expenditure of the study (\$million)
1	Restructuring and Enhancement of the Railway Development Study Model	To enhance and update the existing model by adopting the updated transport parameters.	1.3
2	Hong Kong section of XRL Monitoring and Verification for Design and Site Investigation Phase - Investigation	To carry out monitoring and verification on the MTR Corporation Limited's (MTRCL's) design and site investigation works.	23.3
3	Consultancy for Checking of MTRCL's On-cost of Hong Kong section of XRL	To conduct an independent assessment on on-cost of the Hong Kong section of XRL proposed by MTRCL.	0.4
4	Independent Design Review of Hong Kong section of XRL Electrical & Mechanical (E&M) System - Investigation	To carry out an independent design review for the E&M Systems of the Hong Kong section of XRL to ensure proper interface and interoperability of the railway systems between the Hong Kong section and	18.5



		Mainland section.	
5	Consultancy Study on Impact of Hong Kong section of XRL on Hong Kong Economy	To provide independent consultancy advice on the impact of XRL on Hong Kong Economy.	0.6
6	Constructability of West Kowloon Station	To assess the constructability and engineering issues arising from the construction of the West Kowloon Terminus.	1.1
7	Independent Checking of the Funding Arrangement of the South Island Line (SIL) (East)	To carry out an independent assessment of the financial arrangement of the South Island Line (SIL) (East) project based on preliminary design.	2.5

**Planning studies to be carried out by consultants in 2010**

	Title	Description	Estimated Expenditure of the study (\$million)
1	Hong Kong section of XRL Monitoring and Verification for Design and Site Investigation Phase – Investigation <sup>(Note)</sup>	To carry out monitoring and verification on MTRCL's design and site investigation works.	23.3
2	Independent Design Review of Hong Kong section of XRL E&M System – Investigation <sup>(Note)</sup>	To carry out an independent design review for the E&M systems of the Hong Kong section of XRL to ensure proper interface and interoperability of the railway systems between the Hong Kong section and Mainland section.	18.5
3	Hong Kong section of XRL Monitoring and Verification Consultancy for Construction, Testing and Commissioning	To carry out monitoring and verification on MTRCL's construction, testing and commissioning works.	Consultancy not yet awarded
4	Independent Checking of the Funding Arrangement of the SIL (East) based on detailed design and updated information	To carry out an independent assessment of the financial arrangement of the SIL (East) project based on detailed design and updated information.	Consultancy not yet awarded
5	Independent Checking of the Funding Arrangement of the Kwun Tong Line (KTL) Extension	To carry out an independent assessment of the financial arrangement of the KTL Extension project.	Consultancy not yet awarded

Note: This is an ongoing study continued from 2009.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 17.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)047**

Head: 60 - Highways Department Subhead 000 Operational  
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

2573

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question: It is mentioned in paragraph 7 that the Highways Department will continue with the investigation and preliminary design for the highway project of Hiram's Highway Improvement Stage 2. With regard to the above, please provide information on:

- (a) the estimated expenditure of the above project;
- (b) the number of jobs to be created by the above project for professional staff, technical staff and labourers;
- (c) the alignment of the above project;
- (d) the commencement date of the investigation and preliminary design; and
- (e) the expected completion date of the project.

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

Highways Department has commissioned a consultant to undertake an investigation study for Hiram's Highway Improvement Stage 2. The study includes formulation of various improvement and construction options which will later serve as the basis for public consultation. The Highways Department has convened two public forums to collect public views on the improvement proposals. Detailed assessment on engineering feasibility, cost, implementation programme, environmental impact, sustainability and land requirements, are now being carried out in light of public views received. Upon completion of the assessment, the Highways Department will consult the Sai Kung District Council on the assessment results. Highways Department aims at completing the investigation study for the preferred option of improvement by end 2010 and will proceed with the preliminary design of the project afterwards. The project cost, implementation programme and alignment of the Hiram's Highway Improvement Stage 2 project as well as the number of jobs to be created will depend on the recommended improvement option. We will firm these up in the preliminary design stage of the project.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)048**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead  
(No. & title):

000 Operational  
Expenses

Question Serial No.

2574

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 21 that the Highways Department will "facilitate the detailed design work of the Shatin to Central Link". With regard to the above, please provide information on:

- (a) the estimated expenditure of the above project;
- (b) the number of jobs to be created by the above project for professional staff, technical staff and labourers;
- (c) the completion date of the detailed design work;
- (d) the expected completion date of the project; and
- (e) the number of consultations with local organisations and residents.

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

(a)

In March 2008, the cost of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) project was estimated to be about \$37.4 billion (in April 2007 prices) based on a preliminary proposal of the railway scheme. Following the extensive consultations conducted since 2008, we are reviewing the scope and design of the project in response to the public views received. The estimated cost will be updated upon finalization of the railway scheme and completion of the detailed design.

(b)

We estimate that the design work, which is being carried out by MTR Corporation Limited, will create about 890 jobs (180 labourers and another 710 professional/technical staff).

For (c), (d) and (e)

In conjunction with the preliminary design of SCL, over 150 public consultation activities have been conducted, covering all the seven districts that SCL will pass through. These public consultation activities include presentations to and discussions with relevant District Councils, public forums, stakeholders forums and residents meetings, briefings for various professional bodies and roving exhibitions.

The public has raised different views on certain parts of the SCL alignment and also some concerns that will affect the construction programme of the project, such as the availability of temporary works areas and the extent of excavation for the train stabling sliding. The implementation programme will only be available when the railway scheme is finalised upon completion of the public engagement exercise.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 17.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)049**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational  
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

2575

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 21 that the Highways Department will “facilitate further planning of the Northern Link”. With regard to the above, please provide information on:

- (a) the estimated expenditure of the above project;
- (b) the number of jobs to be created by the above project for professional staff, technical staff and labourers;
- (c) the completion date of further planning;
- (d) the expected completion date of the project; and
- (e) the number of consultations with local organizations and residents.

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

The current proposal of the Northern Link (NOL) is a railway line connecting the existing Kam Sheung Road Station of the West Rail Line to the Lok Ma Chau Station at the boundary, with a station at Chau Tau for interchanging with the Spur Line. It will therefore link the West Rail Line and the East Rail Line in the north of the New Territories, and will provide cross boundary rail service for the Northwest New Territories.

The planning of the NOL has to take into consideration the findings of the planning and engineering study of the New Territories New Development Areas (NDAs), which is currently being undertaken by the Planning Department and the Civil Engineering and Development Department. The study, which will address issues related to the overall planning of the NDAs, the development programme, the planned population and employment in the planning areas, is expected to be completed in mid 2011. We will then review the NOL project including the proposed alignment, station locations and implementation timetable.

Specifically on the information requested -

- (a) & (b) The estimated expenditure for the NOL and the number of jobs to be created under the NOL can only be worked out upon completion of the review of the NOL.

- (c) & (d) We will revisit the planning parameters and project assumptions for the NOL upon receiving the findings of the planning and engineering study of the NDAs in mid 2011. We will continue to review the railway scheme, including the proposed alignment, station locations, design, cost and the implementation programme of the NOL.
- (e) We have been maintaining liaison with concerned District Councils since 2007 and provided them with progress of the project from time to time. We will continue to liaise with and consult the relevant stakeholders and local bodies and local residents during the course of our review. We will plan the public consultation exercise when we have worked out more information on the NOL.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 17.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)050**

Head: 60 - Highways Department      Subhead      000 Operational  
(No. & title):      Expenses

Question Serial No.

0453

Programme:      (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer:      Director of Highways

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Will the government inform this Committee:

- (a) whether it has any plan to replace traditional footpath lighting with LED? If yes, what is the estimated number of footpath lighting and expenditure involved?
- (b) how to assess whether intensity of the footpath lighting is adequate, yet not too bright and at the same time striking a balance against electricity cost? What is the standard intensity level?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

- (a) As the efficacy of LED product is on the rise and more choices of LED road lights have become available in the market, Highways Department (HyD) is conducting trial schemes for LED road light. We have installed four LED road lights in both Selkirk Road and Moray Road in Kowloon Tong. We have planned larger scale trial schemes to install about 100 LED road lights in different districts in 2010. The cost estimate for the schemes is around \$1 million.

At present, the efficacy of LED light is generally not higher than that of prevailing high pressure sodium lamps used for road lighting, and that LED road light has lower wattage range and hence light output. As such, our trial sites are all on roads which are narrow and have relatively lower traffic flow. The performance and cost effectiveness of the lights will be reviewed after the trial. We have no plan to replace the existing footpath lighting with LED light.

- (b) The road lighting standards in Hong Kong are comparable to international standards such as European Standards and British Standards. The recommended lighting levels and requirements are important to the safety of drivers and pedestrians. For footpath lighting, the average illuminance is in the range of 3 to 15 lux. For energy saving, energy-efficient discharge lamps are used. Photo sensors have been installed for automatic control so that they will be switched on when the ambient lighting level falls below an acceptable limit. HyD will continue to review the public lighting design standard with a view to achieving higher energy saving target.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      WAI CHI SING

Post Title      Director of Highways

Date      18.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)051**

Question Serial  
No.

Head: 60 - Highways Department      Subhead      000 Operational  
(No. & title):      Expenses

Programme:      (2) District and Maintenance

2783

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is mentioned that the Highways Department will continue to assist in implementing pedestrian schemes. Please provide details of the schemes (including the districts and locations involved and the completion dates) and the estimated expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

Details of the pedestrian schemes with estimated expenditure in 2010-11 are as follows:

District	Location	Target completion time	Project estimate (\$ million)	Estimated Expenditure in 2010-11 (\$ million)
Wanchai	Lockhart Road (between Cannon Street and East Point Road)	Completed in November 2009	1.7	0.1 #
	East Point Road and Great George Street (between East Point Road and Paterson Street)	Mid 2011	1.9	0.9
Yau Tsim Mong	Peking Road (between Nathan Road and Hankow Road)	End 2010	0.7	0.7
	Prat Avenue (between Hart Avenue and Chatham Road South)	Mid 2011	0.7	- *
	Bowring Street (between Nathan Road and Parkes Street)	Completed in October 2009	1.3	0.2 <sup>#</sup>
	Woosung Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	Mid 2011	3.4	0.2
	Parkes Street (between Jordan Road and Saigon Street)	End 2010	1.8	0.5
	Ning Po Street, Saigon Street and Pak Hoi Street (between Nathan Road and Shanghai Street)	End 2010	1.2	0.3

District	Location	Target completion time	Project estimate (\$ million)	Estimated Expenditure in 2010-11 (\$ million)
	Sai Yeung Choi Street South (between Nelson Street and Soy Street)	End 2011	2.8	0.5
	Soy Street (between Sai Yeung Choi Street South and Fa Yuen Street)	End 2011	2.0	0.1
	Argyle Street (between Fa Yuen Street and Nathan Road)	End 2011	0.4	0.2
Sham Shui Po	Fuk Wing Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	Completed in January 2010	1.0	0.1 <sup>#</sup>
	Kweilin Street (between Yu Chau Street and Un Chau Street)	End 2010	1.4	0.3
	Yu Chau Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	Early 2010	1.8	0.1

\* The planning and design work is scheduled to commence in 2010-11 and payments are expected to be due in 2011-12.

# Pending finalisation of accounts, payments of works completed towards the end of 2009-10 are expected to be due in 2010-11.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 19.3.2010



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)052**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead  
(No. & title):

000 Operational  
Expenses

Question Serial No.

2784

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the planning studies carried out by consultants, the estimated expenditure for 2010 is \$148 million. Please provide details about the studies and the expenditure involved, the latest progress and the expected completion date of the studies.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

The requested information about the planning studies by consultants in 2010 is tabulated as follows:-

	Title	Description	Estimated Expenditure of the study (\$million)	Progress / Completion Date
1	Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) Monitoring and Verification for Design and Site Investigation Phase - Investigation	To carry out monitoring and verification on MTR Corporation Limited's (MTRCL's) design and site investigation works.	23.3	The consultancy is on-going.
2	Independent Design Review of Hong Kong section of XRL Electrical & Mechanical (E&M) System - Investigation	To carry out an independent design review for the E&M systems of the Hong Kong section of XRL to ensure proper interface and interoperability of the railway systems between the Hong Kong and Mainland section.	18.5	The consultancy is on-going.
3	Hong Kong section of XRL Monitoring and Verification Consultancy for Construction, Testing and Commissioning	To carry out monitoring and verification on MTRCL's construction, testing and commissioning works.	Consultancy not yet awarded	Not yet commenced.

4	Independent Checking of the Funding Arrangement of the South Island Line (SIL) (East) based on detailed design and updated information	To carry out an independent assessment of the financial arrangement of the SIL (East) project based on detailed design and updated information.	Consultancy not yet awarded	Not yet commenced.
5	Independent Checking of the Funding Arrangement of the Kwun Tong Line (KTL) Extension	To carry out an independent assessment of the financial arrangement of the KTL Extension project.	Consultancy not yet awarded	Not yet commenced.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 17.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)053**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational  
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

2785

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Highways Department has indicated that it will assist in carrying out further studies on the proposed Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line (previously known as Hong Kong-Shenzhen Airport Rail Link) in 2010. Please inform this Committee of the estimated expenditure, latest progress and expected completion date of the studies and the commencement and completion date of the project.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

The proposed Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line (WEL) is intended to be a multi-function cross-boundary railway. It will provide cross-boundary passengers with environmentally friendly and efficient railway services between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. It will also facilitate the development of the Northwest New Territories (NWNT) and Qianhai in Shenzhen. Through this railway project, we would also like to enhance the cooperation between the two airports in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, and provide convenient services for passengers of the two places. This may result in a win-win situation.

The preliminary feasibility study on the WEL has confirmed the technical feasibility. We have signed with the Shenzhen Municipal Government the "Cooperation Arrangement on Advancing WEL", under which both parties agree to continue with the relevant in-depth studies on WEL. As one of the major functions of the WEL is to promote the development of Qianhai and NWNT, it is important for the design of the WEL to take into consideration the planning of these two areas. With the development of Qianhai and NWNT being pushed ahead, more planning parameters for these areas will be available. This will enable us to conduct in-depth studies on the WEL, and investigate various alignment options and their respective patronage forecasts, the functionality of the railway, its technical standards, operational and service requirements, etc. Upon completion of these studies, when we have more concrete information, we will consult the public, inviting the community to express views on the development of WEL.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)054**

Head: 60 - Highways Department                      Subhead                      000 Operational  
(No. & title):                      Expenses

Question Serial No.

0247

Programme:                      (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer:                      Director of Highways

Director of Bureau:                      Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It came to my notice that vehicles running on expressways might throw up loose gravel, thereby breaking windscreens of other vehicles. And the problem is getting more and more serious. Does the Highways Department have any measures to improve the situation in 2010-11? What are the resources involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Wong-fat

Reply:

According to our record, we received 20 and 18 complaints about small objects hitting windscreens of vehicles travelling on high speed roads in Hong Kong in 2008 and 2009 respectively. Loosened stone aggregates from road pavements and materials deposited by vehicles using the roads are the two most common types of "flying objects" on the road.

The roads are inspected on a daily basis and are swept by mechanical road sweeper once everyday to clear the small objects. Repair works would be carried out once any defect on the road pavement is identified during the inspection. Bituminous surfaces are also resurfaced from time to time in about three to five years' interval.

In deciding the frequency of road inspection, road sweeping and resurfacing, we strike a balance between maintaining a reasonable level of cleanliness, the resources required and the disruptions caused to road users during the maintenance operations. For road sections with more frequent complaints, we will consider stepping up the road sweeping work.

The costs for repair of road damage, road sweeping and resurfacing of high speed roads in 2009 were around \$10.3 million, \$2.5 million and \$98.4 million respectively. In 2010, the level of maintenance would be maintained at a similar level but road sweeping work may be increased slightly if required.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters                      WAI CHI SING

Post Title                      Director of Highways

Date                      17.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)055**

Head: 60 - Highways Department      Subhead      000      Operational  
(No. & title):      Expenses

Question Serial No.

1859

Programme:      (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the enhancement of the environment with improved streetscape, more greening, better lighting fixtures and appropriate landscaping works, please provide information on:

- (a) the number, details and expenditure involved of works items planned for 2010-11;
- (b) the energy efficiency of the new fixtures and the savings in electricity charges that can be achieved with respect to better lighting fixtures.

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

- (a) The number, details and expenditures involved of works items in question planned for 2010-11 are as follows:

Works details	Number of Works	Estimated expenditure in 2010-11 (\$ million)
(i) Reconstruction of footpath with paving blocks in Central and Western District, Southern District and Wan Chai on the Hong Kong Island; Kwun Tong, Wong Tai Sin, Kowloon City, Yau Tsim Mong and Sham Shui Po in Kowloon; and Tsuen Wan, Tuen Mun, Kwai Tsing and North in the New Territories.	56	36.4
(ii) Greening of slopes in Central and Western District, Wan Chai, Sham Shui Po and Wong Tai Sin	13	0.3
(iii) Installation of electronic ballasts in road lighting	3 000 Ballasts	2.4
(iv) Installation of light emitting diode (LED) road lights on subsidiary roads and rural carparks, e.g. Clearwater Bay Carpark in Sai Kung, Cheung Yip Street in Kowloon Bay, Yin Ping Road in Kowloon Tong, Hong Shing Street in Quarry Bay and Greig Road in Quarry Bay	5	1.0
(v) Installation of LED tubes on 4 footbridges in Kowloon, 1 footbridge in Shatin and 1 footbridge in Tsing Yi	6	0.8
(vi) Replacement using lower wattage lamps	1 100 Lamps	1.1
	Total	42.0

For items a(iii) and a(vi), the works are scattered throughout Hong Kong and the number of works items is under planning and finalisation.

- (b) Items (a)(iii) to (a)(vi) above are works which involve the use of new lighting fixtures having higher energy efficiency. The estimated total saving of energy cost is about \$0.48 million per year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 19.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)056**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead

000 Operational

(No. & title):

Expenses

Question Serial No.

1621

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

While the targets of (i) repairing road surface within 24 hours and (ii) repairing traffic signs within 36 hours are set at 90% for 2010, the actual percentages achieved in 2008 and 2009 are over 90%. What are the reasons for not setting higher targets for 2010?

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

The target percentage (i.e. 90%) for repairing road surface within 24 hours and traffic signs within 36 hours is lower than the actual percentages of 2008 and 2009 (i.e. between 92.7% for traffic signs in 2008 and 99.9% for road surface in 2009). It is because the target percentage has been set to take into account the possibility of repair works involving more extensive damage or complex temporary traffic arrangements, which will require more time for completion. There are actually more such cases in an average year than those recorded in 2008 and 2009. Therefore the 90% target percentage is maintained for 2010. We will continue to monitor our performance with a view to setting a higher standard in the coming years.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 15.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)057**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead  
(No. & title):

000 Operational  
Expenses

Question Serial No.

1622

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

While the estimated expenditure on road reconstruction, rehabilitation, resurfacing, and joint replacement works in 2010 will decrease by \$22 million as compared with the expenditure in 2009, the estimated expenditure on highways maintenance will increase drastically by \$46 million as compared with the expenditure of 2009? What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply:

The financial provision on road reconstruction, rehabilitation, resurfacing and joint replacement works for 2010 is \$340 million, while the expenditure incurred for 2009 was \$362 million. The difference of \$22 million is due to lesser amount of work envisaged to be required and is within normal range of fluctuation of the amount of work in different years.

The increase in the financial provision for highways maintenance in 2010 as compared with that for 2009 is \$46 million (or by 5.4%). The increase is due to the commissioning of the remaining roads in the Tsing Sha Control Area in December 2009, and the increase in maintenance costs for the Tuen Mun Road and Tolo Highway arising from interface works associated with the reconstruction and widening.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **WAI CHI SING** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Director of Highways** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **15.3.2010** \_\_\_\_\_



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)058**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational  
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

0651

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Highways Department has mentioned that it will maintain the cost of capital projects within the approved project estimate. This target was achieved in 2008 and 2009. Please set out the basis and concrete measures for delivering the above promise in 2010.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

In the delivery of capital works projects, maintaining the project expenditure within the approved project estimate has been one of our prime objectives. To achieve this objective, the government has formulated guidelines requiring project engineers to compile/review project estimates at every stage of a project, taking into account all possible factors and risks that may affect the project costs. We have also set up a committee to vet the estimate of individual project to ensure that it is genuine and adequate, prior to seeking funds from the Finance Committee. During the construction stage, each project is closely monitored by the project team with a view to delivering the project on time and within budget. Our performance in achieving the said objective has been satisfactory in 2008 and 2009 and we are confident that the target of 100% set for 2010 is achievable.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 15.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)059**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational  
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

0653

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The government's estimated expenditure on planning studies carried out by consultants for 2010 is more than \$100 million higher than the actual expenditure in 2009. Please provide a detailed breakdown of the estimated expenditure of the planning studies and briefly describe the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

The increase in the estimated expenditure for planning studies for 2010 is primarily attributed to the need to monitor and verify the construction, testing and commissioning of the Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL).

The information about the planning studies is tabulated as follows:-

**Planning studies carried out by consultants in 2009**

	Title	Description	Estimated Expenditure of the study (\$million)
1	Restructuring and Enhancement of the Railway Development Study Model	To enhance and update the existing model by adopting the updated transport parameters.	1.3
2	Hong Kong section of XRL Monitoring and Verification for Design and Site Investigation Phase - Investigation	To carry out monitoring and verification on the MTR Corporation Limited's (MTRCL's) design and site investigation works.	23.3
3	Consultancy for Checking of MTRCL's On-cost of Hong Kong section of XRL	To conduct an independent assessment on on-cost of the Hong Kong section of XRL proposed by MTRCL.	0.4
4	Independent Design Review of Hong Kong section of XRL Electrical & Mechanical (E&M) System - Investigation	To carry out an independent design review for the E&M Systems of the Hong Kong section of XRL to ensure proper interface and interoperability of the railway systems between the Hong Kong section and	18.5

		Mainland section.	
5	Consultancy Study on Impact of Hong Kong section of XRL on Hong Kong Economy	To provide independent consultancy advice on the impact of XRL on Hong Kong Economy.	0.6
6	Constructability of West Kowloon Station	To assess the constructability and engineering issues arising from the construction of the West Kowloon Terminus.	1.1
7	Independent Checking of the Funding Arrangement of the South Island Line (SIL) (East)	To carry out an independent assessment of the financial arrangement of the SIL (East) project based on preliminary design.	2.5

**Planning studies to be carried out by consultants in 2010**

	Title	Description	Estimated Expenditure of the study (\$million)
1	Hong Kong section of XRL Monitoring and Verification for Design and Site Investigation Phase – Investigation <sup>(Note)</sup>	To carry out monitoring and verification on MTRCL's design and site investigation works.	23.3
2	Independent Design Review of Hong Kong section of XRL E&M System – Investigation <sup>(Note)</sup>	To carry out an independent design review for the E&M systems of the Hong Kong section of XRL to ensure proper interface and interoperability of the railway systems between the Hong Kong section and Mainland section.	18.5
3	Hong Kong section of XRL Monitoring and Verification Consultancy for Construction, Testing and Commissioning	To carry out monitoring and verification on MTRCL's construction, testing and commissioning works.	Consultancy not yet awarded
4	Independent Checking of the Funding Arrangement of the SIL (East) based on detailed design and updated information	To carry out an independent assessment of the financial arrangement of the SIL (East) project based on detailed design and updated information.	Consultancy not yet awarded
5	Independent Checking of the Funding Arrangement of the Kwun Tong Line (KTL) Extension	To carry out an independent assessment of the financial arrangement of the KTL Extension project.	Consultancy not yet awarded

Note: This is an ongoing study continued from 2009.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ WAI CHI SING \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Highways \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17.3.2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)060**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational  
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

0654

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the co-ordination with Mainland authorities on cross-boundary infrastructure developments, please explain the co-ordination mechanism between the Highways Department and Mainland authorities and describe the contents involved. Will the commencement of cross-boundary infrastructure projects bring about an increase in manpower in 2010-11? If yes, please provide details. If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

As regards the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, a Project Coordination Committee has been set up to facilitate the implementation of this cross-boundary project. It is co-led by the Director General of the Development & Planning Department of the Ministry of Railways from the Mainland and the Director of Highways of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSARG).

For the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line, the relevant authorities of Hong Kong and Shenzhen has set up the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line Co-operation Joint Task Force to steer the planning for a possible rail link between the Hong Kong International Airport and Shenzhen Airport. It is jointly led by the Vice Mayor of Shenzhen Municipal People's Government and Secretary for Transport and Housing of HKSARG.

The co-ordination work for these two rail links has been dealt with by the existing staff of the Highways Department and we do not intend to apply for additional staff resources in 2010-11. We will ensure such work be carried out effectively and arrange for internal staff redeployment as and when necessary.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 15.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)061**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational  
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

2876

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

According to the indicators, the number of railway planning studies carried out by consultants will be reduced from 7 in 2009 to 5 (estimated number) in 2010. However, the estimated expenditure increases sharply from \$47.7 million to \$148 million. Is this an over-estimation by the Administration? Please explain about the items which involve the highest expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

The increase in the estimated expenditure for planning studies for 2010 is primarily attributed to the need to monitor and verify the construction, testing and commissioning of the Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL).

