

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)2289/09-10

Ref. : CB1/PS/1/08

Panel on Transport

**Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways
Meeting on 6 July 2010**

Background brief on Kwun Tong Line Extension

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the Kwun Tong Line Extension (KTE) project and summarizes the major views and concerns expressed by the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways (the Subcommittee) on the project at previous meetings.

Background

2. The implementation of KTE, which will be an extension of MTR Kwun Tong Line, runs from Yau Ma Tei Station to a new station in Whampoa Garden and with an interchange with the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) at the proposed Ho Man Tin Station (HOM). KTE will be approximately 2.6 km in length. Its schematic layout is at **Appendix I**.

3. KTE will serve the 146 000 people living in Whampoa and Ho Man Tin. The estimated daily patronage in 2016 is 180 000. The cost estimates for the construction of KTE and its associated essential public infrastructure works are about \$4.2 billion and \$120 million respectively (in April 2007 prices). At present, travelling by road-based transport between Whampoa and Mong Kok takes more than 25 minutes during rush hours. With the provision of KTE, passengers from Whampoa and Ho Man Tin will be able to reach Mong Kok within 5 minutes. KTE is aimed to serve effectively a wide catchment population in urban Kowloon, in particular Whampoa and Ho Man Tin area.

4. In March 2008, the Executive Council decided to proceed with the implementation of the railway project under the "ownership approach" and has commissioned the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to take forward the

project. In June 2008, MTRCL commenced the further planning and preliminary design of KTE. The Government and MTRCL presented the project to the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Yau Tsim Mong and the Kowloon City District Councils and conducted two rounds of public consultation in collaboration with the Kowloon City District Council in 2008 and 2009.

5. The KTE railway scheme was gazetted on 27 November 2009 in accordance with the requirements of the Railways Ordinance (Cap. 519). The Administration is carrying out the detailed design, handling the objection cases under the Railways Ordinance and proceeding with the Environmental Impact Assessment for KTE. Construction of KTE is expected to be completed in 2015.

Discussion of Kwun Tong Line Extension by the Subcommittee

6. The Subcommittee discussed KTE at its meetings on 27 March 2008, 17 September 2009 and 16 April 2010 and received views from deputations on the project at the meeting on 27 March 2008. The Subcommittee further conducted a site visit to the proposed HOM and Whampoa Station (WHA) on 17 May 2010 to examine the arrangements for the proposed station entrances and pedestrian link facilities. The views and concerns raised by Subcommittee members at these meetings are summarized in ensuing paragraphs.

Location of Ho Man Tin Station

7. The proposed HOM will be the interchange station for KTE and SCL. To tie in with the alignment of SCL, the station will be located at the ex-Valley Road Estate. Members were concerned about the inconvenience posed by the remote location of HOM and the inadequate provision of station entrances. The Subcommittee requested for provision of better pedestrian connections to HOM. In response, MTRCL proposed a pedestrian network to connect the nearby estates to HOM, including the followings –

- (a) *connection between HOM and Ho Man Tin Estate:* a proposed footbridge along Sheung Lok Street (abutting Ho Man Tin Estate) crossing Fat Kwong Street would be connected to the existing walkway along the hillside of the Ho Man Tin Sports Centre heading for Chung Yee Street. The walkway would be upgraded with cover. Chung Yee Street would then be linked up with a proposed subway along Chung Hau Street leading to HOM by a lift system;

- (b) *connection between HOM and Oi Man Estate:* a proposed covered footbridge would be built along Chung Yee Street to connect Oi Man Estate near Hau Man Street with HOM; and
- (c) *connection between HOM and Hung Hom area:* a proposed footbridge across Chatham Road North near its junction with Wuhu Street would be built.

8. MTRCL also advised that due to topographical constraints such as the risk posed by the existing water service reservoir at Fat Kwong Street, provision of a station entrance at Fat Kwong Street for HOM was not recommended. MTRCL further advised that residents of Oi Man Estate had expressed concerns about security and privacy issues over a suggestion of extending the proposed footbridge to the carpark in the estate.

Location of Whampoa Station

9. Tak On Street and Dyer Avenue were initially proposed as options for the location of WHA. Having considered the population served, impact to existing structures and resumption requirements of underground strata of private buildings, MTRCL had, in the second round of public consultation, proposed to locate WHA at Tak On Street. Some members expressed concern about the implications of locating WHA on a private road in the Whampoa Garden on the management costs borne by residents concerned in the future. They urged the Administration and MTRCL to look at the matter.

10. Some members suggested enhancing the pedestrian connections between WHA and its neighbouring housing estates and the Hung Hom old district with a view to facilitating residents nearby and revitalizing the vacant industrial buildings in the area. Some members also suggested the construction of a pedestrian subway to connect WHA to the pedestrian subway at the junction of Hung Hom Road and Tai Wan Road. MTRCL advised that the proposed public pedestrian links might duplicate in function with the existing pedestrian road and subway near to Tak On Street. Nevertheless, the Administration and MTRCL undertook that they would continue to closely liaise with local residents and review the need for improvement works in the detailed design stage.

Motion passed by the Subcommittee on Kwun Tong Line Extension in the current session

11. The Subcommittee passed the following motion at its meeting on 16 April 2010 –

"That this Committee (i.e. the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways under the Panel on Transport) urges the Government and the MTRCL to increase the number of entrances at both Ho Man Tin Station and Whampoa Station for the convenience of local residents."

12. In response to the motion, the Administration provided an interim reply [LC Paper No. CB(1)2141/09-10(01)] in which it undertook to study in collaboration with MTRCL members' suggestions taking into account factors such as the existing pedestrian facilities, road traffic conditions, pedestrian flow forecast, technical viability and cost-effectiveness.

Latest developments

13. The Administration has proposed to report on the progress of the implementation of KTE at the meeting of the Subcommittee on 6 July 2010.

Relevant papers

14. A list of relevant papers is at **Appendix II**.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
2 July 2010



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KWUN TONG LINE EXTENSION

Kwun Tong Line Extension

List of relevant papers

Date of meeting of Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
27.3.2008	Legislative Council Brief on SCL and MTR Kwun Tong Line Extension	THB(T)CR 10/1016/99 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdp-thbtr1010169-9-e.pdf
	Administration's paper on funding application for the design of SCL	CB(1)1036/07-08 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdp0327cb1-1036-3-e.pdf
	Administration's supplementary paper on SCL and MTR Kwun Tong Line Extension	CB(1)1377/07-08(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdp0327cb1-1377-1-e.pdf
	Minutes of meeting	CB(1)1374/07-08 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/minutes/rd080327.pdf
17.9.2009	Administration's paper on progress of the Kwun Tong Line Extension	CB(1)2582/08-09(04) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdp0917cb1-2582-4-e.pdf
	Minutes of meeting	CB(1)920/09-10 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/minutes/rdp20090917.pdf
16.4.2010	Administration's paper on progress report on the Kwun Tong Line Extension	CB(1)1573/09-10(03) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdp0416cb1-1573-3-e.pdf

Date of meeting of Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
	Administration's follow up paper on the Kwun Tong Line Extension	CB(1)2141/09-10(01) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/papers/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdp0416cb1-2141-1-e.pdf
	Minutes of meeting	CB(1)2071/09-10 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/papers/tp_rdp/minutes/rdp20100416.pdf

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