

For information

Legislative Council Panel on Transport

**Latest Progress of
Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macao Bridge Main Bridge**

PURPOSE

This paper updates Members on the progress of the Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macao Bridge (HZMB) Main Bridge project.

BACKGROUND

2. In May 2009, the Finance Committee approved the funding support for the detailed design and construction of the HZMB Main Bridge. Following the State Council's formal approval of the Feasibility Study report of the HZMB project in October 2009, the construction of the Main Bridge commenced in mid-December 2009.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE OF THE HZMB UPON COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION

3. The governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and Macao Special Administrative Region (Macao SAR) have been working closely to take forward the construction of the HZMB. To facilitate the works of the Main Bridge, the three governments jointly prepared an inter-governmental agreement (IGA) to specify the partnership arrangements between the three governments as well as their rights and responsibilities in respect of the construction, operation, maintenance and management of the Main Bridge. The IGA is based on the principles which the three sides have previously agreed, such as decision-making through friendly consultation as practiced by the three sides and setting the tolls as low as possible to encourage patronage. With agreement reached on its contents, the three sides signed the IGA in February 2010, which took immediate effect.

MAJOR ISSUES COVERED IN THE IGA

4. The HZMB is a mega cross-boundary project involving the governments of Guangdong, HKSAR and Macao SAR. The IGA states that the three governments will continue to follow the principles of friendly consultation, close communication and agreement by consensus in overseeing the construction, operation, maintenance and management of the HZMB. Various related issues will be handled in accordance with the respective local law (see Clause 2(1)).

5. Since the HZMB Main Bridge¹ will be located within Mainland waters, its day-to-day management has to comply with Mainland laws and regulations. Hence, the Guangdong side will be the convenor of the Joint Works Committee of the Three Governments² (the Committee) composed of representatives of the three governments, which is responsible for decision-making on major issues concerning the HZMB project. The Committee will also authorise the project legal person to be established by the three governments to implement its various policies (see Clause 3). The project legal person, which will be a non-profit-making public institution legal person, is responsible for co-ordinating the implementation of the construction, operation, maintenance and management of the Main Bridge (see Clause 4). However, the Committee will play a supervisory role over the following important matters (see Annex 1) :

- (a) basic management system and annual work plan of the project legal person;
- (b) annual budget estimate, appointment and removal of auditors, and audit checks on the income and expenditure records of the project legal person;
- (c) quality and safety of the works of the Main Bridge;
- (d) appointment and removal of key personnel and human

¹ The “HZMB Main Body” (大橋主體) referred to in the IGA is “HZMB Main Bridge” (大橋主橋).

² As far as the HKSAR Government is concerned, the representatives will mainly be from the Transport and Housing Bureau and the Highways Department.

resources arrangements of the project legal person;

- (e) toll levels and operation mode of the Main Bridge; and
- (f) tendering and contract management for the works of the Main Bridge.

6. As the HZMB is a non-profit-making infrastructure project, the toll revenue will be used for loan and interest repayment, and for meeting operating expenses. It is the consensus of three governments to determine the toll levels of the Main Bridge on the basis of encouraging patronage by setting the tolls as low as possible (see Clause 13).

7. The IGA also sets out guiding principles on other issues regarding the construction, operation, maintenance and management of the HZMB (including the opening/closure arrangements; traffic requirements; management of boundary crossing facilities; security, fire safety and emergency handling, etc.). Please refer to the Annex for the full text of the IGA (Chinese version only).

OTHER FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

8. The three governments will finalise the details for establishing the project legal person, and set up the Committee to oversee the implementation of the HZMB project.

ADVICE SOUGHT

9. Members are invited to note the contents of this paper.

Transport and Housing Bureau
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