The information about the planning studies is tabulated as follows:-

**Planning studies carried out by consultants in 2009**

	Title	Description	Estimated Expenditure of the study (\$million)
1	Restructuring and Enhancement of the Railway Development Study Model	To enhance and update the existing model by adopting the updated transport parameters.	1.3
2	Hong Kong section of XRL Monitoring and Verification for Design and Site Investigation Phase - Investigation	To carry out monitoring and verification on the MTR Corporation Limited's (MTRCL's) design and site investigation works.	23.3
3	Consultancy for Checking of MTRCL's On-cost of Hong Kong section of XRL	To conduct an independent assessment on on-cost of the Hong Kong section of XRL proposed by MTRCL.	0.4
4	Independent Design Review of Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link Electrical & Mechanical (E&M) System -	To carry out an independent design review for the E&M systems of the Hong Kong section of XRL to ensure proper interface and interoperability of the railway systems between the Hong Kong section and	18.5

	Investigation	Mainland section.	
5	Consultancy Study on Impact of Hong Kong section of XRL on Hong Kong Economy	To provide independent consultancy advice on the impact of XRL on Hong Kong Economy.	0.6
6	Constructability of West Kowloon Station	To assess the constructability and engineering issues arising from the construction of the West Kowloon Terminus.	1.1
7	Independent Checking of the Funding Arrangement of the South Island Line (SIL) (East)	To carry out an independent assessment of the financial arrangement of the SIL (East) project based on preliminary design.	2.5

**Planning studies to be carried out by consultants in 2010**

	Title	Description	Estimated Expenditure of the study (\$million)
1	Hong Kong section of XRL Monitoring and Verification for Design and Site Investigation Phase – Investigation <sup>(Note)</sup>	To carry out monitoring and verification on MTRCL's design and site investigation works.	23.3
2	Independent Design Review of Hong Kong section of XRL E&M System – Investigation <sup>(Note)</sup>	To carry out an independent design review for the E&M systems of the Hong Kong section of XRL to ensure proper interface and interoperability of the railway systems between the Hong Kong section and Mainland section.	18.5
3	Hong Kong section of XRL Monitoring and Verification Consultancy for Construction, Testing and Commissioning	To carry out monitoring and verification on MTRCL's construction, testing and commissioning works.	Consultancy not yet awarded
4	Independent Checking of the Funding Arrangement of the SIL (East) based on detailed design and updated information	To carry out an independent assessment of the financial arrangement of the SIL (East) project based on detailed design and updated information.	Consultancy not yet awarded
5	Independent Checking of the Funding Arrangement of the Kwun Tong Line (KTL) Extension	To carry out an independent assessment of the financial arrangement of the KTL Extension project.	Consultancy not yet awarded

Note: This is an ongoing study continued from 2009.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 17.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)062**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead  
(No. & title):

000 Operational  
Expenses

Question Serial No.

2877

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The estimated expenditure on capital projects under design and construction entrusted to the railway corporation or other agencies increases sharply to \$6,798.1 million in 2010. Is this increase in estimated expenditure too large?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

The increase in expenditure in 2010 is mainly attributed to the commencement of construction of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, which has been entrusted to the MTR Corporation Limited. The relevant amount is about \$5,200 million.

The expenditure forecast for 2010 is estimated on the basis of the latest construction programme.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ WAI CHI SING

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Highways

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 16.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)063**

Question Serial No.

Head: 60 - Highways Department      Subhead      000 Operational  
(No. & title):    Expenses

2878

Programme:                      (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer:      Director of Highways

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The indicators of the Highway Department show that the actual expenditure on capital projects under design and construction by consultants in 2009 is \$2,593 million. However, the estimate for this item in 2010 rises drastically to \$4,837 million, almost doubling the actual expenditure in 2009. What are the reasons for the substantial increase?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

The increase in the estimate for capital projects under design and construction by consultants in 2010-11 is mainly due to the fact that a number of major capital projects undertaken by consultants has advanced to construction stage. Such projects include the Central-Wanchai Bypass, the reconstruction and improvement of Tuen Mun Road (expressway section), the traffic improvements to Tuen Mun Road Town Centre Section and the widening of Tolo Highway, which just started works in 2009-10. As construction progresses, the anticipated expenditure under these projects is expected to increase substantially in 2010-11.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      WAI CHI SING

Post Title      Director of Highways

Date      16.3.2010



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)064**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead  
(No. & title):

000 Operational  
Expenses

Question Serial No.

2893

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The estimated expenditure on highways maintenance for 2010 is approximately \$46 million higher than the expenditure of 2009. Will the Bureau explain to this Committee, in general terms, the reasons for the increase?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

The increase in the provision for highways maintenance in 2010 as compared with that of 2009 is \$46 million (or by 5.4%). The increase is due to the commissioning of the remaining roads in the Tsing Sha Control Area in December 2009, and the increase in maintenance costs for the Tuen Mun Road and Tolo Highway arising from interface works associated with the reconstruction and widening.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 16.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)065**

Question Serial No.

1706

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational  
(No. & title): Expenses

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 21 that the Highways Department will “assist in carrying out further studies on the proposed Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line”. With regard to the above, please provide information on:

- a. the estimated expenditure of the above project;
- b. the schedule of discussion with Shenzhen authority;
- c. the deadline for completing the routing design;
- d. the mode of operation of the Express Line (e.g. light rail/large scale mass transportation);
- e. the number of jobs to be created by the above project for professional staff/technical staff/labourers;
- f. the expected completion date; and
- g. the number of consultations with local organizations and residents.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The proposed Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line (WEL) is intended to be a multi-function cross-boundary railway. It will provide cross-boundary passengers with environmentally friendly and efficient railway services between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. It will also facilitate the development of the Northwest New Territories (NWNT) and Qianhai in Shenzhen. Through this railway project, we would also like to enhance the cooperation between the two airports in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, and provide convenient services for passengers of the two places. This may result in a win-win situation.

The preliminary feasibility study on the WEL has confirmed the technical feasibility. We have signed with the Shenzhen Municipal Government the “Cooperation Arrangement on Advancing WEL”, under which both parties agree to continue with the relevant in-depth studies on WEL. As one of the major functions of the WEL is to promote the development of Qianhai and NWNT, it is important for the design of the WEL to take into consideration the planning of these two areas. With the development of Qianhai and NWNT being pushed ahead, more planning parameters for these areas will be available. This will enable us to conduct in-depth studies on the WEL, and investigate various alignment options and their respective patronage forecasts, the functionality of the railway, its technical standards, operational and service requirements, etc. Upon completion of these studies, when we have more concrete information, we will consult the public, inviting the community to express views on the development of WEL.

Signature

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Name in block letters

WAI CHI SING

Post Title

Director of Highways

Date

18.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)066**

Head: 60 - Highways Department      Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

2128

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11 that the Highways Department will continue to assist in implementing pedestrian schemes. Please provide information on the progress and completion time of the schemes, the works projects of 2010-11 and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

Details of the pedestrian schemes with estimated expenditure in 2010-11 are as follows:

District	Location	Progress	Target completion time	Project estimate (\$ million)	Estimated Expenditure in 2010-11 (\$ million)
Wanchai	Lockhart Road (between Cannon Street and East Point Road)	Project completed in 2009-10	Completed in November 2009	1.7	0.1*
	East Point Road and Great George Street (between East Point Road and Paterson Street)	Under planning	Mid 2011	1.9	0.9
Yau Tsim Mong	Peking Road (between Nathan Road and Hankow Road)	Construction works scheduled to start in 2010-11	End 2010	0.7	0.7
	Prat Avenue (between Hart Avenue and Chatham Road South)	The planning and design work is scheduled to commence in 2010-11 and the payments are expected to be due in 2011-12	Mid 2011	0.7	-
	Bowring Street (between Nathan Road and Parkes Street)	Project completed in 2009-10	Completed in October 2009	1.3	0.2*

District	Location	Progress	Target completion time	Project estimate (\$ million)	Estimated Expenditure in 2010-11 (\$ million)
	Woosung Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	Under construction	Mid 2011	3.4	0.2
	Parkes Street (between Jordan Road and Saigon Street)	Under construction	End 2010	1.8	0.5
	Ning Po Street, Saigon Street and Pak Hoi Street (between Nathan Road and Shanghai Street)	Under construction	End 2010	1.2	0.3
	Sai Yeung Choi Street South (between Nelson Street and Soy Street)	Construction works scheduled to start in 2010-11	End 2011	2.8	0.5
	Soy Street (between Sai Yeung Choi Street South and Fa Yuen Street)	Construction works scheduled to start in 2010-11	End 2011	2.0	0.1
	Argyle Street (between Fa Yuen Street and Nathan Road)	Construction works scheduled to start in 2010-11	End 2011	0.4	0.2
	Sham Shui Po	Fuk Wing Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	Project completed in 2009-10	Completed in January 2010	1.0
	Kweilin Street (between Yu Chau Street and Un Chau Street)	Under construction	End 2010	1.4	0.3
	Yu Chau Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	Under construction	Early 2010	1.8	0.1

\* Pending finalisation of accounts, payments of works completed towards the end of 2009-10 are expected to be due in 2010-11.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 19.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)067**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational Expenses

Question Serial No.

2332

Programme: -

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

- a. Please provide information on the employment and anticipated employment of temporary staff to provide services from 2007-08 to 2010-11:

	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Number of temporary staff employed	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total expenditure on salaries temporary staff employed	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of temporary staff employed in the total number of staff in the department	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

- b. Please provide a breakdown on the number of temporary staff by length or anticipated length of employment for each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11:

Length of employment	Number of staff in 2010-11	Number of staff in 2009-10	Number of staff in 2008-09	Number of staff in 2007-08
6 months	( )	( )	( )	( )
1 year	( )	( )	( )	( )
2 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
More than 3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

We have not employed any temporary staff in the three years from 2007-08 to 2009-10 and have no plan to employ such staff in 2010-11.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 15.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

<b>THB(T)068</b>
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Question Serial No.
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2381
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Head: 60 - Highways DepartmentSubhead 000 Operational  
(No. & title): ExpensesProgramme: -Controlling Officer: Director of HighwaysDirector of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and HousingQuestion:

- a. Please provide the following information on the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff to provide services:

	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Number of NCSC staff	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total expenditure on salaries of NCSC staff	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servants				
Number of NCSC staff who had chances for appointment as civil servants on permanent terms through open recruitment but failed to do so	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the department (%)	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

- b. Please provide a breakdown on the number of NCSC staff by length of employment for each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11 in the following table:

Length of employment	Number of staff in 2010-11	Number of staff in 2009-10	Number of staff in 2008-09	Number of staff in 2007-08
6 months to 1 year	( )	( )	( )	( )
1 to 3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
3 to 5 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
5 to 10 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
10 to 15 years	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

- c. In the coming three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13), how many NCSC staff will be able to convert to civil servants on permanent terms?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

(a)	2010-11 <sup>(Note 1)</sup>	2009-10 <sup>(Note 2)</sup>	2008-09 <sup>(Note 3)</sup>	2007-08 <sup>(Note 3)</sup>
Number of NCSC staff	-	62 (-19.5%)	77 (-45.4%)	141
Total expenditure on salaries for NCSC staff (\$ million)	-	25.7 (-38.1%)	41.5 (-33.5%)	62.4
Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servants <sup>(Note 4)</sup>	-	23 (-54%)	50 (-20.6%)	63
Number of NCSC staff who had chances for appointment as civil servants on permanent terms through open recruitment but failed to do so <sup>(Note 5)</sup>	-	21 (-12.5%)	24 (+20.0%)	20
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the department (%)	-	3.0 (-21.1%)	3.8 (-46.5%)	7.1

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

(b)	Number of Staff			
	2010-11 <sup>(Note 1)</sup>	2009-10 <sup>(Note 2)</sup>	2008-09 <sup>(Note 3)</sup>	2007-08 <sup>(Note 3)</sup>
Length of employment				
6 months to 1 year	-	33 (+83.3%)	18 (-25.0%)	24
1 to 3 years	-	5 (-37.5%)	8 (-76.0%)	34
3 to 5 years	-	5 (-50.0%)	10 (-44.0%)	18
5 to 10 years	-	17 (-58.5%)	41 (-36.9%)	65
10 to 15 years	-	2 (Not applicable)	0	0

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

Notes for (a) & (b) -

- (1) Figures are not available as the number of NCSC staff varies from time to time in the light of changing service needs and operational requirements.
  - (2) Position as at 28.2.2010.
  - (3) Position as at end March of the financial year concerned.
  - (4) It refers to those NCSC staff of the department who were subsequently selected through open recruitment and appointed to civil servant posts of the comparable rank within the department.
  - (5) It refers to those NCSC staff of the department who were subsequently not selected through open recruitment for appointment to civil servant posts of the comparable rank within department.
- (c) Serving NCSC staff, like all other candidates, may apply for civil service posts in response to recruitment advertisements. Qualified candidates will be selected on basis of merits. We are therefore unable to estimate the number of NCSC staff who will be able to be appointed as civil servants on permanent terms in the coming three years, i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18.3.2010



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)069**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational  
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

2382

Programme: -

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please provide, in a table, information on the procurement of services of employment agencies (EAs) from 2006-07 to 2009-10:

- a. the number of contracts signed with the EAs;
- b. the sum and term of service of each contract for each EA;
- c. the number of workers supplied by each EA under each contract and their duties;
- d. details of the workers' salaries (monthly and daily) payable by each EA under each contract;
- e. the total number of EAs hired, the total number of contracts signed with the EAs, the total number of workers supplied by the EAs and the total contract sum for each of the said financial years, and the percentages of change as compared to the previous financial year;
- f. if the services of more than one EA were procured during any of the said financial years, please list out for each EA the total number of contracts obtained, the total contract sum and the total number of workers supplied;
- g. the maximum, minimum and median salaries of workers payable by each EA;
- h. the proportion of workers supplied by the EAs on the existing staff in the department; and
- i. the proportion of expenditure on procuring the services of the EAs on departmental expenses.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

	Type of Contract	2009-10 (Note 1)	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07
(a) Number of contracts signed with EAs	Others	2	1	-	-
	T-contract (Note 2)	5	5	5	5
➤ (b) Contract sum for each EA (\$million)	Others	0.16 to 0.40	0.40	-	-
	T-contract	0.25 to 0.60	0.42 to 0.61	0.39 to 0.54	0.02 to 0.60
➤ Term of service for each EA	Others	24 months	24 months	-	-
	T-contract	12 months	12 months	12 months	1 month to 12 months
(c) Number of workers supplied by each EA and their duties	Others	1 to 2 General office support	2 General office support	-	-
	T-contract	1 Information technology support and system development	1 Information technology support and system development	1 Information technology support and system development	1 Information technology support and system development
(d) and (g) The workers' salaries (maximum, median and minimum salaries) payable by each EA	Others	<p>The contracts of HyD enter into with employment agencies specify the service fee charged by the latter in providing agency workers. HyD normally does not specify the wages of agency workers, except with regard to the wages of non-skilled workers.<sup>Note</sup> Hence, we are unable to provide the information requested.</p> <p><u>Note:</u> As a measure to protect non-skilled workers, the Administration promulgated a mandatory requirement on wage rates for government service contracts in May 2004. Under this requirement, service providers are required to offer monthly wages to non-skilled workers which are no less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time when tenders are invited. This requirement applies to service contracts in respect of supply of non-skilled agency workers.</p>			
	T-contract				

	Type of Contract	2009-10 (Note 1)	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07
(e) Percentage of change					
(i) Total no. of EAs hired	Others	2 (+100%)	1	-	-
	T-contract	2 (0%)	2 (0%)	2 (-50%)	3
(ii) Total no. of contracts signed with EAs	Others	2 (+100%)	1	-	-
	T-contract	5 (0%)	5 (0%)	5 (0%)	5
(iii) Total no. of workers supplied by EAs	Others	3 (+50%)	2	-	-
	T-contract	5 (0%)	5 (0%)	5 (0%)	5
(iv) Total contract sum (\$million)	Others	0.56 (+40%)	0.40		
	T-contract	2 (-15.6%)	2.37 (+5%)	2.25 (+81%)	1.24
(f) ➤ Number of contracts signed with each EA	Others	1	1	-	-
	T-contract	2 to 3	2 to 3	2 to 3	1 to 2
➤ Total contract sum involved with each EA (\$million)	Others	0.16 to 0.4	0.40	-	-
	T-contract	0.80 to 1.19	1.09 to 1.27	1.06 to 1.19	0.06 to 1.12
➤ Number of workers supplied by each EA	Others	1 to 2	2	-	-
	T-contract	2 to 3	2 to 3	2 to 3	1 to 2
(h) Proportion of workers supplied by the EAs in the existing staff in the department (Note 3)		0.40%	0.35%	0.26%	0.27%

(i) Proportion of expenditure on procuring the services of the EAs on departmental expenses		0.13%	0.14%	0.12%	0.07%
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Note 1 Position as at 30.9.2009.

Note 2 T-contract refers to term contract centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

Note 3 The percentages of agency workers as compared with total staff are based on the positions at the end of each financial year (30.9.2009 for 2009-10) and are not representative of the situation for the concerned financial year

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 19.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)070**

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead  
(No. & title):

000 Operational  
Expenses

Question Serial No.

2383

Programme: -

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

- a. Please provide the following information on the use of outsourced services (including property management, security, cleansing, information technology, survey, etc., but excluding outsourced construction works):

	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Number of outsourcing service contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total contract sum of the outsourcing service contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total number of staff employed under the outsourcing service contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of posts under outsourcing service contract replaced with civil servants	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

- b. How many posts under outsourcing service contract could be replaced with staff appointed on permanent terms by the Government in the coming three years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13)?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- a.

	2010-11 (Note 1)	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Number of outsourcing service contracts (Note 2)	-	65 (+55%)	42 (+8%)	39
Total contract sum of the outsourcing service contracts (\$million) (Note 3)	-	\$15.73 (+20%)	\$13.08 (+36%)	\$9.62
Total number of staff employed under the outsourcing service contracts (Note 4)	-	134 (-7%)	144 (+43%)	101
Number of posts under outsourcing service contract replaced with civil servants	-	-	-	-

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

Note 1: Figures are not available as the number of outsourcing services varies from time to time in the light of changing service and operational requirements.

Note 2: The figures represent the number of contracts awarded for the year while the duration of each contract may vary in the light of operational requirements.

Note 3: The figures represent the sum of the value of the contracts awarded for the year (in million).

Note 4: The figures represent the approximate number of staff employed under the outsourcing service contracts.

b. As the need for outsourcing services varies from time to time, we have no plan to change the outsourcing mode of service delivery by employing civil servants in the coming three years.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)071**

Question Serial No.

2569

Head: 60 - Highways Department                      Subhead                      000 Operational  
(No. & title):    Expenses

Programme:                      (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer:                      Director of Highways

Director of Bureau:                      Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 21 that the Highways Department will “assist in carrying out further studies on the proposed Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line”. With regard to the above, please provide information on:

- a. the estimated expenditure of the above project;
- b. the schedule of discussion with Shenzhen authority;
- c. the deadline for completing the routing design;
- d. the mode of operation of the Express Line (e.g. light rail/large scale mass transportation);
- e. the number of jobs to be created by the above project for professional staff/technical staff/labourers;
- f. the expected completion date; and
- g. the number of consultations with local organizations and residents.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The proposed Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line (WEL) is intended to be a multi-function cross-boundary railway. It will provide cross-boundary passengers with environmentally friendly and efficient railway services between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. It will also facilitate the development of the Northwest New Territories (NWNT) and Qianhai in Shenzhen. Through this railway project, we would also like to enhance the cooperation between the two airports in Hong Kong and Shenzhen, and provide convenient services for passengers of the two places. This may result in a win-win situation.

The preliminary feasibility study on the WEL has confirmed the technical feasibility. We have signed with the Shenzhen Municipal Government the “Cooperation Arrangement on Advancing WEL”, under which both parties agree to continue with the relevant in-depth studies on WEL. As one of the major functions of the WEL is to promote the development of Qianhai and NWNT, it is important for the design of the WEL to take into consideration the planning of these two areas. With the development of Qianhai and NWNT being pushed ahead, more planning parameters for these areas will be available. This will enable us to conduct in-depth studies on the WEL, and investigate various alignment options and their respective patronage forecasts, the functionality of the railway, its technical standards, operational and service requirements, etc. Upon completion of these studies, when we have more concrete information, we will consult the public, inviting the community to express views on the development of WEL.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

WAI CHI SING

Director of Highways

18.3.2010





entrusted to the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL). RDO will liaise and collaborate with relevant government bureaux and departments, especially the Transport and Housing Bureau, to facilitate proceeding of the SCL design work. We are using the aforesaid government in-house resources for such work and there is no specific project-based account for the corresponding expenditure. For the design work entrusted to MTRCL, the expenditure in 2010-11 is estimated to be about \$611 million.

### **The Northern Link (NOL)**

#### Progress

The current proposal of the NOL is a railway line connecting the existing Kam Sheung Road Station of the West Rail Line to the Lok Ma Chau Station at the boundary, with a station at Chau Tau for interchanging with the Spur Line.

The planning of the NOL has to take into consideration the findings of the planning and engineering study of the New Territories New Development Areas (NDAs), which is currently being undertaken by the Planning Department and the Civil Engineering and Development Department. The study, which will address issues related to the overall planning of the NDAs, the development programme, the planned population and employment in the planning areas, is targeted to be completed in mid 2011. We will then review the NOL project, including the proposed alignment, station locations and implementation timetable.

#### Alignment

The current proposal of the NOL is a railway line connecting the existing Kam Sheung Road Station of the West Rail Line to the Lok Ma Chau Station at the boundary, with a station at Chau Tau for interchanging with the Spur Line. It will therefore link the West Rail Line and the East Rail Line in the north of the New Territories, and will provide cross boundary rail service for the Northwest New Territories.

#### Implementation Programme

We will revisit the planning parameters and project assumptions for the NOL upon receiving the findings of the planning and engineering study of the NDAs, which is anticipated to be completed in mid 2011. We will continue to review the NOL including the proposed alignment, station locations and the implementation timetable.

#### Expenditure in 2010-11

Currently, part of the duties of one Senior Engineer and one Engineer in the RDO of the department are responsible for the co-ordination work. No other expenditure is anticipated in 2010-11.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ WAI CHI SING \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Highways \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17.3.2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)073**

Question Serial No.

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational  
(No. & title): Expenses

2793

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 7 that the Highways Department will continue with the investigation and preliminary design for Central Kowloon Route. With regard to the above, please provide information on:

- (a) the latest estimate of expenditure; whether there will be any changes in the estimate of expenditure upon commencement of the associated work, and if yes, the reasons for the changes;
- (b) the number of jobs to be created by the above project for professional /technical staff/labourers;
- (c) the date for the Administration to report on the result of the investigation and preliminary design to the Legislative Council; and
- (d) the expected completion date of the whole project.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply:

- (a) The consultancy study for the investigation and preliminary design for Central Kowloon Route (CKR) is underway. The cost estimate of the works of CKR can only be worked out upon completion of the consultancy study and design of the project.
- (b) Our latest estimate is that CKR would create about 5 000 jobs (4 100 labourers and 900 professional/technical staff).
- (c) We reported to the Panel on Transport of the Legislative Council in May 2008 on the progress of the study, in particular the preferred alignment of the CKR. Members generally supported the proposed alignment. We then proceeded with the preliminary design and impact studies and reported the progress to the same Panel in February 2009.
- (d) We have collected valuable public opinions during the public engagement process for CKR. We plan to complete the preliminary design and impact studies in 2010 with a view to firming up the implementation programme for the project and reporting to the Legislative Council on the way forward on that basis.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ WAI CHI SING \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Director of Highways \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19.3.2010 \_\_\_\_\_



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)075**

Question Serial No.

2483

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding consultations conducted or to be conducted under various programmes for the purpose of policy formulation and assessment, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

For consultation projects for which funds have been allocated in 2009-10, please provide information in the following format:

Name/ subject matter of the consultation project	Revised estimate (\$)	Progress of consultation (under planning/in progress/ completed)	Mode of consultation (e.g. written submissions, consultative forums, focus group meetings), number of times, names of bodies consulted, and number of people consulted	Administration's follow-up action on the consultation results and progress made (if any)	If the consultation is completed, have the results been released to the public? If yes, through what channels? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

No consultation on policy formulation and assessment on the programmes under Head 100 has been conducted in 2009-10.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 ROGER TUPPER

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Director of Marine

\_\_\_\_\_  
 19.3.2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)076**

Question Serial No.

2484

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding consultations conducted or to be conducted under various programmes for the purpose of policy formulation and assessment, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

Have resources been reserved for conducting consultations in 2010-11? If yes, please provide information on the following:

Name/subject matter of the consultation project	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of consultation (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Mode of consultation (e.g. written submissions, consultative forums, focus group meetings), number of times, names of bodies consulted, and number of people consulted	If the consultation is scheduled for completion in the 2010-11 financial year, will the consultation results be released to the public? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

There is no plan for consultation activities involving policy formulation and assessment under all programmes in 2010-11.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
ROGER TUPPER

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Marine

\_\_\_\_\_  
19.3.2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)077**

Question Serial No.

2582

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead :

Programme : (3) Local Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding "cargo throughput for Public Cargo Working Areas (PCWAs)", please provide information on the following:

- (a) the maximum cargo throughput of the PCWAs;
- (b) the reasons for the drastic drop of 14% in the actual cargo throughput of 8.6 million tonnes for PCWAs in 2009, as compared to the corresponding figure of 10 million tonnes for 2008; and
- (c) whether the Administration has any policies or measures to attract more cargo vessels to use the PCWAs.

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) Over the past ten years there were eight PCWAs. Its cargo throughput varies because of demand and prevailing economic situation. Nonetheless, a record high of 13.4 million tonnes of cargoes had been handled in a year through these facilities.
- (b) The 14% drop in the cargo throughput handled at PCWAs in 2009 is, to a large extent, attributable to the economic downturn triggered by the global financial crisis since late 2008.
- (c) The Administration has introduced various measures to enhance the competitiveness of the Hong Kong port and attract more vessels to come to Hong Kong, which included :
  - (i) introduction of a rental concession of 20% for a period of six months for most government properties including the berths of PCWAs in 2009;
  - (ii) introduction of a multiple entry permit system for river-trade vessels in 2007. Under the system, a river-trade vessel may make ten visits to Hong Kong within a month at a cost equivalent to the total fees of five single entry permits. Through the new system owners can save both costs and time;
  - (iii) reduction of the licence fee for local vessels by 5% in 2007; and
  - (iv) lowering of the port clearance fees and arrival clearance fees for vessels by 40% in 2009.

Signature

Name in block letters

ROGER TUPPER

Post Title

Director of Marine

Date

17.3.2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)078**

Question Serial No.

2786

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead :

Programme : (1) Infrastructure

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

The Marine Department will continue to develop measures to make the Hong Kong Shipping Register more efficient, user-friendly and attractive. In this connection, please advise this Committee on the details and targets of the plan for such work. Will new measures be announced in 2010-11?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

Improvements on the efficiency, user-friendliness and attractiveness of the Hong Kong Shipping Register are always on our working agenda. In 2010, we will concentrate our efforts in improving the efficiency in serving the needs of the shipowners and ship management companies with ships registered in Hong Kong. A computer system is being developed to facilitate shipowners to submit their applications and the Marine Department to issue dispensations through Internet in order to allow ships with minor deficiencies to sail to the next port where remedies services are available. The computer system will be made available to shipowners in 2010 to address most of their urgent needs.

Since 2008, the "Best Performance in Port State Control Award" has been presented to shipowners and ship management companies to recognise their efforts in managing and maintaining their vessels in the highest standard. Additional awards will be introduced soon to recognise shipowners who have contributed to protecting the environment. These awards promote the image of Hong Kong as a quality international maritime centre.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
ROGER TUPPER

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Marine

\_\_\_\_\_  
15.3.2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)079**

Question Serial No.

2806

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Port Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the continued effort to improve the general environment of the China Ferry Terminal and the Macau Ferry Terminal through a renovation project, please advise the Committee on the progress of the works and the estimated expenditure for this year (i.e. 2010-11).

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

As part of the on-going programme to maintain and improve facilities at the China Ferry Terminal (CFT) and the Macau Ferry Terminal (MFT), the following works will be carried out in 2010-11:

- refurbishment of escalators at MFT;
- replacement of gondola systems at MFT;
- replacement of lifts at MFT;
- replacement of parts of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system at MFT;
- replacement of parts of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system at CFT; and
- replacement of chiller at the Berthing Control Tower Room of CFT.

Also there are two on-going projects at CFT, namely replacing the sailing information display system and replacement of one luggage hoisting crane.

The estimated provision in 2010-11 for the above items is \$16.9 million. All these works will be completed in 2010-11, except for the replacement of gondola systems at MFT, the works of which are scheduled for completion in early 2012.

In addition, a "facelift" project at the two terminals, amounting to \$18 million for MFT and \$19 million for CFT is underway. The project aims to improve the appearance of both terminals with a view to providing a comfort, clean, safe and user-friendly environment to meet the needs of passengers and the operators. The works involved include upgrading the finishing of the ceiling, flooring, wall cladding, signage and luggage handling system etc. The project commenced in February 2010 and is expected to be completed in 2011.

Signature	
Name in block letters	ROGER TUPPER
Post Title	Director of Marine
Date	16.3.2010



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)080**

Question Serial No.

2807

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead :

Programme : (4) Services to Ships

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

The Hong Kong Shipping Register grew to 44.9 million gross tonnage as at the end of December 2009, and is estimated to grow to 48.5 million gross tonnage by 2010. Subsequent to the Annual Tonnage Charge Reduction Scheme implemented in 2006, what measures will the Administration take to attract more ships to register in Hong Kong so as to further strengthen Hong Kong's status as a maritime centre?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

Improvements on the efficiency, user-friendliness and attractiveness of the Hong Kong Shipping Register (HKSR) are always on our working agenda. Apart from the introduction of the Annual Tonnage Charge Reduction Scheme in 2006, the cap of the annual tonnage charges for ships registered in the HKSR was lowered by 23% from \$100,000 to \$77,500 and about 40% of the ship registration and seafarer registration services were made free with effect from 10 July 2009.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
ROGER TUPPER

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Marine

\_\_\_\_\_  
17.3.2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO**  
**INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)081**

Question Serial No.

2353

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Please provide, in a table, information on the procurement of services of employment agencies (EAs) from 2006-07 to 2009-10:

- (a) the number of contracts signed with the EAs;
- (b) the contract sum and term of service of each contract for each EA;
- (c) the number of workers supplied by each EA under each contract and their duties;
- (d) details of the workers' salaries (monthly and daily) payable by each EA under each contract;
- (e) the total number of EAs hired, the total number of contracts signed with the EAs, the total number of workers supplied by the EAs and the total contract sum for each of the said financial years, and the percentages of change as compared to the previous financial year;
- (f) if the services of more than one EA were procured during any of the said financial years, please list out for each EA the total number of contracts obtained, the total contract sum and the total number of workers supplied;
- (g) the maximum, minimum and median salaries of workers payable by each EA;
- (h) the proportion of workers supplied by the EAs on the existing staff in the department; and
- (i) the proportion of expenditure on procuring the services of the EAs on departmental expenses.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

	Type of Contract	2009-10 (Note 1)	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07
(a) Number of contracts signed with EAs	Others	16	16	10	4
	T-contract (Note 2)	11	11	8	8
(b) (i) Contract sum for each EA (\$ million)	Others	0.023 to 1.041	0.044 to 1.237	0.016 to 0.777	0.085 to 0.528
	T-contract (Note 2)	0.132 to 2.141	0.005 to 1.929	0.015 to 0.973	0.085 to 1.125
(ii) Term of service for each EA	Others	6 months to 24 months	6 months to 24 months	3 months to 24 months	6 months to 24 months
	T-contract (Note 2)	1 month to 12 months	1 month to 12 months	1 month to 12 months	3 months to 12 months

(c) No. of workers supplied by each EA and their duties	Others	1 to 11 General office / operations support	1 to 12 General office / operations support	1 to 10 General office / operations support	1 to 10 General office / operations support
	T-contract (Note 2)	1 to 5 Professional information technology support and system development	1 to 5 Professional information technology support and system development	1 to 3 Professional information technology support and system development	1 to 2 Professional information technology support and system development
(d) The workers' salaries payable by each EA	Others	The contracts MD entered into with EAs specify the service fee charged by the latter in providing agency workers. MD normally does not specify the wages of agency workers, except with regard to the wages of non-skilled workers. Hence the information requested is unavailable to MD.			
	T-contract (Note 2)				
(e) Percentage of change					
(i) Total no. of EAs hired	Others	13 (+30.0%)	10 (+25.0%)	8 (+100.0%)	4
	T-contract (Note 2)	7 ( $\pm$ 0%)	7 (+16.7%)	6 ( $\pm$ 0%)	6
(ii) Total no. of contracts signed with EAs	Others	16 ( $\pm$ 0%)	16 (+60.0%)	10 (+150.0%)	4
	T-contract (Note 2)	11 ( $\pm$ 0%)	11 (+37.5%)	8 ( $\pm$ 0%)	8
(iii) Total no. of workers supplied by EAs	Others	34 (+9.7%)	31 (+34.8%)	23 (+53.3%)	15
	T-contract (Note 2)	11 ( $\pm$ 0%)	11 (+37.5%)	8 ( $\pm$ 0%)	8
(iv) Total contract sum (\$ million)	Others	3.697 (+7.0%)	3.455 (+62.2%)	2.130 (+108.4%)	1.022
	T-contract (Note 2)	3.860 (+5.5%)	3.658 (+35.0%)	2.710 (-11.3%)	3.056
(f) The total no. of contracts, total contract sum and total no. of workers for each EA		Please see the information set out at (a) to (c) above.			
(g) The maximum, minimum and median salaries payable by each EA	Others	The contracts MD entered into with EAs specify the service fee charged by the latter in providing agency workers. MD normally does not specify the wages of agency workers, except with regard to the wages of non-skilled workers. Hence the information requested is unavailable to MD.			
	T-contract (Note 2)				
(h) Proportion of workers	Others	2.5%	2.2%	1.7%	1.1%

supplied by the EAs on the existing staff in the department (Note 3)	T-contract (Note 2)	0.8%	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%
(i) Proportion of expenditure on procuring the services of the EAs on departmental expenses (Note 4)	Others	1.6%	1.4%	0.9%	0.5%
	T-contract (Note 2)	1.7%	1.4%	1.1%	1.5%

*Figures in brackets denote year-on-year changes*

Note 1 Position as at 28.2.2010.

Note 2 T-contract refers to term contract centrally administered by the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer.

Note 3 The percentage of agency workers as compared with total staff is for a specific date only and is not representative of the situation for the concerned financial year.

Note 4 It refers to general departmental expenses.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	ROGER TUPPER
Post Title	Director of Marine
Date	15.3.2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO**  
**INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)082**

Question Serial No.

2354

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

- (a) Please provide information on the employment and anticipated employment of temporary staff from 2007-08 to 2010-11:

	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Number of temporary staff employed	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total expenditure on salaries of temporary staff employed	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of temporary staff employed in the total number of staff in the Department	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

- (b) Please provide a breakdown of the number of temporary staff by length or anticipated length of employment for each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11:

Length of employment	Number of staff in 2010-11	Number of staff in 2009-10	Number of staff in 2008-09	Nnumber of staff in 2007-08
6 months	( )	( )	( )	( )
1 year	( )	( )	( )	( )
2 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
More than 3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a)&(b) There is no temporary staff employed/to be employed by the department for the period from 2007-08 to 2010-11.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

ROGER TUPPER

Director of Marine

15.3.2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)083**

Question Serial No.

2355

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

- (a) Please provide the following information on the use of outsourced services (including property management, security, cleansing, information technology, survey, etc., but excluding outsourced construction works):

	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Number of outsourcing service contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total contract sum of the outsourcing service contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total number of workers employed under the outsourcing service contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of posts under outsourcing service contract replaced with civil servants	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

- (b) How many posts under outsourcing service contract could be replaced with staff appointed on permanent terms by the Government in the coming three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13)?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

(a)

	2010-11 (Note 1)	2009-10 (Note 2)	2008-09	2007-08
Number of outsourcing service contracts	-	3515 (+7.9%)	3257 (-0.6%)	3277
Total contract sum of the outsourcing service contracts (\$million)	-	132.757 (-0.3%)	133.184 (-0.9%)	134.346
Number of staff employed under the outsourcing service contracts (Note 3)	-	308 (+31.6%)	234 (-14.9%)	275
Number of posts under outsourcing service contract replaced with civil servants	-	0	0	0

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

Note 1 : The figures for 2010-11 are not available as details of the service contracts to be awarded in 2010-11 are yet to be finalised.

Note 2 : Position as at 28.2.2010.

Note 3 : We have not specified the number of workers required under some of the outsourcing service contracts. Hence the number of workers employed under these outsourcing service contracts has not been included in this reply.

(b) We do not have any such plans.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	ROGER TUPPER
Post Title	Director of Marine
Date	18.3.2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO**  
**INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)084**

Question Serial No.

2356

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

- (a) Please provide the following information on the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff to provide services:

	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Number of NCSC staff	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total expenditure on salaries of NCSC staff	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff converted to civil servants				
Number of NCSC staff who had chances for conversion to civil servants on permanent terms but failed to do so	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the department (%)	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

- (b) Please provide a breakdown on the number of NCSC staff by length of employment for each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11 in the following table:

Length of employment	Number of staff in 2010-11	Number of staff in 2009-10	Number of staff in 2008-09	Number of staff in 2007-08
6 months to 1 year	( )	( )	( )	( )
1 to 3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
3 to 5 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
5 to 10 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
10 to 15 years	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

- (c) In the coming three years (i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13), how many NCSC staff will be able to convert to civil servants on permanent terms.



Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

(a)

	2010-11 <sup>(Note 1)</sup>	2009-10 <sup>(Note 2)</sup>	2008-09	2007-08
Number of NCSC staff (part-time NCSC staff inclusive)	-	18 (-37.9%)	29 (-21.6%)	37
Total expenditure on salaries of NCSC staff (\$ million)	-	5.824 (-36.4%)	9.154 (-1.4%)	9.285
Number of NCSC staff who were appointed as civil servants <sup>(Note 3)</sup>	-	11	9	0
Number of NCSC staff who had chances for appointment as civil servants on permanent terms through open recruitment but failed to do so <sup>(Note 4)</sup>	-	3 (-40.0%)	5 (+150.0%)	2
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the department (%)	-	1.3% (-38.1%)	2.1% (-22.2%)	2.7%

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

(b)

Length of employment	Number of Staff			
	2010-11 <sup>(Note 1)</sup>	2009-10 <sup>(Note 2)</sup>	2008-09	2007-08
6 months to 1 year <sup>(Note 5)</sup>	-	9 (+50.0%)	6 (+200.0%)	2
1 to 3 years	-	3 (-50.0%)	6 (-50.0%)	12
3 to 5 years	-	2 (-60.0%)	5 (-37.5%)	8
5 to 10 years	-	4 (-66.7%)	12 (-20.0%)	15
10 to 15 years	-	0 (-)	0 (-)	0

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

Notes

- (1) Figures are not available as the number of NCSC staff varies from time to time in the light of changing service needs and operational requirements.
- (2) Position as at 9.3.2010.
- (3) It refers to those NCSC staff of the department who were subsequently selected through open recruitment and appointed to civil service posts of the same rank within the department.
- (4) It refers to those NCSC staff of the department who were subsequently not selected through open recruitment for appointment to civil service posts of the same rank within the department.
- (5) NCSC staff with less than 6-month service are also included in this row.

- (c) Serving NCSC staff, like all other candidates, may apply for civil service posts in response to recruitment advertisements. Qualified candidates will be selected on the basis of merits. We are therefore unable to estimate the number of NCSC staff who will be able to be appointed as civil servants on permanent terms in the coming three years, i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	ROGER TUPPER
Post Title	Director of Marine
Date	16.3.2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)085**

Question Serial No.

2543

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead :

Programme : (4) Services to Ships

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding “conducting examinations and issuing certificates of seafarers”, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the types and the number of examinations conducted for seafarers;
- (b) the pass rates for such examinations; and
- (c) the number of certificates issued to seafarers by age and sex.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply :

- (a) The Marine Department conducts examinations for “Sea-going” and “River-trade” Deck and Engineer Officer Certificates of Competency (CoC) for seafarers serving on sea-going ships and river trade vessels. Written examinations for different classes (Class 3, 2 and 1) of “Sea-going” and “River-trade” CoC are held three times a year while oral examinations are available once a month.
- (b) The pass rates for such examinations in 2009 are as follows :

	Sea-going			River Trade		
	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3
Deck	20%	100%	58%	50%	0%	46%
Engineer	100%	24%	67%	0%	9%	74%

- (c) In 2009, a total of 16 and 50 seafarers passed the Sea-going and “River Trade” CoC examinations respectively and were issued with the appropriate classes/types of certificates. The number of certificates issued by age and sex are as follows:

<u>By age :</u>	
21 – 30	23
31 – 40	22
41 – 50	13
51 – 60	6
61 – 70	1
71 – 80	<u>1</u>
Total :	<u>66</u>

<u>By sex :</u>	
Male	64
Female	<u>2</u>
Total :	<u>66</u>

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	<u>ROGER TUPPER</u>
Post Title	<u>Director of Marine</u>
Date	<u>15.3.2010</u>

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)086**

Question Serial No.

2544

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead :

Programme : (4) Services to Ships

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding "authorised surveyors who conducted outsourced surveys of locally licensed vessels", please provide information on the following:

- (a) the number of such authorised surveyors;
- (b) the total expenditure involved in hiring authorised surveyors; and
- (c) the number of vessels surveyed and the number of certificates of survey issued by each surveyor in 2009.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply :

- (a) As at end December 2009, there were a total of 13 authorised surveyors for carrying out survey of locally licensed vessels.
- (b) The authorised surveyors are appointed by the Director of Marine for hiring by the vessel owners. The survey expenditure is borne by the vessel owners.
- (c) In 2009, 476 vessels were surveyed and 476 certificates were issued. On average, each of the 13 authorised surveyors issued 36 certificates.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	ROGER TUPPER
Post Title	Director of Marine
Date	15.3.2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO**  
**INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)087**

Question Serial No.

2545

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead :

Programme : (5) Government Fleet

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

It is mentioned in paragraph 24 that the "Government Dockyard maintains 795 vessels owned and used by various government departments." Please provide information on the following:

- (a) the figures for the number of government vessels owned and used by departments other than the Marine Department; and
- (b) whether any of the government vessels use environmentally friendly diesel oil. If yes, please provide the figures. If not, please provide the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply :

- (a) As at 31 December 2009, the number of vessels owned and used by departments other than the Marine Department are listed below:

Department	Number of Vessels
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department	24
Auxiliary Medical Service	1
Civil Aid Service	12
Civil Engineering and Development Department	3
Correctional Services Department	2
Customs & Excise Department	21
Department of Health	1
Environmental Protection Department	2
Fire Services Department	38
Hong Kong Police Force	165
Immigration Department	7
Leisure and Cultural Services Department	449
Water Supplies Department	6
Total	731

- (b) We have been using environmentally friendly fuel, i.e. ultra low sulphur diesel, in all government vessels installed with marine diesel engines since 2001.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
ROGER TUPPER

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of Marine

\_\_\_\_\_  
15.3.2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)088**

Question Serial No.

2546

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead :

Programme : (2) Port Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

It is stated in paragraph 11 that the Marine Department will “improve the general environment and user-friendliness of the China Ferry Terminal and Macau Ferry Terminal through a renovation project”. In this connection, please provide information on the following:

- (a) the plan for the improvement works and the estimated expenditure for 2010-11; and
- (b) the expected completion date for the renovation project.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply :

As part of the on-going programme to maintain and improve facilities at the China Ferry Terminal (CFT) and the Macau Ferry Terminal (MFT), the following works will be carried out in 2010-11:

- refurbishment of escalators at MFT;
- replacement of gondola systems at MFT;
- replacement of lifts at MFT;
- replacement of parts of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system at MFT;
- replacement of parts of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system at CFT; and
- replacement of chiller at the Berthing Control Tower Room of CFT.

Also there are two on-going projects at CFT, namely replacing the sailing information display system and replacement of one luggage hoisting crane.

The estimated provision in 2010-11 for the above items is \$16.9 million. All these works will be completed in 2010-11, except for the replacement of gondola systems at MFT, the works of which are scheduled for completion in early 2012.

In addition, a “facelift” project at the two terminals, amounting to \$18 million for MFT and \$19 million for CFT is underway. The project aims to improve the appearance of both terminals with a view to providing a comfort, clean, safe and user-friendly environment to meet the needs of passengers and the operators. The works involved include upgrading the finishing of the ceiling, flooring, wall cladding, signage and luggage handling system etc. The project commenced in February 2010 and is expected to be completed in 2011.

Signature	_____
Name in block letters	ROGER TUPPER
Post Title	Director of Marine
Date	16.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)089**

Question Serial No.

0811

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Will the Administration commission consultants to assess options that are feasible to rationalise the usage of the three road harbour crossings? If so, what is the estimated expenditure? Please advise on the provision and timetable for implementing the recommendations of the consultants as well as how the effectiveness of the recommendations will be evaluated.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Mo-po, Paul

Reply :

The Government has commissioned a consultancy study on rationalising the utilisation of road harbour crossings with a view to identifying options feasible in transport, financial, legal and organisation terms. The consultancy fee is \$7.75 million. The consultants are expected to submit the consultancy report in the first half of 2010. Upon receipt of the consultancy report, we will consider carefully the findings of the study and feasibility of the recommendations, including the provision and timetable for implementing the recommendations. We will share with the public the consultant's recommendations and listen to their views.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **FRANCIS HO** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **18 March 2010** \_\_\_\_\_



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11  
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)090**

Question Serial No.

0812

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat      Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme :      (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer :      Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau :      Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

What is the provision for introducing an ad hoc quota trial scheme for cross-boundary private cars at the Shenzhen Bay Port? Please advise on the implementation timetable, the manpower required, the number of quotas under the trial scheme, estimated daily vehicular and passenger flow.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Mo-po, Paul

Reply :

For implementing the ad hoc quota trial scheme for cross-boundary private cars at the Shenzhen Bay Port, the Transport Department will incur an estimated capital expenditure of about \$9.8 million for new computer systems and an estimated recurrent expenditure of about \$4 million, covering expenses for required computer system maintenance, leased data lines, staff costs of three civil service clerical posts and other administrative expenses, etc.

The exact implementation date of the trial scheme and the number of quotas to be introduced are subject to discussion with the Guangdong side which is still underway. It is expected that the number of quotas and related vehicular/passenger flow will not start at a high level initially but will grow on an incremental basis.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **FRANCIS HO**

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)091**

Question Serial No.

0600

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the progress of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL), South Island Line (East) (SIL(E)) and the Kwun Tong Line Extension (KTE), will the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (a) the estimated expenditure on the examination of each railway project; and
- (b) the public consultation programme for each project, as well as the proportion of expenditure on public consultation to the overall construction cost of each railway?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) For the SCL, SIL(E) and the KTE projects, the alignment, design and relevant technical and engineering submissions prepared by the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) would be examined by relevant Government bureaux and departments including Transport and Housing Bureau (THB), Highways Department (HyD) and Transport Department by existing staff as part of their normal duties. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure. HyD has engaged consultants to carry out independent assessment of the financial arrangement of SIL(E) at an estimated cost of \$2.5 million. HyD will also engage consultants to examine the financial arrangement of KTE and to vet the project cost estimates of SCL separately in due course. The estimated costs for these two consultancies are not yet known.
- (b) We attach great importance to public engagement. For each of the three railway projects, we have launched extensive public consultations which included presentation to and discussions with the District Councils concerned, organisation of public forums, stakeholders forums and residents meetings, briefings for various professional bodies and staging of roving exhibitions and distribution of information brochures of the proposed railway scheme. For the SCL, public consultation has started since late 2008. In view of different public views and concerns on the alignment and design, we will continue to consult the District Councils and stakeholders to listen to their views. For the SIL(E) and KTE, public consultation has started since 2008 and the railway schemes were gazetted on 24 July and 27 November 2009 respectively.

The above work is jointly undertaken by existing staff of HyD and Transport Branch as part of their normal duties and there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)092**

Question Serial No.

0609

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the planning and co-ordination of all arrangements for the Secretary's public, media and community functions by the Office of the Secretary for Transport and Housing (STH). Please provide the following information:

- (a) the proportion of expenditure on public, media and community functions to the total expenditure of the Bureau in the past three years (i.e. 2007-08 to 2009-10); and
- (b) the work plans and estimated expenditure for public, media and community functions in 2010-11.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) The expenditure on public, media and community functions undertaken by the Office of the STH has been included in the overall provision under Programme (1) " Director of Bureau's Office". The majority of the provision under Programme (1) is salary provision for the Office of the STH. The Office is responsible, inter-alia, for planning, co-ordinating and implementing public, media and community functions for the STH and the Under Secretary for Transport and Housing (USTH) and there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure in this regard.
- (b) The Office of the STH will, as part of their duties, continue to plan, co-ordinate and implement public, media and community functions for STH and USTH, so as to assist them in reaching out stakeholders, such as District Councils, political parties/ groups, non-government organisations, district personalities as well as business, professional and other bodies, and explaining Government policies to the media and the public at large. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure in this regard.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)093**

Question Serial No.

0610

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Please advise on the total expenditure on and the results achieved in promoting the usage of public transport services in the past three years (i.e. 2007-08 to 2009-10). What are the plans and estimated expenditure of the Government for that purpose in 2010-11?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The Government is committed to promoting greater use of public transport services by improving their quality and coordination. This is a core aim and function of the Transport Branch. There is no separate breakdown of expenditure for this purpose in 2010-11.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)094**

Question Serial No.

0611

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the review of fare adjustment arrangement for franchised bus service, please advise on its progress and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

In 2009, the Government reviewed the fare adjustment arrangement for franchised bus services and set out the outcome of the review in a Legislative Council Brief issued on 8 December 2009. To obtain advice on matters relating to the review, the Government commissioned a consultancy study at a cost of \$1.3 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)095**

Question Serial No.

0612

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the recommendations of the Task Force on Emergency Transport Co-ordination, please advise the progress on their implementation, the expenditure involved and the anticipated completion dates.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The Administration has already implemented the short-term measures recommended by the Task Force including continued development and refinement of contingency plans, systematic management of incidents, measures to facilitate traffic diversion and incident recovery, enhancement in communication and co-ordination within and between departments, upgraded facilities of the Emergency Transport Co-ordination Centre to enhance co-ordination, and better dissemination of information to the public through improved technology and more channels.

The remaining recommendations, which are of medium to long-term nature, are being taken forward, including:

- (a) improving the coverage of traffic monitoring along major roads and the dissemination of real-time traffic information to the public. In this regard, about 400 closed-circuit televisions are being installed along major roads at an estimated cost of \$183 million. As at end 2009, 80% of the works was completed. The works are scheduled for completion in end 2010; and
- (b) deploying suitable advanced technologies for more effective and efficient incident management. In this regard, a consultancy study on the feasibility of deploying advanced technologies in incident management has been commissioned by the Transport Department at an estimated cost of \$7 million. The study is substantially completed. In the light of the study recommendations, we plan to seek funding approval of the Finance Committee in 2010-11 to develop a traffic and incident management system to facilitate traffic and incident management in a more effective and efficient manner.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)096**

Question Serial No.

0613

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the preparation for the commencement of works for the traffic improvement to Tuen Mun Road Town Centre Section, please advise on the details of the preparation, the expenditure involved and the anticipated completion date.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

Subsequent to the Finance Committee's funding approval for the traffic improvements to the Tuen Mun Road Town Centre Section in June 2009, the contract for the works was awarded on 12 February 2010 at a sum of \$1,548 million. Works under the contract commenced on 26 February 2010. The project is scheduled for completion in end 2013.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)097**

Question Serial No.

1905

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

With regard to developing measures to enhance the safety of public light buses, please advise this Committee of the progress made, the expenditure involved and the anticipated completion date.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

To enhance the safety of public light buses, the Transport Department (TD) will introduce a new condition in the vehicle licence and passenger service licence of public light buses requiring all public light buses to be installed with a speed limiter approved by the Department within three months from the effective date of the new vehicle licence. TD has already notified registered owners and holders of passenger service licence of public light buses that the new condition will take effect on 7 June 2010. We expect that all public light buses would be installed with a speed limiter by late 2011.

We also plan to introduce, in 2010-11 legislative session, proposals on the installation of speed limiter for all public light buses and the installation of black box for newly registered public light buses.

The costs incurred in installing speed limiter and black box will be borne by the public light bus vehicle owners.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **FRANCIS HO**

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **18 March 2010**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)098**

Question Serial No.

1906

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the review of the current quota arrangements for cross-boundary vehicles, will the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (a) the progress of the review, the expenditure involved and the anticipated completion date; and
- (b) the progress of introducing an ad hoc quota trial scheme for cross-boundary private cars at the Shenzhen Bay Port, the estimated expenditure and the implementation date?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) The Transport Department commissioned a consultancy study in March 2008 to explore possible options for regulating cross-boundary vehicles after the commissioning of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. One of the recommendations is to introduce ad hoc quotas at the Shenzhen Bay Port for trial purpose. The study was completed in March 2010 at a cost of about \$1.28 million. Apart from this study, we have kept the current quota arrangements for cross-boundary vehicles under constant review with a view to facilitating smooth vehicular and passenger traffic at all land crossings.
- (b) The Hong Kong and Guangdong authorities have agreed in principle to roll out an ad hoc quota trial scheme for cross-boundary private cars at the Shenzhen Bay Port. Implementation details including the number of quotas to be introduced, issuing criteria and application procedures etc. are being sorted out. The exact implementation date is subject to discussion with the Guangdong side which is still underway. For implementing the trial scheme, the Transport Department will incur an estimated capital expenditure of about \$9.8 million for new computer systems and an estimated recurrent expenditure of about \$4 million, covering expenses for required computer system maintenance, leased data lines, staff costs of three civil service clerical posts and other administrative expenses, etc.

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)098**

Question Serial No.

1906

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **FRANCIS HO**

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **18 March 2010**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)099**

Question Serial No.

1907

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

As regards working jointly with franchised bus companies on the deployment of environmentally friendly buses along busy corridors in 2009-10, please provide the proportion of environmentally friendly buses to the franchised bus fleet along the busy corridors.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The Administration has been working with franchised bus operators to promote the deployment of more environmentally friendly buses on busy corridors. As at December 2009, all the franchised buses running on Yee Wo Street, at least 92% on Hennessy Road and Nathan Road and at least 83% on Queensway and Des Voeux Road Central were of Euro II or above emission standards.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)100**

Question Serial No.

1913

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the measures to enhance road safety, please advise on:

- (a) the work to be undertaken in 2010-11 to combat drink driving and the estimated expenditure; and
- (b) details of the legislative amendments and work arrangements in 2010-11 to combat driving under the influence of psychotropic drugs.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) We plan to propose a package of measures in the 2009-10 legislative session to further combat drink driving. A one-off capital cost of additional expenditure of about \$0.9 million will be required for enhancing the computer systems of the Transport Department and the Judiciary to enable record keeping and enforcement work relating a newly proposed offence and measures to increase penalties. The cost will be met from within existing resources. Other work arising from the proposals, which aim at enhancing the penalties and deterrent effect against drink driving and other inappropriate driving behaviour will be absorbed by existing staff.
- (b) We understand the public concern about traffic accidents caused by motorists who drive under the influence of drugs. Having the means to differentiate a motorist who drives under the influence of drugs is a pre-requisite for combating drug driving effectively. We will draw reference from overseas experience in considering the feasibility of various test methods, and study how to better facilitate the enforcement actions and evidence collection by the Police. We hope to formulate some initial proposals for public consultation in around mid-2010.

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)100**

Question Serial No.

1913

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)101**

Question Serial No.

1914

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the usage of the road harbour crossings, will the Administration inform this Committee whether studies have been conducted to examine:

- (c) the social costs arising from traffic congestion at the crossings, such as health, time and economic losses, in the past three years (i.e 2007-08 to 2009-10); if so, please advise on the expenditures, the details and findings of the studies;
- (d) the cost of buying out the Eastern Harbour Crossing, Western Harbour Crossing and Tai Lam Tunnel; if so, please advise on the expenditures and findings of the studies; and
- (e) setting up a “Tunnel and Bridge Bureau” to manage and operate the three tunnels; if so, please advise on the expenditures and findings of the studies?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) The Government has not conducted any studies on social costs arising from traffic congestion at the road harbour crossings (RHCs) in the past three years. Such studies involve many assumptions and need to be premised on alternative options of traffic distribution for comparison.

(b)&(c)

The Government commissioned consultants in November 2008 to study how the traffic distribution among the RHCs can be improved, with a view to identifying options feasible in transport, financial and legal terms. The two options mentioned in this question, namely buying out the Eastern Harbour Crossing/Western Harbour Crossing or common ownership to manage and operate the three RHCs, are among the various possible options being studied. We expect that the consultancy study will be completed in the first half of 2010.



The Government has not conducted any study in the past three years to examine the cost of buying out the Tai Lam Tunnel.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)102**

Question Serial No.

1917

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the review on the outlying island ferry services, will the Administration inform this Committee of the progress, the estimated expenditure for the entire review and the anticipated completion date?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The Government is conducting a review on the outlying island ferry services with a view to enhancing the long-term financial viability of these services and maintaining fare stability. Without compromising the principle of not providing direct subsidy for daily operation, we will study the long-term development of outlying islands ferry services. We aim to complete the review as soon as possible before the commencement of the next operating period in 2011. The review is undertaken by the existing staff as part of their normal duties and the expenditure involved is included in the overall provision.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)103**

Question Serial No.

1918

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Has the Government compiled statistics on the number of traffic accidents involving holders of probationary driving licence? If yes, the details and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The statistics on the number of traffic accidents involving the holders of the probationary driving licence are listed as follow:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Motorcycle</b>	<b>Private Car</b>	<b>Light Goods Vehicles</b>
2009 (Note 1)	202	42	5
2008	287	Note 2	Note 2
2007	373	Note 2	Note 2

Note 1: The figures for 2009 are provisional.

Note 2: The probationary driving licence scheme was extended to private cars and light goods vehicles on 9 February 2009, hence the figures for private cars and light goods vehicles cover only the period between 9 February 2009 and 31 December 2009.

The above statistics were compiled by the Transport Department (TD) for accident analysis based on the accident data and record of driving licence kept by the Department. The expenditure for compiling such statistics is absorbed in the day-to-day operation costs of Transport Department. As the compilation of the statistics is undertaken by the existing staff of TD as part of their normal duties, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)104**

Question Serial No.

1919

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

As regards Choi Yuen Tsuen (CYT), please advise on:

- (a) the expenditure and details of visits by government officials to the CYT since 2009, as well as the expenditure and details on the dissemination of information to the CYT villagers; and
- (b) the arrangements and estimated expenditure of the Government for visits to the CYT in 2010.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) The Administration has been in close touch with the CYT villagers affected by the implementation of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL). Since 2009, we have had frequent visits and meetings with CYT villagers to understand their needs and concerns and to explain to them the details about the XRL project and the special ex-gratia rehousing package. These visits and meetings are jointly undertaken by existing staff of the Transport and Housing Bureau and Highways Department as part of their normal duties and there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved. To help communicate with the CYT villagers, we have published 13 issues of newsletter. The expenses incurred were minimal because these newsletters were prepared and photocopied by the in-house staff of the MTR Corporation Limited.
- (b) In 2010, the Administration will continue to closely communicate with the CYT villagers through visits, meetings and newsletters. Similar to the arrangement in 2009, we expect these communication efforts to be carried out by the existing staff as part of their normal duties.

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)104**

Question Serial No.

1919

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)105**

Question Serial No.

2246

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

With regard to developing measures to enhance the safety of public light buses (PLBs), please advise this Committee:

- (a) whether there were medical examinations for PLB drivers and other professional drivers in the past two years (i.e. 2008-09 and 2009-10); if so, of the details and the expenditure involved; if not, the reasons for that; whether there are any plans to provide medical examinations for drivers in 2010-11; if so, of the details and the expenditure involved;
- (b) are there any considerations or studies conducted on requiring professional drivers to undergo regular medical examination by legislation; if so, of the details and the expenditure involved; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (c) the work plans and estimated expenditure on enhancing the safety of PLBs in 2010-11.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) In 2009-10, the Transport Department (TD) organised six “Health Check Days” to arouse the health awareness of professional drivers. About 1 800 professional drivers (including public light bus drivers) participated. The “Health Check Days” covered simple health checks for professional drivers and there were exhibitions of health messages at the event. The cost was about \$370,000. As for 2008-09, such campaign was not arranged. As regards 2010-11, TD will organise activities to promote health awareness, where necessary, using existing resources.
- (b) There are currently about 1.2 million commercial vehicle driving licence holders in Hong Kong. However, we are not able to identify who are professional drivers and who are merely licence holders but not drivers by profession. As such, there are practical difficulties for us to require all professional drivers to undergo regular medical examination, and this may result in all commercial vehicle driving licence holders having to submit their medical reports to TD each time before their licence can be renewed. This will not only cause inconvenience to all professional drivers, but will also bring even greater inconvenience and nuisance to those who are not professional drivers but who hold such licences. At this stage, it seems not appropriate and not practical to require professional drivers to undergo regular medical examination by legislation.

(c) In 2010-11, TD will introduce a new condition in the vehicle licence and passenger service licence of public light buses requiring all public light buses to be installed with a speed limiter approved by TD within three months from the effective date of the new vehicle licence. TD has already notified registered owners and holders of passenger service licence of public light buses that the new condition will take effect on 7 June 2010. We expect that all public light buses would be installed with a speed limiter by late 2011.

We also plan to introduce, in 2010-11 legislative session, proposals on the installation of speed limiter for all public light buses and the installation of black box for newly registered public light buses.

The costs incurred in installing speed limiter and black box will be borne by the public light bus vehicle owners.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)106**

Question Serial No.

3003

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

With regard to the rest interval of bus drivers, please advise this Committee:

- (a) whether studies have been conducted or statistics compiled on the working hours and rest interval of bus drivers, their respective proportions and the bearing of these data on road safety; if so, of the details and the expenditure involved; if not, the reasons for that; and
- (b) whether the Administration has taken the initiative to look into the impact of the pay method of bus drivers on the bus drivers and road safety; if so, of the details and the expenditure involved; if not, the reasons for that.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) The Transport Department (TD) requires all franchised bus operators to conduct an analysis every year on the accidents which involve their buses in the preceding two years, including the relationship with the working hours of the bus captains before an accident occurred. TD also requires the operators to investigate and report on the causes of major bus accidents immediately after they have occurred, and to implement measures where appropriate. All these analyses and investigations do not reveal that there is any systematic correlation between bus accident rates and the working hours and rest times of the bus captains. As the monitoring of the safety of franchised bus operation is undertaken by TD's existing staff as part of their normal duties, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.
- (b) Franchised bus captains are commonly remunerated under a system of basic salaries plus bonuses awarded to encourage safe driving. As the monitoring of the safety of franchised bus operation is undertaken by TD's existing staff as part of their normal duties, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)106**

Question Serial No.

3003

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)107**

Question Serial No.

3004

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the construction of the Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL), will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) of the estimated expenditure and the manpower required for the clearance of Choi Yuen Tsuen (CYT); and
- (b) whether assessments and studies have been conducted on the economic, cultural and conservation values of the CYT; if so, of the details; if not, the reasons for that?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) The estimated expenditure for the clearance of Choi Yuen Tsuen (CYT) is \$1,155 million, mainly for the use of compensation and ex-gratia allowance payment. Staff of the Lands Department involved in the clearance of CYT are also working on other projects. We do not have a separate account for the manpower required for the clearance exercise in relation to the Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL).
- (b) To cater for emergency rescue and normal operational requirements of the XRL, we have to resume land at CYT and its vicinity for the construction of an emergency rescue station and stabling sidings. The MTR Corporation Limited's consultants have examined the impact of various site proposals. The present alignment would affect around 500 villagers in CYT, which is the smallest number amongst the site proposals. The majority of land affected was agricultural land, a proportion of which was being used for open storage areas. Only common species of vegetation were found. Most of the structures in CYT were two-storey temporary houses erected on agricultural land. There were no community facilities such as ancestral halls, village offices and burial grounds inside CYT. Direct impact on known archaeological sites had also been avoided.

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)107**

Question Serial No.

3004

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)108**

Question Serial No.

3005

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the tram services, please advise this Committee on:

- (a) whether the Administration has explored and considered setting up a mechanism, which allows upward and downward adjustment for the rates of fares of tramways; and
- (b) whether the Hong Kong Tramways Limited (HKT) has been asked to preserve the outlook and characteristics of tram cars.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) Under the established arrangement, in assessing fare adjustment applications as regards tram services, we would consider a basket of factors, including, but not limited to, changes in macro-economic conditions, public acceptability, financial and service performance of the operator. Since the existing fare adjustment arrangement has proved to be effective, we consider it not necessary to introduce any changes to this arrangement.
- (b) HKT has been requested to preserve the outlook and characteristics of tram cars.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)109**

Question Serial No.

1373

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

The provision for the Director of Bureau's Office in 2010-11 is 18.6% higher than that for 2009-10.  
What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The provision for 2010-11 is \$1.9 million (18.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2009-10. This is mainly due to the provision required for filling the position of Political Assistant.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)110**

Question Serial No.

1374

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the planning of the Shatin and Central Link (SCL), will the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (a) the current progress of the planning;
- (b) the timetable for milestones of the rail link; and
- (c) the consultation exercises to be conducted by the Administration in various districts for the SCL in 2010-11?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (a) We have carried out preliminary design of the railway project in parallel with public consultation since late 2008. The relevant District Councils and locals have raised some concerns on the alignment and design of various parts of the proposed railway scheme. We shall continue to engage the public for a thorough discussion on ways to address various public concerns. We will review and may modify the design where necessary and then gazette it under the Railways Ordinance.
- (b) The public has raised different views on certain parts of the SCL alignment and also some concerns that will affect the construction programme of the project, such as the availability of temporary works areas and the extent of excavation for the train stabling siding. The implementation programme will only be available when the railway scheme is finalised upon completion of the public engagement exercise.
- (c) We have started consultation with the District Councils and stakeholders since late 2008. In view of different public views and concerns on various parts of the proposed SCL, we shall continue to consult the District Councils and the locals on ways to address their concerns. We will also consult the community as a whole on this project this year.

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)110**

Question Serial No.

1374

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **FRANCIS HO** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **18 March 2010** \_\_\_\_\_



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)111**

Question Serial No.

1376

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

What is the progress on the consultancy on the rationalisation of the usage of the three road harbour crossings? When will the results be released?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The consultancy study on rationalising the utilisation of road harbour crossings is underway. The consultants are expected to submit the consultancy report in the first half of 2010. Upon receipt of the consultancy report, we will consider carefully the findings of the study and feasibility of the recommendations. We will share with the public the consultant's recommendations and listen to their views.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)112**

Question Serial No.

1377

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the review on the outlying island ferry services, please advise on the details and outcome of the review.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Government is conducting a review on the outlying island ferry services with a view to enhancing the long-term financial viability of these services and maintaining fare stability. Without compromising the principle of not providing direct subsidy for daily operation, we will study the long-term development of outlying islands ferry services. We aim to complete the review as soon as possible before the commencement of the next operating period in 2011.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)113**

Question Serial No.

1378

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development  
Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Please advise on the latest progress of the Airport Master Plan 2030 Study and provide details about the engineering and environmental feasibility of building a third runway.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Airport Authority (AA) has commissioned the Airport Master Plan 2030 Study to review the airport facilities with a view to maintaining the status and competitive edge of Hong Kong as an international and regional aviation centre, including consideration of whether to build a third runway. This study is ongoing and scheduled for completion this year. We are not in a position to provide the requested information at this stage.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)114**

Question Serial No.

1379

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Please advise on the details of the closer co-operation between the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) and Shenzhen International Airport; the progress of taking forward the planning of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line (WEL) in collaboration with the Shenzhen authorities, and the implementation timetable of the WEL.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The HKIA and Shenzhen International Airport have since 2008 implemented measures to facilitate transit passengers, such as the setting up of flight information panels, transit passenger counters and passenger lounges for transit passengers.

Regarding the proposed Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line (WEL), it is intended to be a multi-function cross-boundary railway. It will provide cross-boundary passengers with environmentally friendly and efficient railway services between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. It will also facilitate the development of the Northwest New Territories (NWNT) and Qianhai in Shenzhen. Through this railway project, we would also like to facilitate the cooperation between the two airports which may result in a win-win situation.

The preliminary feasibility study on the WEL has confirmed the technical feasibility. We have signed with the Shenzhen Municipal Government the “Cooperation Arrangement on Advancing WEL”, under which both parties agree to continue with the relevant in-depth studies on WEL. As one of the major functions of the WEL is to promote the development of Qianhai and NWNT, it is important for the design of the WEL to take into consideration the planning of these two areas. With the development of Qianhai and NWNT being pushed ahead, more planning parameters for these areas will be available. This will enable us to conduct in-depth studies on the WEL, and investigate various alignment options and their respective patronage forecasts, the functionality of the railway, its technical standards, operational and service requirements, etc. Upon completion of these studies, when we have more concrete information, we will consult the public, inviting the community to express views on the development of WEL.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)115**

Question Serial No.

1380

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Please advise on the work undertaken by the Administration for strengthening Hong Kong's status as an international and regional aviation centre in the past three years (i.e. 2007 to 2010), such as related policies and promotion programmes.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

To strengthen Hong Kong's status as an international and regional aviation centre, the Administration has –

- (a) continued to negotiate new air service agreements and review existing traffic arrangements with our aviation partners with a view to expanding Hong Kong's aviation network and allowing more competition in the market;
- (b) continued to work with the Airport Authority (AA) and the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) in enhancing the runway capacity of the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) and other airport facilities. For example, AA will carry out the mid-field expansion project to provide additional aircraft stands and apron facilities and a new passenger concourse in phases, having regard to the increase in the air traffic demand. The project can maximise the use of the two existing runways and increase the handling capacity of the airport to 70 million passengers and 6 million tonnes of cargo, which is expected to cope with air traffic demand up to 2020. The preliminary study on the project is ongoing and scheduled for completion this year;
- (c) continued to work with AA in the Airport Master Plan 2030 Study, which aims to review the airport facilities with a view to maintaining the status and competitive edge of Hong Kong as an international and regional aviation centre, including consideration of whether to build a third runway. The Study is ongoing and scheduled for completion this year;

- (d) continued to seek to rationalise and optimise the efficient use of the airspace in the Pearl River Delta region in partnership with the civil aviation authorities of the Mainland and Macao, and to open up more air routes to and from the Mainland;
- (e) taken forward the project to replace the existing air traffic control systems and develop a new CAD headquarters on the Airport Island; and
- (f) taken forward various legislative amendment exercises to ensure that our legal framework for regulating civil aviation is in line with international standards.

On promotion programmes, with the support of International Civil Aviation Organization, CAD has, from time to time, organised regional seminars and workshops on various topics on aviation such as aerodrome licensing, new navigation technology and security oversight. CAD also facilitated the hosting of exhibitions and conferences on aviation by other organisations in Hong Kong, such as the Asian Aerospace 2007 and 2009.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)116**

Question Serial No.

1381

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Please advise on the work undertaken and the results achieved by the Administration for promoting the development of the logistics sector in the past three years (i.e. 2007 to 2010), such as related policies and promotion programmes.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Government is committed to providing a favourable policy environment and necessary infrastructure to facilitate the development of the logistics sector. Highlights of major measures and achievements include : commencing the construction of the main bridge of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge in end 2009 to enhance Hong Kong's connectivity and expand our cargo hinterland, taking forward the initiative to promote the development of a logistics cluster in the Kwai Tsing area as announced in the 2009 Policy Address; and pressing ahead with the project to dredge the Kwai Tsing container basin and its approach channels to meet the draught requirement of new generation ultra-large container vessels. We have also maintained good communication with the Mainland authorities to promote the interests of the logistics sector. Separately, on the advice of the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council, projects aimed at promoting e-logistics, facilitating human resources development, and enhancing the profile of our logistics industry, etc have been conducted. For example, a pilot project to develop the On-Board Trucker Information System to enhance efficiency in fleet management and connectivity between truckers and stakeholders along the supply chain with a total project cost of \$7 million, and a sponsorship programme to promote the application of information technology by small and medium logistics service providers with a total project cost of \$2 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)117**

Question Serial No.

1471

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

It was mentioned that the Administration will continue to maintain policy overview regarding the development of the Lantau Logistics Park in 2010-11. Please provide details about the progress and timetable, and advise whether measures for developing Hong Kong into a regional wine distribution hub will be included.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

As announced by the Chief Executive in the 2009 Policy Address, the Administration will gradually release some permanent sites in the Kwai Tsing area, which has good access to both the port and airport, for the formation of a logistics cluster for high value-added logistics services and high-value goods. The first site is expected to be released in the second half of 2010. We believe prospective operators would respond to the development as they see fit, having regard to the market demand for services related to fine wines or other high-value goods. We shall in parallel keep in view the development of the Lantau Logistics Park. We shall take into account the need of the logistics sector, as well as the global and local economic situation, including market response to the aforementioned sites and how Hong Kong takes advantage of, and positions itself in, the rapid growth of the Mainland economy.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)118**

Question Serial No.

2473

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the consultations conducted or to be conducted under various programmes for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies (if any), please provide the relevant information in the following format:

For those consultations for which funds have been allocated in 2009-10, please provide information in the following format:

Title/ content of consultation	Revised estimate (\$)	Progress (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Mode (e.g. written submissions, forums, focus groups) and number of consultations, names of groups consulted and number of people consulted	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the findings of the consultations and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
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Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The major consultation exercises the Transport Branch carried out in 2009-10 to help formulate or assess major policies under the transport portfolio include the following:

<b>Title/ content of consultation</b>	<b>Revised estimate (\$)</b>	<b>Progress (under planning/ in progress/ completed)</b>	<b>Mode (e.g. written submissions, forums, focus groups) and number of consultations, names of groups consulted and number of people consulted</b>	<b>The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the findings of the consultations and their progress (if any)</b>	<b>If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?</b>
Review of Fare Adjustment Arrangement for Franchised Buses	Absorbed in the day to day operational expenses of THB.	Completed	Meetings and written communications with the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Transport, Transport Advisory Committee, and franchised bus operators	The Government has taken into account the feedback received in the review of the Fare Adjustment Arrangement for Franchised Buses.	Outcome of the review has been released in the form of a LegCo Brief and press releases in December 2009.
Legislative amendments to combat drink driving and other inappropriate driving behaviour	Absorbed in the day to day operational expenses of THB.	Completed	The parties consulted included Transport Advisory Committee, LegCo Panel on Transport and the transport trade.	The general views collected from the consultation supported the proposed legislative amendments to be taken forward.	The legislative amendment proposals, which have taken into account the suggestions and views gathered from the community, will be introduced into the LegCo in 2009-10 legislative session.
Installation of speed limiter on public light buses through introduction of a new condition to vehicle licence and passenger service	Absorbed in the day to day operational expenses of THB.	Completed	The parties consulted included Transport Advisory Committee, LegCo Panel on Transport and the transport trade.	The general views collected from the consultation supported the installation of speed limiter on public light buses through the introduction of a new condition to vehicle licence and passenger service licence of	Transport Department (TD) has already notified registered owners and holders of passenger service licence of public light

Title/ content of consultation	Revised estimate (\$)	Progress (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Mode (e.g. written submissions, forums, focus groups) and number of consultations, names of groups consulted and number of people consulted	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the findings of the consultations and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
licence of public light buses				public light buses.	buses that the new condition will take effect from 7 June 2010. All public light buses will, from that date onwards, be required to be installed with a speed limiter approved by TD (within three months from the effective date of the new vehicle licence).
Proposals arising from Review of Air Transport (Licensing of Air Services) Regulations (Cap. 448 sub. leg. A)	To be absorbed in the day to day operational expenses of THB.	In progress	The consultation paper on the proposals was sent in late February 2010 to the relevant stakeholders (see the list at <i>Annex</i> ) for comments by end April 2010. The LegCo Panel on Economic Development will also be consulted on 29 March 2010.	Subject to the outcome of the consultation, we aim to submit the relevant legislative amendments to the Legislative Council in the fourth quarter of 2010.	N/A

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Permanent Secretary for  
Post Title Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 19 March 2010

## Annex

1. AHK Air Hong Kong Ltd.
2. Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd.
3. Hong Kong Dragon Airlines Ltd.
4. Hong Kong Airlines Ltd.
5. Hong Kong Express Airways Ltd.
6. Sky Shuttle Helicopters Ltd.
7. Heliservices (Hong Kong) Ltd.
8. Metrojet Ltd.
9. TAG Aviation Asia Ltd.
10. Airport Authority Hong Kong
11. Hongkong Association of Freight Forwarding and Logistics Limited
12. Hong Kong Shippers' Council
13. Consumer Council
14. Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong
15. Hong Kong Tourism Board
16. The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce
17. The Federation of Hong Kong Industries
18. The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce
19. The Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong
20. The Hong Kong Chinese Importers' and Exporters' Association
21. Aviation Policy and Research Center of the Chinese University of Hong Kong

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)119**

Question Serial No.

2474

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Are there any resources earmarked for conducting consultations in 2010-11? If yes, please provide the following information:

<b>Title/ content of consultation</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$)</b>	<b>Progress (under planning/ in progress/ completed)</b>	<b>Mode (e.g. written submissions, forums, focus groups) and number of consultations, names of groups consulted and number of people consulted</b>	<b>Will the findings be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2010-11 financial year? If no, what are the reasons?</b>

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

Consultation exercises planned to be carried out by the Transport Branch in 2010-11 for the purpose of formulating or assessing major policies under the transport portfolio include the following:

<b>Title/ content of consultation</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$)</b>	<b>Progress (under planning/ in progress/ completed)</b>	<b>Mode (e.g. written submissions, forums, focus groups) and number of consultations, names of groups consulted and number of people consulted</b>	<b>Will the findings be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2010-11 financial year? If no, what are the reasons?</b>
Consultancy on rationalising the utilisation of road harbour crossings	To be absorbed in the consultancy fee and day to day operational expenses of THB.	Under planning	Under planning	Under planning
Proposals to combat	To be absorbed	Under	Under planning	Under planning

<b>Title/ content of consultation</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$)</b>	<b>Progress (under planning/ in progress/ completed)</b>	<b>Mode (e.g. written submissions, forums, focus groups) and number of consultations, names of groups consulted and number of people consulted</b>	<b>Will the findings be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2010-11 financial year? If no, what are the reasons?</b>
drug driving	in the day to day operational expenses of THB.	planning		
Legislative proposals to enhance the safety of public light buses - to govern the installation of speed limiter, to stipulate the maximum running speed for public light buses, to specify the requirements of black box for newly registered public light buses, and to require applicants for public light bus driving licence to attend a pre-service training course	To be absorbed in the day to day operational expenses of THB.	Under planning	Under planning	Under planning
Review on Outlying Islands Ferry Services	To be absorbed in the day to day operational expenses of THB.	We plan to conduct the consultation in the second quarter of 2010.	We plan to consult the Legislative Council, the Transport Advisory Committee, Islands District Council and relevant stakeholders.	Yes, we aim to complete our review as soon as possible before the commencement of the next operating period in 2011.
Review on Grouping of Private Driving Instructors' (PDI) Licences	To be absorbed in the day to day operational expenses of THB.	Not yet started	The PDI trade will be consulted.	The trade will be kept informed of the outcome of the consultation.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)120**

Question Serial No.

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

2280

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport  
(3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Please set out the researches conducted for the transport policy portfolio in the past three years (i.e. 2007-08 to 2009-10), the expenditure involved and completion dates, the researches to be conducted in the next two years and their respective estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Project Title	Expenditure involved (\$ million)		Target completion date
	2007-08 to 2009-10	2010-11 to 2011-12	
Consultancy for the Review of Fare Adjustment Arrangement for Franchised Buses	1.3	--	2009-10 (completed)
Consultancy Services for Providing Expert Advice on Rationalising the Utilisation of Road Harbour Crossings	4.65	3.1	2010-11
Consultancy Study on Potential Re-provisioning Sites for Oil Depots Affected by the Proposed Port Development at Southwest Tsing Yi	2.3	4.7	2011-12

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)121**

Question Serial No.

2281

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

In the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision, it was mentioned that the provision for 2010-11 is \$1.9 million (18.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2009-10, which is mainly due to the provision required for filling the position of Political Assistant. In this connection, please advise on the progress of recruitment of the political assistant and the expected date of assumption of office.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

Regarding the filling of the outstanding positions of Under Secretaries and Political Assistants in the Government, our consistent position is that, if there are suitable candidates, such positions will be filled. If necessary, this could be done in phases.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)122**

Question Serial No.

2282

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11*, it was mentioned that the Administration will oversee the implementation of the Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL). In this connection, please advise how the Administration will oversee the implementation of the XRL to prevent cost overrun and delay as well as to reduce the impact on the public.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The construction of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) commenced in January 2010 and is scheduled for completion in 2015. The MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) was entrusted for the construction and commissioning of the XRL.

The Administration spares no effort in supervising implementation of the project. For cost and programme of the project, a Project Supervision Committee, which is chaired by a Highways Department (HyD) officer at Government Engineer level or above, will monitor the procurement activities, and post tender award cost control and resolution of contractual claims. HyD will also attend all meetings of the MTRCL Procurement Team and the Executive Tender Panel concerning the procurement of works and services for the XRL project, to assess all tenders received. Furthermore, consultants will be employed by HyD for monitoring and vetting MTRCL's work for XRL project, and advising the government on project expenditure and construction progress.

Various measures are adopted to minimise the impact on the public. Firstly, we will continue our consultation with the relevant District Councils on a regular basis and report the progress of the XRL project and consult them on matters arising from the project which are of general concern to the districts. Secondly, we will also issue newsletters on XRL project on a regular basis to inform the public of the progress of the XRL works and matters relevant to affected residents. Besides, ten Community Liaison Groups (CLGs) have been set up to facilitate our communication with the affected residents. The CLGs comprise representatives of the concerned and affected parties, such as local communities, residents, management offices and schools in the affected areas along the XRL alignment. The CLGs provide a useful forum for members to discuss issues in relation to the construction of the XRL with government representatives and the MTRCL in a face to face manner.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)123**

Question Serial No.

2283

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11*, it was mentioned that the Administration will continue to oversee the further planning and public consultation of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL), including the examination of project estimates. In this connection, please advise on the latest progress of the SCL project and the anticipated commencement date of the construction works.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

We have carried out preliminary design of the railway project in parallel with public consultation since late 2008. The relevant District Councils and locals have raised some concerns on the alignment and design of various parts of the proposed railway scheme. We shall continue to engage the public for a thorough discussion on ways to address various public concerns. We will review and may modify the design where necessary and then gazette it under the Railways Ordinance.

The public has raised different views on certain parts of the SCL alignment and also some concerns that will affect the construction programme of the project, such as the availability of temporary works areas and the extent of excavation for the train stabling siding. The implementation programme will only be available when the railway scheme is finalized upon completion of the public engagement exercise.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **FRANCIS HO** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)124**

Question Serial No.

2284

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11*, it was mentioned that the Administration will continue to review the outlying island ferry services with a view to enhancing the long-term financial viability of these services and maintaining fare stability. In this connection, please advise on the following: the latest progress of the review; the approaches and measures under examination and the anticipated completion date of the review.

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Government is conducting a review on the outlying island ferry services with a view to enhancing the long-term financial viability of these services and maintaining fare stability. Without compromising the principle of not providing direct subsidy for daily operation, we will study the long-term development of outlying islands ferry services. We aim to complete the review as soon as possible before the commencement of the next operating period in 2011.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)125**

Question Serial No.

2285

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11*, it was mentioned that the Administration will continue to work with the Airport Authority on the mid-field expansion project and complete the Airport Master Plan 2030 Study, which includes consideration of whether to build a third runway. Will the Administration inform this Committee of the latest progress of the study on whether to build a third runway; the preliminary intent of the Administration; and the anticipated date of completion of the feasibility study and when a decision on whether to build a third runway will be taken?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Airport Authority (AA) has commissioned the Airport Master Plan 2030 Study (the Study) to review the airport facilities with a view to maintaining the status and competitive edge of Hong Kong as an international and regional aviation centre, including consideration of whether to build a third runway. The study is ongoing and scheduled for completion this year. We are not in a position to provide the other requested information at this stage.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)126**

Question Serial No.

0470

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the studies conducted by consultants commissioned by the Bureau for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies (if any), please provide the relevant information in the following table for the public policy research projects and strategic public policy research projects funded in 2007-08 to 2009-10:

Name of Consultant	Project Title, Content and Purpose	Consultant Fee (\$)	Commencement Date	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

Name of Consultant	Project Title, Content and Purpose	Consultant Fee in 2007-08 to 2009-10	Commencement Date	Progress of Studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
Asia Consulting Group Limited	<p><b>Consultancy for the Review of Fare Adjustment Arrangement for Franchised Buses</b></p> <p><i>To advise on matters relating to the review of the fare adjustment arrangement for franchised buses.</i></p>	\$1.3 million	November 2008	Completed	The Government has taken into account comments of the consultant in the review of the Fare Adjustment Arrangement for Franchised Buses.	Key information of the consultancy report has been incorporated in the concerned paper submitted to the LegCo Panel on Transport in October 2009 and the concerned LegCo Brief issued on 8 December 2009.
Wilbur Smith Associates Limited	<p><b>Consultancy Services for Providing Expert Advice on Rationalising the Utilisation of Road Harbour Crossings (RHCs)</b></p> <p><i>To study the capacities for three RHCs, taking into account their geographic locations and capacity of the connecting road networks, and identify options feasible in transport, financial, organisational and legal terms.</i></p> <p><i>To identify feasible options to improve traffic distribution among the RHCs.</i></p>	\$ 4.65 million	November 2008	In progress	N/A	N/A
AECOM Asia Co. Ltd	<p><b>Consultancy Study on Potential Re-provisioning</b></p>	\$2.3 million	April 2009	In progress	N/A	N/A



Name of Consultant	Project Title, Content and Purpose	Consultant Fee in 2007-08 to 2009-10	Commencement Date	Progress of Studies (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
	<p><b>Sites for Oil Depots Affected by the Proposed Port Development at Southwest Tsing Yi</b></p> <p><i>To study the decommissioning, decontamination, reprovisioning and construction works for the affected oil depots at Southwest Tsing Yi.</i></p> <p><i>To identify potential reprovisioning sites for the affected oil depots and provide the related assessments on environmental impacts, hazards and traffic impacts.</i></p>					

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)127**

Question Serial No.

0471

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Are there any funds earmarked for conducting consultancy studies in 2010-11? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of Consultant	Project Title, Content and Purpose	Consultant Fee (\$)	Commencement Date	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in 2009-10? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

Name of Consultant	Project Title, Content and Purpose	Consultant Fee in 2010-11	Commencement Date	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in 2009-10? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
Wilbur Smith Associates Limited	<b>Consultancy Services for Providing Expert Advice on Rationalising the Utilisation of Road Harbour Crossings (RHCs)</b>  <i>To study the capacities for three RHCs, taking into account their</i>	\$ 3.1 million	November 2008	In progress	N/A

Name of Consultant	Project Title, Content and Purpose	Consultant Fee in 2010-11	Commencement Date	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in 2009-10? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
	<i>geographic locations and capacity of the connecting road networks, and identify options feasible in transport, financial, organisational and legal terms. To identify feasible options to improve traffic distribution among the RHCs.</i>				
AECOM Asia Co. Ltd	<p><b>Consultancy Study on Potential Reprovisioning Sites for Oil Depots Affected by the Proposed Port Development at Southwest Tsing Yi</b></p> <p><i>To study the decommissioning, decontamination, reprovisioning and construction works for the affected oil depots at Southwest Tsing Yi.</i></p> <p><i>To identify potential reprovisioning sites for the affected oil depots and provide the related assessments on environmental impacts, hazards and traffic impacts.</i></p>	\$3.3 million	April 2009	In progress	N/A

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)128**

Question Serial No.

1978

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) : 000-  
Transport and Housing Bureau Operational expenses  
(Transport Branch)

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the items listed below, please specify the amount of actual expenditure used in 2008-09 and 2009-10, as well as that reserved for 2010-11. Please also advise on the details and policy objectives of the activities concerned.

- (a) Expenditure incurred by local officials in undertaking duty visits, participating in exchange activities and attending meetings in the Mainland.
- (b) Expenditure on exchange activities, entertainment and meetings with Mainland officials and authorities in Hong Kong.
- (c) Expenditure incurred by local officials in undertaking duty visits, participating in exchange activities and attending meetings overseas.
- (d) Expenditure on exchange activities, entertainment and meetings with overseas officials and authorities in Hong Kong.

Asked by : Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply :

The actual expenditure in 2008-09 and 2009-10 and the estimated expenditure in 2010-11 on the activities concerned are as follow:

	2008-09 (\$M)	2009-10 (up to 28.2.2010) (\$M)	2010-11 (estimate) (\$M)
Expenditure on duty visits, exchange activities and meetings in the Mainland	0.180	0.636	0.682
Expenditure on exchange activities, entertainment and meetings with Mainland officials and authorities in Hong Kong	0.029	0.080	0.084
Expenditure on duty visits, exchange activities and meetings overseas	0.968	1.116	1.116
Expenditure on exchange activities, entertainment and meetings with overseas officials and authorities in Hong Kong	0.023	0.014	0.015

The primary objectives of meeting Mainland and overseas officials through goodwill visits, exchange activities or meetings are for the development, promotion and experience sharing on issues related to the transport portfolio.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)129**

Question Serial No.

0142

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

The Administration has indicated that it will continue to promote e-logistics in 2010-11. In this connection, please advise this Committee of:

- (a) the details of the measures implemented in 2009-10, the expenditure involved and the results achieved; and
- (b) the details of the specific measures proposed to be implemented in 2010-11, as well as the targets and timetable.

Asked by : Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina

Reply :

With the advice of the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council (LOGSCOUNCIL), the Administration has been promoting e-logistics through different projects. Major projects in 2009-10 include the Sponsorship Programme to Support Small and Medium Logistics Service Providers in Information Technology Applications (the Sponsorship Programme) and a pilot project to develop the On-board Trucker Information System (OBTIS). They are still ongoing with details set out below.

The Sponsorship Programme is to support small and medium logistics service providers (SMEs) in the application of information technology (IT). Five SMEs have been selected by a Judging Panel formed under LOGSCOUNCIL and each has been offered a sponsorship ranging from \$330,000 to \$500,000 to apply IT in the areas of warehouse management, cargo tracking, or cross docking system. Upon the completion of the Programme towards the end of this year, the five SMEs will help showcase the applications to fellow industry members.

OBTIS is an information and communications technology platform which aims at enhancing efficiency in fleet management and connectivity between truckers and stakeholders along the supply chain. A sponsorship of \$7 million was provided to the Hong Kong Productivity Council to implement the project. After the successful completion of the first phase of the pilot on testing the system's basic feature, the project is now in its second phase involving about 500 trucks for the testing of the integrated functions of the system and its connection with external parties until mid-2011.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)130**

Question Serial No.

0143

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Water Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under Programme (2), it was mentioned that the Administration will “assess options that are feasible to rationalise the usage of the three road harbour crossings”. Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) of the data on the actual usage of the three harbour crossings in the past three years (i.e. 2007 to 2010) and the comparison thereof;
- (b) of the meaning of “rational” usage and the criteria adopted; and
- (c) whether it is assessing any feasible options at this stage? If so, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina

Reply :

- (a) The actual usage (average daily vehicles) of the three harbour crossings (RHCs) in 2007, 2008 and 2009 and the comparison thereof are provided below:

	Cross-Harbour Tunnel	Eastern Harbour Crossing	Western Harbour Crossing
2007	122 926 (-0.8%)	64 005 (+4.9%)	48 816 (+10.0%)
2008	121 245 (-1.4%)	63 218 (-1.2%)	47 742 (-2.2%)
2009	121 422 (+0.1%)	62 987 (-0.4%)	48 222 (+1.0%)

*Figures in ( ) denote percentage change from previous year.*

- (b) The government has commissioned consultants to study how the traffic distribution among the RHCs can be improved. In very general terms, rational usage means that traffic congestion at the Cross Harbour Tunnel and connecting access roads should be significantly reduced if not eliminated, and that the usage of the other two tunnels, namely, Eastern Harbour Crossing and Western Harbour Crossing, should be enhanced, thereby sharing the burden on the Cross Harbour Tunnel and catching up with their respective capacity. In this process, the consultants take into account a number of considerations, including the capacity of the three RHCs; the capacity of their connecting roads; effective relativity of toll levels for the three RHCs; and traffic projection in the coming years, etc.



- (c) The Government will keep an open mind in considering various options that would enable the Government to implement more reasonable toll levels. Upon receipt of the consultancy report, we will consider carefully the findings of the study and feasibility of the recommendations. We will share with the public the consultant's recommendations and listen to their views.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)131**

Question Serial No.

3169

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

In Paragraph 11, it was mentioned that the Administration will continue to seek to rationalise and optimise the efficient use of the airspace in the Pearl River Delta region in partnership with the civil aviation authorities of the Mainland and Macao, and to open up more air routes to and from the Mainland. In this connection, please provide the following information:

- (a) the number of flights and passengers travelling between Hong Kong and the above-mentioned region per annum; and
- (b) the Mainland cities to which the Administration has plans to open up more air routes.

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) The number of flights and passengers travelling between Hong Kong and the Mainland in 2008 and 2009 are as follows:

Year	Number of flights	Number of passengers
2008	87 412	10 074 877
2009	79 046*	9 501 394*

\* *provisional figures*

- (b) The Civil Aviation Department will continue to collaborate with the civil aviation authorities of the Mainland and Macao to establish additional civil air routes for flights operating to and from the Mainland.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)132**

Question Serial No.

3170

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development  
Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

With regard to overseeing the preliminary feasibility study for Container Terminal 10 (CT 10) at Southwest Tsing Yi, and the dredging works for the Kwai Tsing Container Basin and its approach, please provide the following information:

- (a) the resources and manpower earmarked for the CT 10 study;
- (b) whether a timetable has been set for the above study; and
- (c) the maximum handling capacity of Hong Kong in terms of Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) of containers per annum.

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) The Preliminary Feasibility Study (PFS) for CT 10 at Southwest Tsing Yi is being undertaken by a consultant. The estimated expenditure in 2010-11 is \$4.6 million.
- (b) The PFS commenced in March 2009 and will be completed in 2011.
- (c) The nine container terminals at the Kwai Tsing container port have an estimated total capacity of about 19 million TEUs per annum. Further capacities for handling containers are provided by mid-stream operations and other private berths.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)133**

Question Serial No.

0397

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11*, the Transport and Housing Bureau has mentioned that it will complete the Airport Master Plan 2030 Study, which includes consideration of whether to build a third runway. Will the Administration inform this Committee:

- (a) as the study on the building of a third runway has commenced for some time, of the preliminary findings;
- (b) of the projected capacity of a third runway and the implementation timetable;
- (c) of the projected construction cost; and
- (d) if a third runway is not to be built, how can the growing demand of air traffic be coped with?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

It is mentioned under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11* that the Transport and Housing Bureau will continue to work with the Airport Authority (AA) on the mid-field expansion project and complete the Airport Master Plan 2030 Study (the Study), which includes consideration of whether to build a third runway. The Study, commissioned by the AA, aims to review the airport facilities with a view to maintaining the status and competitive edge of Hong Kong as an international and regional aviation centre. The Study is ongoing and scheduled for completion this year. We are not in a position to provide the requested information at this stage.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)134**

Question Serial No.

0398

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11*, the Transport and Housing Bureau has mentioned that it will take forward the planning of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line (WEL) in collaboration with the Shenzhen authorities. In this connection, please advise on:

- (a) the anticipated completion date of the planning of the rail link and the expenditure involved;
- (b) the implementation timetable of the WEL;
- (c) the projected capacity, journey time, frequency and patronage of the WEL; and
- (d) how the construction cost and future operating expenses will be shared between Hong Kong and Shenzhen.

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

Major railways projects involve huge investment and have significant socio-economic impacts, and hence demand detailed and careful planning. This often takes several years or even a longer period of time.

The proposed Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line (WEL) is intended to be a multi-function cross-boundary railway. It will provide cross-boundary passengers with environmentally friendly and efficient railway services between Hong Kong and Shenzhen. It will also facilitate the development of the Northwest New Territories (NWNT) and Qianhai in Shenzhen. Through this railway project, we would also like to facilitate the cooperation between the two airports which may result in a win-win situation.

The preliminary feasibility study on the WEL has confirmed the technical feasibility. We have signed with the Shenzhen Municipal Government the "Cooperation Arrangement on Advancing WEL", under which both parties agree to continue with the relevant in-depth studies on WEL. As one of the major functions of the WEL is to promote the development of Qianhai and NWNT, it is important for the design of the WEL to take into consideration the planning of these two areas. With the development of Qianhai and NWNT being pushed ahead, more planning parameters for these areas will be available. This will enable us to conduct in-depth studies on the WEL, and investigate various alignment options and their respective patronage forecasts, the functionality of the railway, its technical standards,

operational and service requirements, etc. Upon completion of these studies, when we have more concrete information, we will consult the public, inviting the community to express views on the development of WEL.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)135**

Question Serial No.

0767

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Will the Administration inform this Committee whether new air services agreements will be concluded in the 2010-11 financial year to expand Hong Kong's passenger and cargo air services network? What are the targets for further liberalising our air services regime with aviation partners?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

In the 2010-11 financial year, the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) plans to negotiate new air services agreements with a number of aviation partners, including Azerbaijan, Tanzania, Argentina and Venezuela. THB also plans to negotiate with other aviation partners including Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Turkey, Italy, France, India etc. with a view to liberalising the bilateral air services regime, and to discuss with the Mainland further expansion of the existing air services arrangements.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)136**

Question Serial No.

0768

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11*, the Administration has mentioned that it will complete the Airport Master Plan 2030 Study, which includes consideration of whether to build a third runway. Please advise on the progress of the study, the expenditures involved, the anticipated date of announcement of the findings and the timetable for building the third runway.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The Airport Authority (AA) has commissioned, using its own funding, the Airport Master Plan 2030 Study (the Study) to review the airport facilities with a view to maintaining the status and competitive edge of Hong Kong as an international and regional aviation centre. The study is ongoing and scheduled for completion this year. At this stage, we are not in a position to advise on the timetable for the third runway project.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)137**

Question Serial No.

0769

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development  
Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11*, the Administration has mentioned that it will continue to work with the Airport Authority on initiatives that will ensure adequate airport capacity, further improve airport services and enhance the airport's connectivity and competitiveness. In this connection, please advise on the details, progress and implementation timetable of the initiatives, as well as whether there will be any new initiatives and the resources involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

We are pursuing the ongoing initiatives. Specifically, with the progressive increase of the runway capacity to 68 movements per hour by 2015, the Airport Authority (AA) will carry out a midfield expansion project to provide additional aircraft stands and apron facilities and a new passenger concourse. The project can maximise the use of the two existing runways and increase the handling capacity of the airport to 70 million passengers and 6 million tonnes of cargo, which is expected to cope with air traffic demand up to 2020. The preliminary study on the project will be completed in 2010. The above facilities will be provided in phases, having regard to the increase in the air traffic demand.

Moreover, the Airport Master Plan 2030 Study, which aims to review the airport facilities with a view to maintaining the status and competitive edge of Hong Kong as an international and regional aviation centre including consideration of whether to build a third runway, is ongoing and scheduled for completion this year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **FRANCIS HO**

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)138**

Question Serial No.

0770

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

It was mentioned that the Administration will seek to rationalise and optimise the efficient use of the airspace in the Pearl River Delta region in partnership with the civil aviation authorities of the Mainland and Macao, and to open up more air routes to and from the Mainland. In this connection, please advise on the progress made, the targets for this year (i.e. 2010-11) and the resources involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The co-ordination between the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) and the neighbouring civil aviation authorities of the Mainland and Macao mainly involves the development of short term and long term measures to enhance the airspace design and increase air route capacities. Enhancement measures are being developed in phases based on the principles of joint airspace planning, use of common standards and harmonised flight procedure design.

The co-ordination has made steady progress with various measures implemented in phases. Through the collaborative efforts of Hong Kong CAD, the Civil Aviation Administration of China and the Macao Civil Aviation Authority, an additional handover point and a corresponding air route have been established between the Guangzhou and Hong Kong Flight Information Regions to cater for flights overflying Hong Kong and landing in Guangzhou. The initiative has enhanced the air route capacities for flights operating to and from northern China.

In addition, a set of shortened arrival routes for aircraft from the west and north of Hong Kong was also introduced in October 2009. Since then, each flight arriving Hong Kong from the Mainland, Southeast Asia or Europe using the new routes has been able to save up to about 210 km in flight journey or 14 minutes in flight time.

As regards the long-term airspace and air traffic management planning, the Hong Kong CAD, the Civil Aviation Administration of China and the Macao Civil Aviation Authority have established a special working group to optimise regional airspace design, standardise interface and protocols of air traffic control systems, and establish additional civil air routes for flights operating to and from the Mainland.

The above co-ordination work is undertaken by CAD's existing staff as part of their normal duties and there is no additional resources involved.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the promotion of e-logistics, please advise on the estimated expenditure, the work involved and the targets in 2010-11.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

With the advice of the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council (LOGSCOUNCIL), the Administration has been promoting e-logistics through different projects. In 2010-11, we shall continue with the implementation of two major projects, namely the Sponsorship Programme to Support Small and Medium Logistics Service Providers in Information Technology Applications (the Sponsorship Programme) and a pilot project to develop the On-board Trucker Information System (OBTIS) with details set out below.

The Sponsorship Programme is to support small and medium logistics service providers (SMEs) in the application of information technology (IT). The five SMEs which have been selected by a Judging Panel formed under LOGSCOUNCIL for a sponsorship ranging from \$330,000 to \$500,000 each are carrying out projects to apply IT in the areas of warehouse management, cargo tracking, or cross docking system. Upon the completion of the Sponsorship Programme towards the end of this year, the five SMEs will help showcase the applications to fellow industry members.

OBTIS is an information and communications technology platform which aims at enhancing efficiency in fleet management and connectivity between truckers and stakeholders along the supply chain. A sponsorship of \$7 million was provided to the Hong Kong Productivity Council to implement the project. After successful completion of the first phase of the pilot on the testing of the system's basic feature, the project is now in its second phase involving about 500 trucks for the testing of the integrated functions of the system and its connection with external parties until mid-2011.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)140**

Question Serial No.

1944

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

It was mentioned that the Transport and Housing Bureau will continue to maintain policy overview regarding the development of the Lantau Logistics Park (LLP) in 2010-11. In this connection, please advise on:

- (a) the progress of the overview at this stage;
- (b) the timetable for the development of the LLP; and
- (c) the resources and expenditures earmarked for studies on the development of the LLP.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

As announced by the Chief Executive in the 2009 Policy Address, the Administration will gradually release some permanent sites in the Kwai Tsing area, which has good access to both the port and airport, for the formation of a logistics cluster for high value-added logistics services and high-value goods. The first site is expected to be released in the second half of 2010. We shall in parallel keep in view the development of the Lantau Logistics Park. We shall take into account the need of the logistics sector, as well as the global and local economic situation, including market response to the aforementioned sites and how Hong Kong takes advantage of, and positions itself in, the rapid growth of the Mainland economy.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)141**

Question Serial No.

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

1945

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Please advise on the progress of the pilot project on the On-Board Trucker Information System, and the resources earmarked for the project in this financial year (i.e. 2010-11).

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

With the support of the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council, the Government sponsored the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) to implement a pilot project to develop the On-board Trucker Information System (OBTIS). The first phase of the pilot project for the testing of the system's basic feature was completed in June 2008. The project is now in its second phase involving about 500 trucks for the testing of the integrated functions of the system and its connection with external parties until mid-2011. In parallel, HKPC has been following up on the connection of OBTIS to key operators of the supply chain to further enhance the connectivity and the functionality of the system. By way of example, OBTIS is now connected to Hong Kong Air Cargo Terminals Limited and OnePort Limited.

A one-off sponsorship of \$7 million was provided to HKPC in 2006 for the pilot project. HKPC has earmarked about \$4 million in 2010-11 for project implementation including further enhancements.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)142**

Question Serial No.

1946

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11*, it was mentioned that the Transport Branch will continue to enhance its collaboration with the Guangdong authorities over cross-boundary freight flow. Please elaborate on the specific plans and details of the work, as well as the resources involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

In 2010-11, we will continue to liaise closely with the Guangdong authorities, through platforms such as the Hong Kong-Guangdong Cooperation Joint Conference and established customs cooperation mechanism, to enhance the efficiency of cross-boundary freight. The above work will be undertaken by our existing staff as part of their normal duties under Programme (3) and there is no separate breakdown on the resources involved. In parallel, we will continue to press ahead with the implementation of infrastructure projects to further enhance cross-boundary connectivity, such as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)143**

Question Serial No.

1947

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11*, it was mentioned that the Transport Branch will oversee the preliminary feasibility study for Container Terminal 10 at Southwest Tsing Yi. Please advise on the details and timetable of the study, including the date of completion of the study and announcement of the findings, as well as the expenditures involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The consultancy study on Preliminary Feasibility Study (PFS) for Container Terminal 10 at Southwest Tsing Yi commenced in March 2009 aims to assess the engineering feasibility and environmental acceptability for the proposed container terminal development at Southwest Tsing Yi. When the PFS is completed in 2011, the study findings will be available. The estimated expenditure in 2010-11 is \$4.6 million.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)144**

Question Serial No.

1948

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) : 700 -  
Transport and Housing Bureau General non-recurrent  
(Transport Branch)

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under *Subhead 700 General non-recurrent*, the revised estimate for 2009-10 is \$5,065,000, which is 4.5 times higher than the approved estimate of \$1,124,000. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The revised estimate for 2009-10 for *Subhead 700 General non-recurrent* is \$5,065,000. The increase of \$3,941,000 over the approved estimate for 2009-10 is mainly due to the increased cashflow requirements for two new items, namely item 928 “Consultancy study on potential repositioning sites for oil depots affected by the proposed port development at Southwest Tsing Yi” and item 934 “One-off grant to MTR Corporation Limited for setting up fare concession scheme to persons with disabilities”<sup>1</sup>, partly offset by reduced cashflow requirements for other items.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

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<sup>1</sup> MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) announced in May 2009 its decision to offer fare concessions to persons with disabilities (PwDs) who are recipients of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme aged between 12 and 64 with 100% disability and recipients of Disability Allowance (DA) in the same age group. In order to facilitate smooth implementation of the fare concession scheme, a one-off grant of \$2 million would be provided to sponsor part of MTRCL's costs in implementing and promoting the scheme.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)145**

Question Serial No.

1949

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (1) Director of Bureau's Office

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under this Programme, the provision for 2010-11 is \$1.9 million (18.6%) higher than the revised estimate for 2009-10, which is mainly due to the provision required for filling the position of Political Assistant. However, the term of office of all political assistants appointed under the Accountability System on non-civil service terms since 2008 will end on 30 June 2012, i.e. half of their term of office has elapsed. When will the Administration decide on the candidate? Please advise on how the increased provision will be used.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

Regarding the filling of the outstanding positions of Under Secretaries and Political Assistants in the Government, our consistent position is that, if there are suitable candidates, such positions will be filled. If necessary, this could be done in phases.

In the 2010-11 Estimates, a provision of \$1.86 million has been earmarked under Head 158 for filling the position of Political Assistant in the bureau.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Permanent Secretary for  
Post Title Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)146**

Question Serial No.

1950

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11*, it was mentioned that the Transport Branch will continue to review the outlying island ferry services. In this connection, please advise on the following: the details of the review; the latest progress of the studies on enhancing the long-term financial viability of these services and maintaining fare stability; the anticipated announcement date of the results of the review and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The Government is conducting a review on the outlying island ferry services with a view to enhancing the long-term financial viability of these services and maintaining fare stability. Without compromising the principle of not providing direct subsidy for daily operation, we will study the long-term development of outlying islands ferry services. We aim to complete the review as soon as possible before the commencement of the next operating period in 2011. The review is undertaken by the existing staff as part of their normal duties and the expenditure involved is included in the overall provision.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)147**

Question Serial No.

1951

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11*, it was mentioned that the Transport Branch will assess options that are feasible to rationalise the usage of the three road harbour crossings (RHCs) in the light of the recommendation of the consultancy study. In this connection, please inform this Committee of the following: the progress of the assessment on the recommendations; whether any measures will be introduced in this financial year to make the usage of the three RHCs more balanced; if so, of the details; if not, of the earliest date the new measures will be implemented; and the estimated expenditure on the assessment.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The Government has commissioned a consultancy study on rationalising the utilisation of road harbour crossings with a view to identifying options feasible in transport, financial, legal and organisation terms. The consultancy fee is \$7.75 million. The consultants are expected to submit the consultancy report in the first half of 2010. Upon receipt of the consultancy report, we will consider carefully the findings of the study and feasibility of the recommendations, including the provision and timetable for implementing the recommendations. We will share with the public the consultant's recommendations and listen to their views.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)148**

Question Serial No.

0591

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11*, the Administration will seek to rationalise and optimise the efficient use of the airspace in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region. In this connection, please advise on:

- (a) the details of the studies conducted, the results, the expenditure involved and the anticipated completion dates; and
- (b) the impact on Hong Kong after the airspace in the PRD region has been optimised.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

- (a) The Civil Aviation Department (CAD) and the civil aviation authorities of the Mainland and Macao have established a special working group to optimise regional airspace design and to standardise interface and protocols of air traffic control systems. The working group has formulated an integrated plan based on the principles of joint airspace planning, use of common standards and harmonised flight procedure design. The plan encompasses a set of short- and long-term measures for implementation until 2020 to rationalise airspace design, enhance flight levels distribution, standardise interface and protocols of air traffic control systems, and establish additional air routes for flights operating to and from the Mainland.

The Working Group is currently working on various measures according to the plan, including a feasibility study on creating an additional handover point and to establish additional civil air routes for flights overflying the Hong Kong Flight Information Region and operating to and from the Mainland; and a study on the possible means to enhance the co-ordination process for departure flights and exchange of air traffic services information among the PRD airports.

The above work is undertaken by CAD's existing staff as part of their normal duties in air traffic management and there is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.

- (b) At present, our target is to increase progressively the runway capacity to 68 movements per hour by 2015. After the airspace in the PRD region has been optimised, there will be a possibility of further increasing the runway capacity.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)149**

Question Serial No.

0592

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development  
Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11*, the Administration will oversee the development of a new departmental building of the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) on the Airport Island. In this connection, please advise on:

- (a) the expenditure involved and the anticipated completion date; and
- (b) the impact and influence on the overall operational efficiency and smooth working of the CAD upon completion of the new departmental building.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

- (a) The total project cost of the new CAD headquarters, under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 703, is estimated to be \$1.997 billion and the cashflow forecast on the project in 2010-11 is \$350 million. The cost of the replacement of the air traffic control (ATC) system under the Capital Works Reserve Fund Head 708 is estimated to be \$1.565 billion, and the provision required in 2010-11 is \$288 million. The new CAD headquarters building is expected to be completed by the fourth quarter of 2012.
- (b) The new CAD headquarters on the Airport Island will house the new ATC system and centralise the various functional divisions of CAD which are at present scattered in four different locations. A co-located CAD headquarters will enhance productivity and improve the services to the aviation industry. The provision of enhanced facilities for aircraft accident investigation as well as the holding of international and regional aviation conferences should also help strengthen Hong Kong's position as a leading international and regional aviation centre.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)150**

Question Serial No.

0593

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11*, the Administration will continue with the review of the regulatory regime of the Air Transport Licensing Authority (ATLA). In this connection, please advise on:

- (a) the expenditure involved and the progress made; and
- (b) the expenditure on implementing the initiatives arising from the review, the progress made and the anticipated completion dates.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

- (a) We have conducted the review of the ATLA's regulatory regime using in-house resources without engaging a consultant. Upon completion of the review, we issued a consultation paper to the relevant stakeholders in late February 2010 to seek their comments on the proposals arising from the review. We will also consult the Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development on 29 March 2010 on this matter.
- (b) Subject to the outcome of such consultation, we will firm up the proposals to be implemented and the expenditure involved. As the implementation of the proposals requires legislative amendments, we aim to submit the relevant legislative amendments to the Legislative Council in the fourth quarter of 2010.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **FRANCIS HO** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **18 March 2010** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)151**

Question Serial No.

0594

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development  
Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the promotion of e-logistics, please advise on:

- (c) the progress of work undertaken by the Government in 2009-10, the expenditure involved and the results achieved; and
- (d) the work plans, targets and estimated expenditure in 2010-11.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

With the advice of the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council (LOGSCOUNCIL), the Administration has been promoting e-logistics through different projects. Major projects in 2009-10 include the Sponsorship Programme to Support Small and Medium Logistics Service Providers in Information Technology Applications (the Sponsorship Programme) and a pilot project to develop the On-board Trucker Information System (OBTIS). They are still ongoing with details set out below.

The Sponsorship Programme is to support small and medium logistics service providers (SMEs) in the application of information technology (IT). Five SMEs have been selected by a Judging Panel formed under LOGSCOUNCIL and each has been offered a sponsorship ranging from \$330,000 to \$500,000 to apply IT in the areas of warehouse management, cargo tracking, or cross docking system. Upon the completion of the Sponsorship Programme towards the end of this year, the five SMEs will help showcase the applications to fellow industry members.

OBTIS is an information and communications technology platform which aims at enhancing efficiency in fleet management and connectivity between truckers and stakeholders along the supply chain. A sponsorship of \$7 million was provided to the Hong Kong Productivity Council to implement the project. After the successful completion of the first phase of the pilot on testing the system's basic feature, the project is now in its second phase involving about 500 trucks for the testing of the integrated functions of the system and its connection with external parties until mid-2011.

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)151**

Question Serial No.

0594

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)152**

Question Serial No.

0595

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

With respect to maintaining policy overview regarding the development of the Lantau Logistics Park, please advise on the progress, the expenditure involved, the preliminary findings and the anticipated completion date.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

As announced by the Chief Executive in the 2009 Policy Address, the Administration will gradually release some permanent sites in the Kwai Tsing area, which has good access to both the port and airport, for the formation of a logistics cluster for high value-added logistics services and high-value goods. The first site is expected to be released in the second half of 2010. We shall in parallel keep in view the development of the Lantau Logistics Park. We shall take into account the need of the logistics sector and the global and local economic situation, including market response to the aforementioned sites and how Hong Kong takes advantage of, and positions itself in, the rapid growth of the Mainland economy.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)153**

Question Serial No.

1863

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

With respect to the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, has the Administration explored and considered reserving space on the bridge to allow for the provision of a railway on the bridge to connect to the railway between Zhuhai and Guangzhou? If so, what is the progress and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

The possibility of incorporating a railway into the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge was critically examined from different perspectives (including demand forecast, engineering requirements, the existing and planned railway network in the region, etc.) during the feasibility study stage. The outcome revealed that it would not be possible to accommodate both a freight rail and the road in the same alignment as the gradient of the former is considerably more demanding. Moreover, as Tsing Ma Bridge was not designed for freight rail loadings, cargoes would need to be reloaded onto trucks in Lantau before transportation to Kwai Chung container terminals or other urban areas, which will be inconvenient and inefficient. Moreover, the incorporation of railways into the HZMB would significantly increase the project cost but not the passenger flow. Having regard to these constrains, it was finally decided not to incorporate a railway into the bridge.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **FRANCIS HO**

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)154**

Question Serial No.

1864

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the studies on the building of a third runway at the Hong Kong International Airport, please provide details about the studies conducted in the past three years (i.e. 2007-08 to 2009-10) and the expenditure involved, as well as the work plan, targets and estimated expenditure in 2010-11.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

Consideration of whether to build a third runway is part of the Airport Master Plan 2030 Study (the Study) which has been commissioned and funded by the Airport Authority (AA), and no resources are earmarked under Head 158. The Study, which seeks to review the airport facilities with a view to maintaining the status and competitive edge of Hong Kong as an international and regional aviation centre, is ongoing and scheduled for completion this year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **FRANCIS HO**

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_  
Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)155**

Question Serial No.

0503

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the provision of \$46 million for Programme (3), how much resources will be used to seek to rationalise and optimise the efficient use of the airspace in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region in partnership with the civil aviation authorities of the Mainland and Macao, and to open up more air routes to and from the Mainland? In the context of the co-operation, will the authorities explore the possibility of providing more helicopter services between Hong Kong and the Mainland?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwan-yuen, Andrew

Reply :

With regard to the ongoing work associated with the rationalisation of the PRD airspace, it will primarily be undertaken by the Civil Aviation Department's existing staff as part of their normal duties in air traffic management whereas the Transport and Housing Bureau will have policy oversight. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.

For cross-boundary helicopter services, commercial helicopter operators in Hong Kong are allowed to operate cross-boundary helicopter services between Hong Kong and the Shenzhen Airport. We expect the demand for cross-boundary helicopter services will mainly be coming from services between Hong Kong and other PRD destinations in the future, and will continue to pursue with the relevant Mainland authorities with a view to providing room for operators to develop such services.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **FRANCIS HO** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **18 March 2010** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)156**

Question Serial No.

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

1074

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

- (a) Regarding the consultancy on the rationalisation of the usage of the three road harbour crossings conducted in 2009-10, please advise on the progress made; when the study would be completed and the results announced; its contents and expenditure.
- (b) Regarding the review on the outlying island ferry services commenced in 2009-10, please advise on the contents, methodology adopted, progress made, the way forward and the expenditures involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) The consultancy study on rationalising the utilisation of road harbour crossings is underway. The consultants are required to study the capacities for three road harbour crossings, taking into account their geographic locations and capacity of the connecting road networks, and identify options feasible in transport, financial, organisational and legal terms. The consultancy fee is \$7.75 million. The consultants are expected to submit the consultancy report in the first half of 2010. Upon receipt of the consultancy report, we will consider carefully the findings of the study and feasibility of the recommendations. We will share with the public the consultant's recommendations and listen to their views.
- (b) The Government is conducting a review on the outlying island ferry services with a view to enhancing the long-term financial viability of these services and maintaining fare stability. Without compromising the principle of not providing direct subsidy for daily operation, we will study the long-term development of outlying islands ferry services. We aim to complete the review as soon as possible before the commencement of the next operating period in 2011. The review is undertaken by the existing staff as part of their normal duties and the expenditure involved is included in the overall provision.



Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)156**

Question Serial No.

1074

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **FRANCIS HO** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport)** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **18 March 2010** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)157**

Question Serial No.

1028

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat : Subhead (No. & title) :  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
(Transport Branch)

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing  
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

As regards promoting e-logistics, please advise on the following: the progress of working with the logistics industry to promote e-logistics; the difficulties encountered, in particular how the Administration will deal with the technical aspects related to information technology; the estimated expenditure on promoting e-logistics in 2010-11; the specific projects and manpower arrangements involved; and the earliest date for logistics services to be fully electronic.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply :

With the advice of the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council (LOGSCOUNCIL), the Administration has been promoting e-logistics through different projects. The logistics sector of Hong Kong comprises primarily small and medium-sized enterprises (SME providers), which have relatively limited initiative in and resources for the application of information technology (IT). Taking into account such industry profile, we have introduced the Sponsorship Programme to Support Small and Medium Logistics Service Providers in Information Technology Applications (the Sponsorship Programme) and a pilot project to develop the On-board Trucker Information System (OBTIS) to promote the application of IT. These projects are still ongoing with details set out below.

The Sponsorship Programme is to support SME providers in IT application. Five SME providers have been selected by a Judging Panel formed under LOGSCOUNCIL and each has been offered a sponsorship ranging from \$330,000 to \$500,000 to apply IT in the areas of warehouse management, cargo tracking, or cross docking system. Upon the completion of the Sponsorship Programme towards the end of this year, the five SME providers will help showcase the applications to fellow industry members.

OBTIS is an information and communications technology platform which aims at enhancing efficiency in fleet management and connectivity between truckers and stakeholders along the supply chain. A sponsorship of \$7 million was provided to the Hong Kong Productivity Council to implement the project. After the successful completion of the first phase of the pilot on testing the system's basic feature, the project is now in its second phase involving about 500 trucks for the testing of the integrated functions of the system and its connection with external parties until mid-2011.

Internal resources have been deployed to manage the aforementioned projects. Looking ahead, the Administration will continue with its effort to encourage the logistics sector to adopt IT in their operations to enhance efficiency and competitiveness.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ FRANCIS HO \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Permanent Secretary for  
Transport and Housing (Transport) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 18 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)158**

Question Serial No.

1904

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the traffic accident black spots (TABs) in Hong Kong, please provide the following information:

- (a) the improvement works carried out by the Government in the past three years (i.e. 2007-08 to 2009-10) to the TABs, the expenditure involved and the results achieved;
- (b) the improvement works to be carried out in 2010-11 and the estimated expenditure; and
- (c) whether studies have been conducted by the Government on the installation of red light cameras at the TABs with serious red light jumping problem; if so, what is the progress of the studies and the expenditures involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) For the past three years (i.e. 2007-08 to 2009-10), the improvement works carried out by the Administration at traffic accident black spots include-
  - (i) adding traffic light signals or improving the method of control for existing traffic light signals;
  - (ii) enhancing facilities for the motorists, e.g. laying anti-skidding materials, constructing central dividers/crash barriers, and adding traffic signs/road markings; and
  - (iii) enhancing facilities for the pedestrians, e.g. adding pedestrian crossings, erecting railings and widening footpaths.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)158**

Question Serial No.

1904

The costs for the above works were about \$7.5 million. About 80% of the traffic accident black spots with improvement works carried out in 2007 and 2008 were no longer traffic accident black spots in 2009. The effectiveness of the improvement works implemented in 2009 could only be assessed at a later stage.

- (b) In 2010-11, the Administration will continue to carry out improvement works at traffic accident black spots. The works will mainly be similar to those outlined in paragraph (a) above. The estimated expenditure is about \$2.5 million.
- (c) In 2008, the Administration conducted a review on the installation of red light cameras (RLC) at locations where red light jumping activities were observed to be worsened or where there were records of accidents caused by red light jumping. In the light of the results of the review, 24 new RLCs are now being installed for completion in late 2010. The review was conducted by internal resource without additional expenditure.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 17 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)159**

Question Serial No.

1908

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding studies and surveys for comprehensive transport planning, provide the following details:

- (a) the number of studies and surveys conducted in the past two years (i.e. 2008-09 to 2009-10); the progress and expenditure involved; as well as the follow-up actions taken by Transport Department on the results of the studies and surveys; and
- (b) the number of studies and surveys to be commenced in 2010-11, and the estimated expenditure and objective for each of them.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

- (a) The main studies/surveys conducted in the past two years for comprehensive transport planning are:

<b>Study/Survey</b>	<b>Project Cost \$M</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Follow-up actions taken</b>
Congestion Charging Transport Model – Feasibility Study	5.94	Completed	The Transport Model developed will be applied to test the effect of different charging scenarios in future when necessary.
Consultancy Study on Regulatory Arrangements for Cross-boundary Vehicles Upon the Commissioning of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB)	1.28	Completed	Findings are referred to in the development of regulatory arrangements for cross-boundary vehicles in the run-up to the commissioning of HZMB.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)159**

Question Serial No.

1908

<b>Study/Survey</b>	<b>Project Cost \$M</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Follow-up actions taken</b>
Traffic Study for Mid-Levels Area	1.30	In progress	Findings will be taken into account in reviewing the Mid-Levels Moratorium for the area.
West Kowloon Reclamation Development Traffic Study	1.30	Completed	Findings are being taken forward for detailed investigation and implementation of road projects in the area.
Review of Parking Standards for Private Housing Developments in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines	0.75	In progress	Findings will be taken into account in the future review of the parking standards for private housing developments in the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines.
Study on the Planning of Public Transport Services and Facilities for New Boundary Control Points at Liantang / Heung Yuen Wai and HZMB	0.96	Completed	The findings are being used for developing public transport services and facilities for the new crossings at Liantang and HZMB.
Establishment of a Ranking System for Provision of Hillside Escalator Links/Elevator Systems	0.40	In progress	The established ranking system will be used to assess the public's proposals for the provision of hillside escalator links/elevator systems with a view to deciding on the priority for conducting technical feasibility studies on the proposals.
Strategic Highway Project Review 2009	N.A. (In-house study)	In progress	Findings will be adopted in the preliminary planning of strategic highway projects.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)159**

Question Serial No.

1908

(b) The following three studies will commence in 2010-11:

<b>Study/Survey</b>	<b>Estimate (\$)</b>	<b>Objectives</b>
Traffic Study for Admiralty-Feasibility Study	See note	To examine the arrangement of Admiralty public transport interchange upon the opening of future rail links connected to the area and the pedestrian linkages of Admiralty Station with its surrounding area.
Comprehensive Transport Study Model Enhancement – Feasibility Study	See note	To conduct the travel characteristic surveys in 2011 and to re-calibrate and enhance the comprehensive transport planning model.
Traffic and Transport Consultancy Study on Cycling Networks and Parking Facilities in Existing New Towns in Hong Kong	See note	To review the cycling track and cycle parking provision in existing new towns and to recommend improvement measures with the development of conceptual improvement plans.

Note: Studies are at tendering stage.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 18 March 2010



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)160**

Question Serial No.

1909

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In relation to the number of daily spot checks on franchised buses, please provide the following information :

- (a) the manpower establishment and the expenditure deployed for the daily spot check in the past year (i.e. 2009-10), and the detailed inspection procedures; and
- (b) whether the Transport Department (TD) will increase the number of daily spot checks of in-service franchised buses to enhance bus safety?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) In the past year, TD deployed three Motor Vehicle Examiners to conduct an average of 14 spot checks of in-service franchised buses per working day. The annual staff costs, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary, was about \$1.5 million.

TD staff randomly select in-service buses for spot check at different bus depots. The selected buses, after completion of their service trips, have to return to the concerned bus depot for TD's inspection. TD staff will go through all the inspection items as for the annual inspection, including braking system, suspension system, steering system, lighting system, body structure, seats and emission test. The bus companies have to rectify immediately any defects found for re-checking by TD staff before the buses are released back to service.

- (b) At present, there is no plan to increase the number of daily spot checks of in-service franchised buses. TD will continue to monitor the situation and review the arrangement as appropriate.



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)161**

Question Serial No.

1910

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Please advise on the details, expenditure and completion dates for the technical feasibility studies for pedestrian footbridge/subway proposals in Causeway Bay and Mong Kok, and the traffic and civil engineering feasibility studies for pedestrian environment improvement proposals in Yuen Long town.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

Details of the studies for improving the pedestrian environment in Causeway Bay, Mong Kok and Yuen Long town are as follows:

- (a) In March 2009, the Transport Department engaged consultants to carry out preliminary feasibility studies and schematic designs for a pedestrian subway system in Causeway Bay and for expanding the existing pedestrian footbridge system in Mong Kok. The consultancy fees are \$1.21 million and \$0.54 million for the Causeway Bay and Mong Kok studies respectively. The studies have investigated the feasibility of possible options for the proposed pedestrian systems and have incorporated the views of concerned District Councils (DCs) and Area Committees. The recommended options were presented to the Panel on Transport of the Legislative Council and the Transport Advisory Committee on 22 January 2010 and 5 February 2010 respectively. The two studies are expected to complete in April 2010.
- (b) As regards the pedestrian environment improvement scheme for Yuen Long Town, The Highways Department (HyD) commissioned a public engagement consultancy in May 2009 to gather public views on pedestrian environment problems and improvement measures. HyD also commissioned an engineering consultancy in September 2009 to formulate improvement measures taking into account public views gathered from public engagement exercise. The two consultancies cost \$1.0 million each. Upon completion of the consultancies by the end of 2010, HyD will work out implementation details and programme for further consulting the public and the relevant DC.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)161**

Question Serial No.

1910

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)162**

Question Serial No.

1911

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : During last year (i.e. 2009-10), what was the average time taken for the Transport Department (TD) to disseminate information on traffic and transport incidents to the public after it received reports of such incidents?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

When TD receives report on or comes to know of the occurrence of a traffic and transport incident, it will immediately verify the information with the Police or concerned parties before disseminating the information to the public.

Last year, TD took an average of about ten minutes to verify reports of incidents and disseminate the relevant information to the media for onward transmission to the public.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      **JOSEPH Y T LAI** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title      **Commissioner for Transport** \_\_\_\_\_

Date      **17 March 2010** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)163**

Question Serial No.

1347

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the licences for ferry services, please provide information:

- (a) The reasons for the substantial reduction in the number of new or extension of licences for ferry services to 15 in 2010 as compared with 92 in 2008 and 84 in 2009; and
- (b) Please list out the companies to which the estimated 15 new or extension of licences for ferry services are to be granted and the routes to be covered by such licences.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

(a) In the past, the licence period for kaito services was one year. Since 2009, the licence period was extended to two or three years to provide kaito service operators with a more stable operating environment. This accounts for, in the main, the substantial reduction in the estimated number of ferry service licences to be extended in 2010.

(b) The 15 ferry services and their licensees are shown in the table below:

	<b>Licences for ferry services</b>	<b>Licensees</b>
1	Kwun Tong – North Point (dangerous goods vehicular ferry service)	The Hongkong & Yaumati Ferry Co. Ltd.
2	Kwun Tong / North Point – Mui Wo (dangerous goods vehicular ferry service)	
3	Kwun Tong / North Point – Mui Wo (emergency vehicular ferry service)	

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)163**

Question Serial No.

1347

	<b>Licences for ferry services</b>	<b>Licensees</b>
4	Sha Tau Kok – Kat O	Kut O Village Rural Committee (Tung Lok House) Limited
5	Discovery Bay – Mui Wo	Peng Chau Kai To Ltd.
6	Wong Shek – Wan Tsai / Chek Keng	Tsui Wah Ferry Service (H.K.) Limited
7	Ma Liu Shui – Tung Ping Chau	
8	Tap Mun – Wong Shek	
9	Ma Liu Shui – Tap Mun	
10	Sai Kung – Kiu Tsui / Yim Tin Tsai / Pak Wan / Tai She Wan / Kau Sai / Leung Shuen Wan	Mr. KWOK Kam-to
11	Sai Kung - Kiu Tsui / Hap Mun Bay / Yim Tin Tsai / Kau Sai / Leung Shuen Wan	Mr. LEE Chuk-ming
12	Sai Kung - Kiu Tsui / Hap Mun Bay / Yim Tin Tsai / Kau Sai / Nam Fung Wan/ Leung Shuen Wan	Mr. MA Yun-fat
13	Sai Kung – Kiu Tsui / Hap Mun Bay / Yim Tin Tsai / Tai She Wan / Kau Sai / Leung Shuen Wan	Ms. FONG Mui-fa
14	Hei Ling Chau – Peng Chau	Subject to tender result
15	Aberdeen – Mo Tat – Sok Kwu Wan	Subject to tender result

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 17 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)164**

Question Serial No.

1348

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Please provide information about bus interchange schemes currently provided by public transport operators in Hong Kong:

Public transport operator	No. of bus routes involved in bus interchange schemes solely provided by the operator	No. of bus routes involved in bus interchange schemes jointly provided with other public transport operators	No. of bus routes involved in new bus interchange schemes under application or assessment

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

As at end 2009, the number of bus routes involved in bus interchange schemes were as follows:

Public transport operator	No. of bus routes involved in bus interchange schemes solely provided by the operator	No. of bus routes involved in bus interchange schemes jointly provided with other public transport operators	No. of bus routes involved in new bus interchange schemes under application or assessment
The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited	199	65	6



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

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**THB(T)164**

Question Serial No.

1348

Public transport operator	No. of bus routes involved in bus interchange schemes solely provided by the operator	No. of bus routes involved in bus interchange schemes jointly provided with other public transport operators	No. of bus routes involved in new bus interchange schemes under application or assessment
New World First Bus Services Limited	20	54	5
Citybus Limited	15	79	2
Long Win Bus Company Limited	0	12	0
New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited	0	3	0
MTR Corporation Limited (Feeder bus routes for Light Rail Transit)	13	0	0

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)165**

Question Serial No.

1349

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Please provide details of the installation of electronic black box and speed limiter by the three franchised bus companies:

(a) Installation of electronic black box (EBB)

Franchised bus company	No. of buses with EBB (as at 31 December 2009)	No. of buses planned to be installed with EBB in 2010	No. of buses with EBB and planned to be installed with EBB in 2010 as percentage of the total bus fleet

(b) Installation of speed limiter

Franchised bus company	No. of buses with speed limiter (as at 31 December 2009)	No. of buses planned to be installed with speed limiter in 2010	No. of buses with speed limiter and planned to be installed with speed limiter by the end of 2010 as percentage of the total bus fleet

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)165**

Question Serial No.

1349

Reply :

- (a) The details of the installation of EBB by the existing franchised bus companies are as follows :

Franchised bus company	No. of buses with EBB (as at 31 December 2009)	No. of buses planned to be installed with EBB in 2010	No. of buses with EBB and planned to be installed with EBB in 2010 as percentage of the total bus fleet
The Kowloon Motor Bus Co. (1933) Ltd. ("KMB")	3 632	255	96.5%
Citybus Limited (Franchise 1) ("CTB (F1)") <sup>(Note)</sup>	28	500	66.0%
Citybus Limited (Franchise 2) ("CTB (F2)") <sup>(Note)</sup>	5	1	3.5%
New World First Bus Services Limited ("NWFB") <sup>(Note)</sup>	72	20	13.0%
Long Win Bus Co. Ltd. ("LW")	167	21	100%
New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited ("NLB")	104	23	100%

Note : Due to liquidation of the EBB contractor, there is some slippage in the installation programme.

- (b) The details of the installation of speed limiter by the existing franchised bus companies are as follows :

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
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**THB(T)165**

Question Serial No.

1349

Franchised bus company	No. of buses with speed limiter (as at 31 December 2009)	No. of buses planned to be installed with speed limiter in 2010	No. of buses with speed limiter and planned to be installed with speed limiter by the end of 2010 as percentage of the total bus fleet
KMB	3 841	255	99.2%
CTB (F1)	759	45	100%
CTB (F2)	172	1	100%
NWFB	705	20	100%
LW	167	21	100%
NLB	71	22	89.4%

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 17 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)166**

Question Serial No.

1350

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the section of Route 8 (R8) from Tsing Yi (TY) to Cheung Sha Wan (CSW), please provide the following information:

- i. since road opening, the traffic flow for various types of vehicles during peak and non-peak periods on a monthly basis;
- ii. since opening of the section of R8 from TY to CSW, the respective traffic flows for Lion Rock Tunnel and Tate's Cairn Tunnel during peak and non-peak periods on a monthly basis;
- iii. the publicity expenditure incurred during the past year in encouraging motorists to use the section of R8 from TY to CSW; and
- iv. since road opening, the complaints or improvement suggestions proposed by the public on the section of R8 from TY to CSW; and the details in the handling of these suggestions or complaints by the Administration.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- i. The average peak (0800 to 0900) and non-peak (0900 to 1600) hourly two-way traffic flows during normal working days on the section of R8 from TY to CSW since opening on 20 December 2009 for small sized vehicle (length up to six metres), medium sized vehicles (length exceeding six metres but up to 12 metres) and large vehicles (length exceeding 12 metres) are tabulated below:

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1350

Month	Period	Vehicle Size			Total
		Small	Medium	Large	
Dec 2009	Peak	1 375	318	213	1 906
	Non Peak	1 487	310	194	1 991
Jan 2010	Peak	1 290	290	195	1 775
	Non Peak	1 226	248	169	1 643
Feb 2010	Peak	1 368	267	188	1 823
	Non Peak	1 208	225	150	1 583

- ii. Since the opening of the section of R8 from TY to CSW, the average peak (0800 to 0900) and non-peak (0900 to 1600) hourly two-way traffic flows during normal working days in Lion Rock Tunnel and Tate's Cairn Tunnel are tabulated below:

Month	Period	Lion Rock Tunnel	Tate's Cairn Tunnel
Dec 2009	Peak	4 780	4 737
	Non Peak	4 558	2 926
Jan 2010	Peak	5 356	5 083
	Non Peak	4 479	2 754
Feb 2010	Peak	4 976	4 732
	Non Peak	4 390	2 752

- iii. During the past year, the publicity expenditure incurred by the Transport Department (TD) in encouraging motorists to use the section of R8 from TY to CSW was about \$83,000. This sum was mainly used for the production of radio APIs and publicity pamphlets. In addition, TD had carried out other publicity work such as issuing press releases, updating notes on the internet on driving rules and routes on the use of the new road, etc. As the work is undertaken by TD's existing staff as part of their normal duties, there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)167**

Question Serial No.

1351

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Please provide the following information regarding the Driving-offence Points System:

(i) the number of drivers who incurred 15 points or more in the past three years (2007 to 2009); and

(ii) the details of the disqualification of these drivers by the court:

Disqualification for three months (No. of cases)	Disqualification for six months (No. of cases)	Others (Please specify) (No. of cases)

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

(i) The number of summonses issued to drivers with 15 points or more in the past three years is as follows:

Year	No. of Summon
2007	4 513
2008	5 104
2009	4 842

(ii) As at end February 2010, the number of disqualifications in respect of the above summons cases is as follows:



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**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
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Year	Disqualification for three months (No. of cases)	Disqualification for six months (No. of cases)	Other Disqualification (No. of cases)	Others <sup>(Note 3)</sup> (No. of cases)	Total
2007	3 020	1 266	1 <sup>(Note 1)</sup>	226	4 513
2008	3 451	1 350	1 <sup>(Note 2)</sup>	302	5 104
2009	3 170	1 274	0	398	4 842

Note 1 : The disqualification of a driver ceased after he successfully appealed to High Court.

Note 2 : The driver concerned was disqualified for five months.

Note 3 : These include cases withdrawn by the prosecution and cases the hearing of which have been adjourned, etc.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 17 March 2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)168**

Question Serial No.

1352

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : What is the number of applications for renewal of ten-year driving licences processed by the Transport Department (TD) in the past three years?

Year 2007	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010 (Forecast)

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The number of applications for renewal of ten-year driving licences processed by TD in the past three years is as follows:

Year 2007	Year 2008	Year 2009	Year 2010 (Forecast)
261 772	366 390	321 703	230 000

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 17 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)169**

Question Serial No.

1353

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Please advise the latest progress of the ad hoc quota trial scheme for cross-boundary private cars at the Shenzhen Bay Port.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Hong Kong and Guangdong authorities have agreed in principle to roll out an ad hoc quota trial scheme for cross-boundary private cars at the Shenzhen Bay Port. Implementation details including the number of quotas to be introduced, issuing criteria and application procedures etc. are being sorted out.

The exact implementation date is subject to discussion with Guangdong side which is still underway.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      **JOSEPH Y T LAI** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title      Commissioner for Transport \_\_\_\_\_

Date      17 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)170**

Question Serial No.

1354

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the regulation of franchised bus services, please provide the following information –

- (a) number of new routes approved in the past three years (i.e. 2007 to 2009) and their routeings; and
- (b) details of bus fare increase applications which the Administration received from franchised bus companies in the past six months.

<b>Franchised Bus Route No.</b>	<b>District Served</b>	<b>Percentage of Fare Increase Applied</b>	<b>Assessment Result</b>

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (a) The Transport Department (TD) approved the introduction of the following seven new franchised bus routes in the past three years –

<b>Franchised Bus Route No.</b>	<b>Districts served</b>
B1	Tin Shui Wai Station to Lok Ma Chau Station
B2	Yuen Long Station to Shenzhen Bay Port
B3	Tuen Mun Pierhead to Shenzhen Bay Port

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)170**

Question Serial No.

1354

<b>Franchised Bus Route No.</b>	<b>Districts served</b>
H1	Central Ferry Piers (Pier 7) to Pokfield Road
H2	Central Ferry Piers (Pier 7) to Wan Chai (Morrison Hill Road)
30X	Cyberport to Central (Exchange Square) (Circular)
N64	Airport (Ground Transportation Centre) to Tung Chung (Yat Tung Estate Public Transport Terminus)

- (b) TD has not received any fare increase applications for franchised bus services in the past six months.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **JOSEPH Y T LAI** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Commissioner for Transport** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **17 March 2010** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)171**

Question Serial No.

1355

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In respect of the management of government multi-storey car parks, please provide the peak-hour and non peak-hour utilisation rate of each multi-storey car park in 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Name of Multi-storey Car Park	Peak-hour utilisation rate (%)	Non peak-hour utilisation rate (%)

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The peak-hour and non peak-hour utilisation rates of the 14 government multi-storey car parks in 2007, 2008 and 2009 are as follows:

Name of Multi-storey Car Park	Peak-hour utilisation rate (%)			Non peak-hour utilisation rate (%)		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Kennedy Town	66	91	93	61	86	89
Rumsey Street	34	43	43	27	33	34
Star Ferry	42	52	52	20	26	24
City Hall	18	30	18	7	14	8
Murray Road	40	44	43	27	28	28

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
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Name of Multi-storey Car Park	Peak-hour utilisation rate (%)			Non peak-hour utilisation rate (%)		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Aberdeen	43	45	47	36	38	39
Tin Hau	27	30	30	25	28	27
Shau Kei Wan	30	34	36	28	31	33
Middle Road	36	39	39	19	21	22
Yau Ma Tei	22	26	26	13	16	16
Sheung Fung Street	31	30	28	25	25	23
Kwai Fong	11	11	11	10	11	11
Tsuen Wan	27	28	23	22	23	19
Tsuen Wan Transport Complex	10	11	14	9	10	12

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters **JOSEPH Y T LAI**

Post Title **Commissioner for Transport**

Date **18 March 2010**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)172**

Question Serial No.

1395

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : As regards Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11, please advise the followings:

- (a) the programme, locations and expenditure of the territory-wide replacement of conventional traffic signals with more energy efficient LED traffic signals project; and
- (b) resources to be spent in 2010-11 on research, development and implementation of enhancing road-safety related facilities and measures? Any of these resources involves research and development in collaboration with the universities? If any, the details and the amount of fund and if no, the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (a) The territory-wide replacement of conventional traffic signals with LED traffic signals will be conducted by regions in three phases as follows:

Phase (Region)	Period
Phase 1 (Hong Kong Island)	Feb 2009 – May 2010
Phase 2 (Kowloon)	Sep 2009 – Mar 2011
Phase 3 (New Territories)	Sep 2010 – Aug 2012

The estimated expenditure for replacing all conventional traffic signals with LED traffic signals throughout Hong Kong is about \$100 million.



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)172**

Question Serial No.

1395

- (b) In 2010-11, to enhance road safety, the Transport Department (TD) will:
- (i) continue to conduct studies on traffic accident black sites and to devise and implement improvement measures for these sites;
  - (ii) commission a consultancy study to investigate the feasibility of installing seat belts in student service vehicles, at an estimated cost of \$1.3 million;
  - (iii) continue a study programme with the University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University on the investigation of a new roundabout marking system to improve the operational efficiency and road safety performance of roundabouts. The study will be conducted by university staff at no cost charged to TD; and
  - (iv) commission a consultancy study to review the cycling infrastructures in existing new towns and formulate improvement measures at an estimated cost of \$1.2 million.

We plan to deploy two professional staff and two technical staff to handle the above work in 2010-11.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)173**

Question Serial No.

0219

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : There will be a net increase of 15 non-directorate posts in the Transport Department in 2010-11. Please list out the post titles, duties and annual emoluments for these posts and advise which kinds of service are to be improved by these new posts.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The net increase of 15 non-directorate posts in 2010-11 is the result of creation of 22 non-directorate posts to be offset by the deletion of seven non-directorate posts. The post-holders will take up duties and responsibilities contributing to the operation and delivery of services under the following programmes:

- (i) Programme (1) Planning and Development: three posts – one Treasury Accountant, one Executive Officer II and one Clerical Assistant;
- (ii) Programme (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers: 12 posts – one Chief Executive Officer, two Executive Officer II, two Assistant Clerical Officer and seven Clerical Assistant;
- (iii) Programme (3) District Traffic and Transport Services: five posts – one Transport Officer II, two Technical Officer (Traffic)/Technical Officer Trainee (Traffic) and two Clerical Assistant; and
- (iv) Programme (4) Management of Transport Services: two posts – one Senior Transport Officer and one Transport Officer II.



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)174**

Question Serial No.

0220

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Amongst the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11, please provide details, including the progress, implementation status, study cost and method to assess the effectiveness, on deploying advanced technologies to enhance the Department's capability in incident management.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The Transport Department (TD) commissioned the feasibility study of deploying advanced technologies in incident management in 2007. The study covers such aspects as incident detection, data analysis, traffic impact assessment, dissemination of real-time traffic information, as well as cost and benefit analysis. The study is substantially completed with an estimated cost of \$7 million.

In the light of the study recommendations, TD will be seeking funding approval of the Finance Committee in 2010-11 to install a traffic and incident management system to facilitate traffic and incident management in a more effective and efficient manner.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 17 March 2010

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)175**

Question Serial No.

0221

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : On the continued replacement of CCTV cameras in the Urban Area and New Territories, please provide details including the progress, programme, expenditure in 2010-11 and manpower required.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The replacement and installation of new CCTV cameras in the Urban Area and New Territories commenced in January 2008 and is scheduled for completion in late 2010. As at end 2009, about 80% of the works were completed. The estimated expenditure for the works in 2010-11 is \$101.9 million. The works require the input of three professional and one technical staff and these are met from existing resources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 17 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)176**

Question Serial No.

1254

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : As regards continuing the territory-wide replacement of conventional traffic signals with LED traffic signals, please provide details including the progress, programme, expenditure in 2010-11 and manpower required.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The territory-wide replacement of conventional traffic signals with LED traffic signals will be conducted in three phases as follows:

Phase (Region)	Period
Phase 1 (Hong Kong Island)	Feb 2009 – May 2010
Phase 2 (Kowloon)	Sep 2009 – Mar 2011
Phase 3 (New Territories)	Sep 2010 – Aug 2012

As at end 2009, 400 out of 1 763 existing signalised junctions in the territory were replaced with LED traffic signals. The estimated expenditure for the works in 2010-11 is \$27.1 million. The works require the input of three professional and three technical staff, and these are met from the Transport Department's existing resources.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      **JOSEPH Y T LAI** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title      **Commissioner for Transport** \_\_\_\_\_

Date      **17 March 2010** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)177**

Question Serial No.

2475

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding consultations conducted or to be conducted under various programmes for the purpose of policy formulation and evaluation, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

For consultation projects for which funds have been allocated in 2009-10, please provide information in the following format:

Name /subject matter of the consultation project	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of consultation (under planning/ in progress/ completed )	Mode of consultation (e.g. written submissions, consultative forums, focus group meetings), number of times, names of bodies consulted, and number of people consulted	Administratio n's follow-up action on the consultation results and progress made (if any)	If the consultation is completed, have the results been released to the public? If yes, through what channels? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The major consultation exercises the Transport Department (TD) carried out in 2009-10 to help formulate or assess major transport policies include the following:

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)177**

Question Serial No.

2475

Name(s) /content of consultation project(s)	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of consultation (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Mode of consultation (e.g. collection of written submissions, consultation sessions, focus groups), the number of consultation exercises, the name(s) of organisation(s) and the number of people consulted	The Administration's follow-up actions on the outcomes of consultation and the progress made (if any)	For consultation(s) already completed, were the outcomes of consultation made known to the public? If so, what were the channels? If not, please give the reasons.
1. Legislative amendments to combat drink driving and other inappropriate driving behaviour	Absorbed in the day to day operational expenses of TD	Completed	Nine consultation meetings involving about 190 participants were conducted. The parties consulted included Transport Advisory Committee, Transport Panel of the Legislative Council (LegCo), Road Safety Council, and transport trades including franchised bus, public light bus, taxi and goods vehicle trades. In addition, written feedbacks were received from non-franchised bus and nanny van trades.	The general views collected from the consultation supported the proposed legislative amendments to be taken forward	The legislative amendment proposals, which have taken into account the suggestions and views gathered from the community, will be introduced into the LegCo later this year.
2. Installation of speed limiter on public light buses through introduction of a new condition to vehicle licence and passenger service licence of public light buses	Absorbed in the day to day operational expenses of TD	Completed	Four consultation meetings involving about 100 participants were conducted. The parties consulted included Transport Advisory Committee, Transport Panel of the LegCo, and the green mini bus and red mini bus trades. In addition, consultation letters were sent to all registered owners and passenger service licence holders of public light buses inviting them to express their views, and written feedbacks were received.	The general views collected from the consultation supported the installation of speed limiter on public light buses through the introduction of a new condition to vehicle licence and passenger service licence of public light buses	TD has already notified registered owners and holders of passenger service licence of public light buses that the new condition will take effect from 7 June 2010. All public light buses will, from that date onwards, be required to be installed with a speed limiter approved by TD (within three months from the effective date of the new vehicle licence).



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)177**

Question Serial No.

2475

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)178**

Question Serial No.

2476

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding consultations conducted or to be conducted under various programmes for the purpose of policy formulation and evaluation, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

For consultation projects for which funds have been allocated in 2010-11, please provide information in the following format:

Name /subject matter of the consultation project	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of consultation (under planning/ in progress/ completed)	Mode of consultation (e.g. written submissions, consultative forums, focus group meetings), number of times, names of bodies consulted, and number of people consulted	If the consultation will be completed in 2010-11, will the results be released to the public? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The major consultation exercises the Transport Department (TD) plans to carry out in 2010-11 to help formulate or assess major transport policies include the following:

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)178**

Question Serial No.

2476

<b>Name(s) /content of consultation project(s)</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$)</b>	<b>Progress of consultation (under planning/ in progress/ completed)</b>	<b>Mode of consultation (e.g. collection of written submissions, consultation sessions, focus groups), the number of consultation exercises, the name(s) of organisation(s) and the number of people to be consulted</b>	<b>For consultation(s) scheduled for completion in the financial year of 2010-11, will the outcomes of consultation be made known to the public? If not, please give the reasons.</b>
1. Proposals to combat drug driving	To be absorbed in the day to day operational expenses of TD	Under planning	Under planning	Under planning
2. Legislative proposals to enhance the safety of public light buses - to govern the installation of speed limiter, to stipulate the maximum running speed for public light buses, to specify the requirements of black box for newly registered public light buses, and to require applicants for public light bus driving licence to attend a pre-service training course	To be absorbed in the day to day operational expenses of TD	Under planning	Under planning	Under planning

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)178**

Question Serial No.

2476

<b>Name(s) /content of consultation project(s)</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$)</b>	<b>Progress of consultation (under planning/ in progress/ completed)</b>	<b>Mode of consultation (e.g. collection of written submissions, consultation sessions, focus groups), the number of consultation exercises, the name(s) of organisation(s) and the number of people to be consulted</b>	<b>For consultation(s) scheduled for completion in the financial year of 2010-11, will the outcomes of consultation be made known to the public? If not, please give the reasons.</b>
3. Traffic Study for Mid-Levels Area	To be absorbed in the day to day operational expenses of TD	Not yet started	The Central and Western District Council will be consulted on the study recommendations.	Under planning
4. Review on Grouping of Private Driving Instructors' (PDI) Licences	To be absorbed in the day to day operational expenses of TD	Not yet started	The Transport Panel of the Legislative Council, the PDI trade and Transport Advisory Committee will be consulted.	Under planning

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)179**

Question Serial No.

2674

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In relation to “promoting safer vehicles through reviewing and updating the relevant vehicle regulations and safety standards” in the Controlling Officer’s Report, will the Government inform this Committee of the existing regulatory control on the safety of vehicles imported by the vehicle dealers? With regard to the recent safety problems on Toyota vehicles in other countries, is the Government fully in the picture on this issue and has any related investigation been conducted? If yes, what are the findings? If no, why is the investigation not conducted?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

To ensure vehicle safety and roadworthiness, every vehicle, including its body work and fittings, shall be soundly and properly constructed of suitable materials and in good and serviceable condition in accordance with the Road Traffic (Construction and Maintenance of Vehicles) Regulations (Cap 374A), Regulation (5)(1).

Regarding the recent safety recall of Toyota vehicles, the Transport Department has been liaising closely with the local agent, Crown Motors (Hong Kong) Limited (CML), on the subject issue since Toyota first announced its recall campaign action in the USA and Japan. According to information from CML, of the various Toyota models sold in Hong Kong, only the “Prius 250” model is affected. CML advised that they have already made contact with all concerned owners and most of the affected vehicles have already had the relevant computer software programme upgraded.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      **JOSEPH Y T LAI**

Post Title      **Commissioner for Transport**

Date      **17 March 2010**

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)180**

Question Serial No.

1418

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : The Administration will oversee the installation of speed limiters on public light buses in 2010-11. Would the Administration advise on:

- (a) the present progress; and
- (b) the expected timetable for completion of installation of speed limiter on all public light buses.

Asked by : Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina

Reply :

- (a) All public light buses will be required to install speed limiters through the introduction of a new condition in the vehicle licence and passenger service licence of public light buses. The Transport Department (TD) has already notified registered owners and holders of passenger service licence of public light buses that the new condition will take effect from 7 June 2010 onwards. All public light buses will then be required to be installed with a speed limiter approved by TD (within three months from the effective date of the new vehicle licence).
- (b) All public light buses are expected to be installed with a speed limiter by late 2011.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 17 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)181**

Question Serial No.

1419

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : The Administration will introduce new service in 2010-11 to support an ad hoc quota trial scheme for cross-boundary private cars at the Shenzhen Bay Port. What are the concrete details of the “new service” and the related expenditure items?

Asked by : Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina

Reply :

The “new service” refers to the services to be introduced to support the ad hoc quota trial scheme for cross-boundary private cars at the Shenzhen Bay Port. These services include –

- (i) on-line and telephone reservation services for the ad hoc quotas; and
- (ii) on-line application for the ad hoc quotas and Closed Road Permits.

The above services will incur an estimated capital expenditure of about \$9.8 million for developing new computer systems and an estimated recurrent expenditure of about \$4 million, covering expenses for maintenance of the related computer systems, rental of leased data lines, staff costs and other administrative expenses.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title      Commissioner for Transport

Date      17 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)182**

Question Serial No.

0402

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : The Transport Department has started the territory-wide replacement of conventional traffic signals with LED traffic signals since 2009. Please advise this Committee of the following:

- (a) the expenditure for replacing traffic signals with LED;
- (b) after the replacement, the savings of electricity bill per annum as compared with conventional traffic signals;
- (c) the anticipated completion date of the whole project; and
- (d) how to assess whether intensity of the traffic signal is adequate, yet not too bright and at the same time striking a balance against electricity cost? What is the standard intensity level?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) The estimated expenditure for replacing all conventional traffic signals with LED traffic signals in the territory is about \$100 million.
- (b) With the completion of the replacement project, it is estimated that the annual electricity bill will be reduced from \$13.0 million by \$9.0 million to \$4.0 million.
- (c) The whole replacement project is scheduled to be completed in mid 2012.
- (d) The intensity of the traffic signals is set at a level such that they are conspicuous to motorists and pedestrians during day and night operations whilst economising the resulting electricity bill. The standard intensity level of a normal size signal lamp varies between 300 and 360 candela, depending on the colour. The intensity level is reduced by 50% at night.



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)182**

Question Serial No.

0402

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 17 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)183**

Question Serial No.

2787

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : The Transport Department (TD) will conduct a tender exercise for awarding a new management contract for the Cross-Harbour Tunnel. Please provide the timeframe for tender invitation, factors that the Administration would consider in awarding the contract, and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply:

The current contract for management, operation and maintenance of the Cross-Harbour Tunnel will expire on 31 October 2010. TD aims to invite tender in April 2010 for awarding a new contract upon expiry of the current one. When evaluating the tenders, the Administration will take into account various factors including service commitments, manpower proposals and management capability, management and operation procedures and arrangements, and price bids. The contract value for the current contract is about \$63.4 million per contract year. The contract fee for the new contract will only be available when the tender is awarded.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 17 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)184**

Question Serial No.

1858

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding encouraging franchised bus companies to deploy environment-friendly buses at busy corridors, please provide the following information -

- (a) the number of franchised buses retrofitted with emission reduction devices (ERDs) in 2009-10, and whether the Administration has studied the effectiveness of such devices. If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons; and
- (b) whether consideration will be given to co-operating and studying with other government departments for mandatory replacement of older buses with higher emission. If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

- (a) As at end 2009, 4 372 franchised buses were retrofitted with ERDs. All franchised buses of pre-Euro and Euro I emission standards have been retrofitted with ERDs. The Transport Department (TD) has been encouraging the franchised bus companies to continue to retrofit ERDs on their buses of Euro II and Euro III emission standards where technically feasible. According to the Environmental Protection Department, the ERDs installed on buses of Euro II and Euro III emission standards can reduce particulate matters, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxides by about 80% to 90%.
- (b) The franchised bus companies are committed to using buses below 18 years old for their franchised bus services. TD will continue to require the franchised bus companies to adopt the latest commercially available and proven environmental protection technology in acquiring new buses.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ JOSEPH Y T LAI \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Commissioner for Transport \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)185**

Question Serial No.

1860

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the rationalisation and improvement of bus services in 2010-11, please provide details about the bus routes planned to be rationalised and the districts they serve, the expenditure involved, and how many of them operate in busy traffic corridors.

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

In 2010-11, the Transport Department plans to rationalise 59 bus routes covering all districts in Hong Kong. Of these routes, 18 are operating via busy traffic corridors. No additional expenditure will be involved in the planned rationalisation of the bus services.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      **JOSEPH Y T LAI** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title      **Commissioner for Transport** \_\_\_\_\_

Date      **17 March 2010** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)186**

Question Serial No.

1861

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the implementation of pedestrian improvement schemes, please provide the details, estimated expenditure and target completion date of those schemes which are being implemented or which will commence in 2010-11 (please list schemes by district).

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply :

The details of pedestrian improvement schemes that are being implemented are tabulated below-

<b>District</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Target Completion Date</b>	<b>Project Estimate (\$ million)</b>	<b>Estimated Expenditure in 2010-11 (\$ million)</b>
Yau Tsim Mong	Ning Po Street, Saigon Street and Pak Hoi Street (between Nathan Road and Shanghai Street)	End 2010	1.2	0.3
	Parkes Street (between Jordan Road and Saigon Street)	End 2010	1.8	0.5
	Woosung Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	Mid 2011	3.4	0.2
Sham Shui Po	Yu Chau Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	Early 2010	1.8	0.1
	Kweilin Street (between Yu Chau Street and Un Chau Street)	End 2010	1.4	0.3

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)186**

Question Serial No.

1861

The details of pedestrian improvement schemes that are scheduled to start in 2010-11 are tabulated below-

<b>District</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Target Completion Date</b>	<b>Project Estimate (\$ million)</b>	<b>Estimated Expenditure in 2010-11 (\$ million)</b>
Wan Chai	East Point Road and Great George Street (between East Point Road and Paterson Street)	Mid 2011	1.9	0.9
Yau Tsim Mong	Peking Road (between Nathan Road and Hankow Road)	End 2010	0.7	0.7
	Prat Avenue (between Hart Avenue and Chatham Road South)	Mid 2011	0.7	- *
	Sai Yeung Choi Street South (between Nelson Street and Soy Street)	End 2011	2.8	0.5
	Soy Street (between Sai Yeung Choi Street South and Fa Yuen Street)	End 2011	2.0	0.1
	Argyle Street (between Fa Yuen Street and Nathan Road)	End 2011	0.4	0.2

\* The planning and design work is scheduled to commence in 2010-11 and the payments are expected to be due in 2011-12.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)187**

Question Serial No.

2613

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : There is an increase in provision of 59.9% (\$141.8 million) under Programme (4) Management of Transport Services of the Transport Department. The increase includes additional provision for outsourcing the management, operation and maintenance of Tsing Sha Control Area (TSCA) as well as the management of covered public transport interchanges. Please provide details of the increase with the additional provisions and creation of posts.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Mei-fun, Priscilla

Reply :

The increase in provision under Programme (4) is mainly due to:

- (a) an additional provision of \$34 million for outsourcing the management, operation and maintenance of TSCA, which started full operation after its Stage 2 commissioned in December 2009;
- (b) an additional provision of \$9 million for enhancing the management and cleansing work for the government-owned covered public transport interchanges;
- (c) an additional provision of \$89 million for the replacement of 28 specialised vehicles for Tsing Ma Control Area, Lion Rock Tunnel, Aberdeen Tunnel and Kai Tak Tunnel; and
- (d) an additional provision of \$1 million for creating two posts for strengthening the professional support to the planning of new cross boundary infrastructure projects and their management afterwards.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ JOSEPH Y T LAI \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ Commissioner for Transport \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 17 March 2010 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)188**

Question Serial No.

1618

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2010-11, the Transport Department (TD) will continue to rationalise and improve bus services including re-organisation of bus stops to improve the quality and efficiency, and to help relieve bus congestion and reduce road-side emission. In this regard, please provide the following information -

- (a) the number of bus routes as percentage out of all bus routes, which meet each of the three planning principles for service reduction;
- (b) the number of bus routes as percentage out of all bus routes, which are deployed with buses of Euro III or above emission standard; and
- (c) the number of bus routes as percentages out of all bus routes, which are deployed with buses of Euro III or above emission standard and operate along non-busy corridors, listing out by 18 districts according to their starting points.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (a) In 2010-11, TD plans to rationalise 59 bus routes. All these proposals, if implemented, would improve the efficiency of bus services, help relieve bus congestion, and reduce road-side emission. The 59 bus routes comprise about 10.4% of the total number of bus routes.
- (b) Buses which meet Euro III or above emission standards are deployed in 208 bus routes, accounting for about 36.5% of all franchised bus routes.
- (c) Buses which meet Euro III or above emission standards are deployed in 100 routes which operate along non-busy corridors, accounting for about 17.5% of all franchised bus routes. The origin of these bus routes by district is listed out below -



Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)188**

Question Serial No.

1618

<b>District</b>	<b>No. of bus routes</b>
Eastern	5
Southern	1
Kwun Tong	13
Sham Shui Po	2
Wong Tai Sin	6
Kowloon City	1
Tsuen Wan	2
Yuen Long	8
North	8
Sha Tin	16
Sai Kung	4
Kwai Tsing	2
Tai Po	4
Tuen Mun	7
Islands	21
Total:	100

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 17 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)189**

Question Serial No.

1619

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the introduction of bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes, please provide the following information –

- (a) the estimated number of BBI schemes for 2010 is five, compared with nine schemes in 2009. What are the reasons for the reduction; and
- (b) are there measures to expand the existing BBI schemes so as to support rationalisation and improvement of bus services for improvement of air quality.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (c) The planning and implementation of BBI schemes is an ongoing exercise. In formulating these schemes, the Government, together with the bus operators, will take into account suggestions from the public and factors such as the operational and financial implications, and how the proposed scheme can improve the bus network coverage and efficiency. Owing to the variations of these factors from year to year, the number of BBI schemes planned or introduced each year may differ.
- (d) The Transport Department has been encouraging and working with the bus operators to formulate more BBI schemes with the provision of fare concessions so as to reduce the need for new long haul and direct point-to-point bus services, enable better utilisation of the limited road space, and ease traffic congestion and roadside emission.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      **JOSEPH Y T LAI** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title      **Commissioner for Transport** \_\_\_\_\_

Date      **17 March 2010** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)190**

Question Serial No.

2837

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : How does the Transport Department (TD) safeguard the safety of school children crossing the roads in the vicinity of kindergartens and primary schools in the territory? In order to understand the road safety issues at school entrances or on the roads in the vicinity of schools with a view to implementing improvement measures, has TD kept an inventory of the addresses of all kindergartens and primary schools with the assistance of the Education Bureau (EDB), conducted site inspections in all districts, and approached schools to collect information as shown in the table below through questionnaire surveys? Has TD received any pedestrian crossing improvement suggestions from schools? If TD had not done the above, why not? If it is necessary to carry out surveys to enhance service and safeguard the road safety of school children, how much staff and other resources will be required and how long will it take to complete the surveys? Will such surveys be carried out in the future? In the coming year, what improvement measures will be carried out to safeguard the road safety of school children?

District	Name of kindergarten / primary school	Address	Any railings to prevent school children from running on to carriageways	Any pedestrian crossings to help school children cross the roads safely	Any "Slow" or "Children ahead" signs or markings	Any parking spaces for use by school buses to pick up/ set down school children	Views from the schools on the safety of the nearby roads

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)190**

Question Serial No.

2837

Reply :

TD is conscious of the importance of road safety in the vicinity of schools. As part of our day to day work, we regularly monitor traffic conditions in the vicinity of schools and, where appropriate, implement measures to improve pedestrian crossing facilities in these places. We also welcome suggestions or proposals by the public and schools on possible improvement measures which will be taken on board where appropriate.

There are over 1 500 schools and kindergartens in Hong Kong. As the neighbouring environment, including the road and traffic conditions, of each school are different, the pedestrian crossing facilities in the vicinity of each school are also different. TD has not kept an inventory of the type as outlined in the Question and it does not have an estimate on the time and resources required if one were to be drawn up. However, staff in TD's regional offices are expected to have a good understanding of any major road safety problems in the vicinity of schools which come under the districts they work in. It is also their responsibility to review, from time to time, the need to improve pedestrian crossing facilities in the vicinity of schools, taking into account any public views received.

In the coming year, TD will, by means of appropriate traffic management measures, continue to enhance road safety in the vicinity of schools. These measures will be complemented by appropriate education, publicity and enforcement measures. In particular, road safety education is effective on target audience such as young school children. EDB will continue to educate school children to understand the importance of paying attention to road safety through study courses, other educational and experience learning activities. EDB also encourages schools to establish road safety patrol teams to help school children cross the roads. The district Road Safety Units of the Police also conduct activities regularly to promote school children's understanding of road safety. These include road safety talks, distribution of publicity leaflets at schools and community centres, visits to "Road Safety Town", etc. Furthermore, the Police regularly launches safety campaigns for motorists and pedestrians to remind them to pay attention to road safety, and prosecutes those who do not observe traffic regulations.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)191**

Question Serial No.

1027

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the issue of deploying feasible advanced technologies to enhance the Department's capability in incident management, please advise on:

- (a) the advanced technologies involved; the expenditure, human resources and implementation schedule for each of these technologies;
- (b) whether comprehensive assessment has been carried out on the Department's existing incident management capability. If yes, what is the assessment result? If not, why and whether carrying out related assessment will be considered in the future; and
- (c) the objective and target performance of deploying feasible advanced technologies.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Wai-ho, Samson

Reply :

- (a) & (b) The Administration appointed a Task Force to review and recommend measures to enhance emergency transport coordination in 2005. The Task Force assessed the incident management mechanism in the government and recommended that the facilities of the Emergency Transport Coordination Centre of the Transport Department (TD) should be upgraded and TD should harness advanced technologies to strengthen its emergency handling capabilities. TD commissioned a consultancy to study the feasibility of deploying advanced technologies in incident management in 2007. In the light of the study recommendation, TD plans to install a Traffic and Incident Management System (TIMS) to facilitate traffic and incident management in a more effective and efficient manner. The cost of the TIMS is being finalised. TD plans to seek funding approval of the Finance Committee in 2010-11. The project will require the input of three professional and three technical staff which will be met by internal staff redeployment.

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)191**

Question Serial No.

1027

- (c) The aim of deploying advanced technologies in traffic and incident management is to minimise traffic impact and inconvenience to the road users. The effectiveness of the system will be assessed by its ability to reduce the impacts of traffic and transport incidents.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)192**

Question Serial No.

2874

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : The actual expenditure for 2008-09 as well as the revised and original estimates for 2009-10 under the general departmental expenses of the Transport Department (TD) are around \$120 million. However, the provision for 2010-11 is significantly increased to \$141 million. Please provide the reasons for and details of such increase.

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

The actual expenditure for 2008-09, the original estimate for 2009-10 and the revised estimate for 2009-10 under the general departmental expenses of TD are \$122.195 million, \$129.659 million and \$125.595 million respectively. The increase by \$15.467 million to \$141.062 million in provision for 2010-11 over the revised estimate for 2009-10 is mainly due to:

- (i) additional provision for management and cleansing contract of covered public transport interchanges (\$9 million); and
- (ii) additional provision for operation and maintenance of e-applications of the transport and motoring cluster under GovHK, the one-stop shop for on-line government information and services (\$4.8 million).

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **JOSEPH Y T LAI** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Commissioner for Transport** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **18 March 2010** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)193**

Question Serial No.

2875

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) : 603 Plant, vehicles and equipment

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Under plant, vehicles and equipment, the provision for 2010-11 (\$115.571 million) is nearly five times higher than the 2009-10 revised estimates. Will the Administration provide the reasons for the significant increase?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

Under Subhead 603 Plant, vehicles and equipment, the increase in provision for 2010-11 over the revised estimate for 2009-10 by \$90.993 million (370%) is mainly due to the additional provision for the replacement of 28 specialised vehicles (\$89 million) for Tsing Ma Control Area, Lion Rock Tunnel, Aberdeen Tunnel and Kai Tak Tunnel.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters **JOSEPH Y T LAI** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title **Commissioner for Transport** \_\_\_\_\_

Date **17 March 2010** \_\_\_\_\_



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)194**

Question Serial No.

2357

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Please provide the following information in table form for procurement of services from employment agencies (EAs) from 2006-07 to 2009-10 :

- (a) the number of contracts with the EAs;
- (b) the contract sum and term of service for each EA;
- (c) the number of workers supplied by each EA contract and their duties;
- (d) details of the workers' wages, including monthly rate and daily rate under each EA contract;
- (e) the percentages of year-on-year changes in the number of EA engaged, service contracts, workers supplied and total contract sum;
- (f) if more than one EA were engaged during the financial year, provide the number of contracts, contract sum and number of agency workers for each EA;
- (g) the maximum, the minimum and the median of the wages offered by each EA to its workers ;
- (h) the proportion of agency workers out of the total number of staff in the Department; and
- (i) the proportion of expenditure on procurement of agency services out of total departmental expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)194**

Question Serial No.

2357

Reply :

	Type of contract	2009-10 <sup>Note 1</sup>	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07
(a) <b>Number of contracts with EA</b>	Others	5 (no change)	5 (+25%)	4 (+300%)	1
	T-contract	1 (no change)	1 (no change)	1 (no change)	1
<b>Note 2</b>					
(b) (i) <b>Contract sum for each EA (in million) for the whole contract term</b>	Others				
	Total:	<b>\$3.7 (-7.5%)</b>	<b>\$4 (+37.9%)</b>	<b>\$2.9 (+123%)</b>	<b>\$1.3</b>
	Range:	\$0.24 to \$1.2	\$0.3 to \$1.3	\$0.26 to \$1.3	
	T-contract	<b>\$10.8 (-45.2%)</b>	<b>\$19.7 (+0.5%)</b>	<b>\$19.6 (+16%)</b>	<b>\$16.9</b>
(b) (ii) <b>Term of service for each EA</b>	Others	1 year			
	T-contract	6 to 15 months for individual workers supplied through T-contract			
(c) <b>No. of workers supplied by each EA contract and their duties</b>	Others				
	Total:	<b>41 (+24.2%)</b>	<b>33 (+17.9%)</b>	<b>28 (+250%)</b>	<b>8</b>
	Range:	<b>1 to 16</b>	<b>1 to 15</b>	<b>1 to 15</b>	
	Duties:	to provide temporary executive support, general support, project management support and record services	to provide temporary executive support, general support, project management support and record services	to provide temporary executive support, general support, project management support and record services	to provide temporary general support services
	T-contract				
	Total:	<b>46 (+7%)</b>	<b>43 (no change)</b>	<b>43 (-4.4%)</b>	<b>45</b>
	Duties:	to provide temporary IT support services	to provide temporary IT support services	to provide temporary IT support services	to provide temporary IT support services

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)194**

Question Serial No.

2357

	Type of contract	2009-10 <sup>Note 1</sup>	2008-09	2007-08	2006-07
(d) Details of the workers' wages, including monthly rate and daily rate under each EA contract &	Others	The contracts TD entered into with EA specify the service fee charged by the latter in providing agency workers. TD normally does not specify the wages of agency workers, except with regard to the wages of non-skilled workers <sup>Note 3</sup> . Hence, the information requested is unavailable to TD.			
	T-contract				
(g) The maximum, the minimum and the median of the wages offered by each EA to its workers	Others				
	T-contract				
(e) The percentages of the year-on-year changes in the number of EA engaged, service contracts, workers supplied and total contract sum are provided in brackets in items (a), (b) and (c) above.					
(f) The number of contracts, contract sum and number of agency workers are provided in items (a), (b) and (c) above.					
(h) The proportion of agency workers out of the total number of staff in the Department <sup>Note4</sup>	Others	2.80%	2.32%	1.96%	0.56%
	T-contract	3.14%	3.02%	3.02%	3.16%
(i) The proportion of expenditure on procurement of agency services out of departmental expenditure	Others	0.35%	0.38%	0.33%	0.15%
	T-contract	1.02%	1.89%	2.24%	2.01%

( ) Percentage of year-on-year changes



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)195**

Question Serial No.

2358

Head : 186 – Transport Department                      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : (a) Please provide information on the employment and anticipated employment of temporary staff to provide services from 2007-08 to 2010-11 :

	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
No. of temporary staff employed	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total expenditure on salaries of temporary staff employed	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of temporary staff out of the total no. of staff of the Department (%)	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

(b) Please provide a breakdown of the number of temporary staff by length or anticipated length of employment for each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11 :

Length of employment	No. of staff in 2010-11	No. of staff in 2009-10	No. of staff in 2008-09	No. of staff in 2007-08
6 months	( )	( )	( )	( )
1 year	( )	( )	( )	( )
2 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
more than 3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)195**

Question Serial No.

2358

Reply :

We have not employed any temporary staff other than the non-civil service contract staff in the three years from 2007-08 to 2009-10. We have no plan to employ any temporary staff in 2010-11.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 18 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)196**

Question Serial No.

2359

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : a. Please provide details about the outsourced services (including property management, security guarding, cleansing, telecommunication technology and statistical surveys etc., excluding outsourcing construction works) as follows:

	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Number of outsourcing service contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total contract value of these contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of staff employed under these contracts	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of employees under outsourced contract replaced by civil servants	( )	( )	( )	( )

( ) year-on-year change

b. In the coming three years (i.e. in 2010-11 to 2012-13), how many posts employed under the outsourcing service contracts may be replaced by civil servants?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)196**

Question Serial No.

2359

Reply :

- a. Almost all of the outsourcing services (in terms of contract value) currently used by the Transport Department (TD) relate to the management, operation and maintenance of the government tunnels, bridges, car parks and vehicle examination centres etc. Details about the actual/forecast positions of these contracts as at the financial year end (i.e. 31 March) of 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 are provided below:

	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
(i) Number of outsourcing service contracts	14 (-) [forecast]	14 (-)	14 (-)	14 (+7.7%) (Note 1)
(ii) Total contract value of these contracts (\$ billion) (Note 2)	Not available at this stage due to re-tendering of some existing contracts	3.7 (-)	3.7 (+2.8%) (Note 3)	3.6 (+28.6%) (Note 1)
(iii) Number of staff employed under these contracts	Not available at this stage due to re-tendering of some existing contracts	2 315(+7.9%) (Note 4 and 5)	2 146(+0.3%) (Note 3 and 4)	2 139(+16.2%) (Note 1 and 4)
(iv) Number of employees under outsourced contract replaced by civil servants	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

( ) year-on-year change

Note

- (1) The year-on-year change in 2007-08 is mainly due to a new contract for Stage I of the Tsing Sha Control Area which was commissioned on 21 March 2008.
- (2) Total contract value represents the agreed price for the whole period of the contract.
- (3) The year-on-year change in 2008-09 is mainly due to the revised contractual terms arising from the re-tendering and award of new contracts for Aberdeen Tunnel and New Kowloon Bay Vehicle Examination Centre.
- (4) The figures denote the minimum number of staff required by these contracts.
- (5) The year-on-year change in 2009-10 is mainly due to the additional staffing requirements arising from the commissioning of Stage II and III of the Tsing Sha Control Area on 20 December 2009.





Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)197**

Question Serial No.

2360

Head : 186 – Transport Department                      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : (c) Please provide the following information on the employment of non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff to provide services:

	2010-11	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Number of NCSC staff	( )	( )	( )	( )
Total expenditure on the salaries of NCSC staff	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff converted to civil servants	( )	( )	( )	( )
Number of NCSC staff who had chances for conversion to civil servants on permanent terms but failed to do so	( )	( )	( )	( )
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the Department (%)	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

(d) Please provide a breakdown of the number of NCSC staff by length of employment for each year from 2007-08 to 2010-11 in the following table:

Length of employment	Number of NCSC staff in 2010-11	Number of NCSC staff in 2009-10	Number of NCSC staff in 2008-09	Number of NCSC staff in 2007-08
6 months – 1 year	( )	( )	( )	( )
1 year – 3 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
3 years – 5 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
5 years – 10 years	( )	( )	( )	( )
10 years – 15 years	( )	( )	( )	( )

*Figures in ( ) denote year-on-year changes*

(e) In the coming three years (i.e. 2010-11 to 2012-13), how many NCSC staff will be able to convert to civil servants on permanent terms?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)197**

Question Serial No.

2360

Reply :

(a)

	2010-11(Note 2)	2009-10	2008-09	2007-08
Number of NCSC staff (Note 1)	-	193 (+6.6%)	181 (-7.7%)	196
Total expenditure on the salaries of NCSC staff (\$ million)	-	36.8 (+9.9%)	33.5 (-10.2%)	37.3
Number of NCSC staff appointed as civil servants (Note 3)	=	28	7	7
Number of NCSC staff who had chances for appointment as civil servants on permanent terms through open recruitment but have failed to do so (Note 4)	Information not available			
Percentage of NCSC staff in the total number of staff in the Department (%)	-	13.2% (+0.5%)	12.7% (-1%)	13.7%

( ) percentage of year-on-year changes

Note 1 : Part-time NCSC staff included.

Note 2 : Figures are not available as the number of NCSC staff varies from time to time in the light of changing service needs and operational requirements.

Note 3 : This refers to NCSC staff of the Department who were subsequently selected through open recruitment and appointed to civil service posts.

Note 4 : This refers to NCSC staff of the Department who were subsequently not selected through open recruitment for appointment to civil service posts.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)197**

Question Serial No.

2360

(b)

Length of employment	Number of NCSC staff in 2010-11	Number of NCSC staff in 2009-10	Number of NCSC staff in 2008-09	Number of NCSC staff in 2007-08
6 months – 1 year	<i>Estimated figures not available as the length of employment will be affected by factors such as turnover of staff and lapse of contracts</i>	53 (+8.2%)	49 (+8.9%)	45
1 year – 3 years		70 (+6.1%)	66 (-27.5%)	91
3 years – 5 years		32 (-3%)	33 (+73.7%)	19
5 years – 10 years		38 (+15.2%)	33 (-19.5%)	41
10 years – 15 years		0	0	0

( ) percentage of year-on-year changes

(c)

Serving NCSC staff, like all other candidates, may apply for civil service posts in response to recruitment advertisements. Qualified candidates will be selected on basis of merits. We are therefore unable to estimate the number of NCSC staff who will be able to be appointed as civil servants on permanent terms in the coming three years, i.e. from 2010-11 to 2012-13.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters \_\_\_\_\_ **JOSEPH Y T LAI** \_\_\_\_\_

Post Title \_\_\_\_\_ **Commissioner for Transport** \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ **18 March 2010** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)198**

Question Serial No.

2536

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In the fourth paragraph, the Administration indicated that it “monitored the service readiness of the Tseung Kwan O Extension (Phase II) and the Kowloon Southern Link (KSL), and implemented bus service rationalisation in the context of route development programmes and in relation to the commissioning of KSL”. Regarding the above-said policy, please provide the following information:

- (a) details of the bus service rationalisation after the commissioning of the KSL, the estimated expenditure and manpower arrangement; and
- (b) whether the relevant District Councils and local residents would be consulted in implementing route rationalisation.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply :

- (a) In response to changes in the demand for bus services after the commissioning of the KSL, we cancelled three bus routes, truncated one route, reduced the service frequency of five routes and improved the service frequency of one route. The rationalisation of bus services is an on-going exercise, and is handled by the Transport Department using existing resources.
- (b) Before implementing bus service rationalisation proposal, it is our standard practice to consult the relevant District Councils to gauge the views of the local residents.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title      Commissioner for Transport

Date      17 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)199**

Question Serial No.

1655

Head : 186 – Transport Department      Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : The Administration will introduce new service in 2010-11 to support an ad hoc quota trial scheme for cross-boundary private cars at the Shenzhen Bay Port. Please advise when the “new service” will commence. Will the Government need to increase manpower and expenditure to cope with the work?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply :

The Hong Kong and Guangdong authorities have agreed in principle to roll out an ad hoc quota trial scheme for cross-boundary private cars at the Shenzhen Bay Port. Implementation details including the number of quotas to be introduced, issuing criteria and application procedures etc. are being sorted out.

The exact implementation date is subject to discussion with Guangdong side which is still underway.

The implementation of the trial scheme will incur an estimated capital expenditure of about \$9.8 million for developing new computer systems and an estimated recurrent expenditure of about \$4 million, covering expenses for maintenance of the related computer systems, rental of leased data lines, staff costs of three civil service clerical posts and other administrative expenses.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters      JOSEPH Y T LAI

Post Title      Commissioner for Transport

Date      17 March 2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)200**

Question Serial No.

Head: 706 - Highways  
Infrastructure  
Transport -Railways

Subhead 6055TR  
(No. & title): West Island Line -  
Essential public  
infrastructure works

0930

Programme: -

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

As indicated by the Administration, the approved project estimate for “West Island Line – Essential public infrastructure works” is \$103.6 million, while the estimated expenditure for 2010-11 is \$24.28 million only. What is the schedule for spending the remaining \$79.319 million? How can the progress of the works project be accelerated?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply:

The West Island Line – essential public infrastructure works project, 6055TR, comprises the construction of –

- (a) a covered pedestrian link at Sands Street,
- (b) a covered footbridge link to the University of Hong Kong Centennial Campus, and
- (c) a public transport interchange at Kennedy Town Station.

The estimated cost of the project, 6055TR, is \$103.6 million in money-of-the-day prices. The latest expenditure forecast is as follow:

2010-11 \$Million	2011-12 \$Million	2012-13 \$Million	2013-14 \$Million	2014 and after \$Million
24.3	26.9	27.5	11.6	13.3

The pedestrian link at Sands Street will be completed in October 2013 in advance of the commissioning of the West Island Line (WIL) in late 2014. The other two items will be completed to tie in with the commissioning of WIL.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 15.3.2010

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

**THB(T)201**

Question Serial No.

0931

Head: 706 – Highways  
Infrastructure  
Transport -Roads

Subhead (No. & 6839TH Hong  
title): Kong-Zhuhai-Macao  
Bridge Hong Kong  
boundary crossing  
facilities-detailed design  
and site investigation

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

As indicated by the Administration, the approved project estimate for “Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary crossing facilities - detailed design and site investigation” is \$621.9 million. After deducting the revised estimate for 2009-10, there is a balance of \$586.6 million. Under such circumstances, why is the estimated expenditure for 2010-11 only \$72.7 million? What is the schedule for spending the remaining provision? How can the progress of the works project be accelerated?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply:

The estimated expenditure of \$72.7 million in 2010-11 mainly covers the following two elements of the detailed design and associated site investigation works for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (HKBCF):

- (a) the reclamation; and
- (b) the superstructures/infrastructures.

The former has progressed smoothly and an estimated expenditure of \$45.4 million will be expended in 2010-11. The latter, with an expenditure of about \$27.3 million in 2010-11, will only commence in the second half of 2010 upon completion of the HKBCF International Design Ideas Competition; the winning design ideas will form the basis for reference and further development in the detailed design of HKBCF superstructures. We expect that the winning design of the competition will be announced in May this year. With commencement of the superstructures/infrastructures consultancy, we anticipate that the remaining expenditure would be incurred at a faster rate in the next few years.

We will closely monitor the progress and review the programme where necessary to ensure that the project can be completed timely to tie in with the anticipated commissioning of the HZMB in 2016.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 16.3.2010