

立法會

Legislative Council

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by the Administration)

Ref: CB4/PS/3/12

Panel on Transport

Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways

Minutes of meeting on Friday, 2 January 2015, at 10:45 am in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex

- Members present** :
- Hon CHAN Han-pan, JP (Chairman)
 - Hon WONG Kwok-hing, BBS, MH (Deputy Chairman)
 - Hon James TO Kun-sun
 - Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP
 - Hon Mrs Regina IP LAU Suk-ye, GBS, JP
 - Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
 - Hon Claudia MO
 - Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
 - Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
 - Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
 - Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai
 - Hon TANG Ka-piu, JP
 - Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
 - Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS
- Member attending** :
- Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
- Members absent** :
- Hon LEE Cheuk-yan
 - Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
 - Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP
 - Hon Paul TSE Wai-chun, JP
 - Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP
 - Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP

**Public Officers
attending** : **Agenda item III**

Mr YAU Shing-mu, JP
Under Secretary for Transport and Housing
Transport and Housing Bureau

Ms Rebecca PUN Ting-ting, JP
Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)1
Transport and Housing Bureau

Miss Winnie WONG Ming-wai
Principal Assistant Secretary for Transport and
Housing (Transport)3
Transport and Housing Bureau

Mr Peter LAU Ka-keung, JP
Director of Highways
Highways Department

Mr Henry CHAN Chi-yan, JP
Principal Government Engineer/Railway
Development
Highways Department

Dr LEUNG Kin-man, JP
Assistant Director/Railways
Electrical and Mechanical Services
Department

Agenda item IV

Mr YAU Shing-mu, JP
Under Secretary for Transport and Housing
Transport and Housing Bureau

Ms Rebecca PUN Ting-ting, JP
Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)1
Transport and Housing Bureau

Mr Raymond CHENG Nim-tai
Principal Assistant Secretary for Transport and
Housing (Transport)⁷
Transport and Housing Bureau

Mr Peter LAU Ka-keung, JP
Director of Highways
Highways Department

Mr Henry CHAN Chi-yan, JP
Principal Government Engineer/Railway
Development
Highways Department

Agenda item V

Mr YAU Shing-mu, JP
Under Secretary for Transport and Housing
Transport and Housing Bureau

Mr José YAM Ho-san
Principal Assistant Secretary for Transport and
Housing(Transport)⁴
Transport and Housing Bureau

Dr LEUNG Kin-man, JP
Assistant Director/Railways
Electrical and Mechanical Services
Department

**Attendance by
invitation :**

Agenda item III

Dr Philco WONG
Projects Director
MTR Corporation Limited

Ms Maggie SO
Deputy General Manager – Projects and
Property Communications
MTR Corporation Limited

Mr Simon TANG
General Manager – XRL
MTR Corporation Limited

Mr Alvin LUK
General Manager – XRL E&M
MTR Corporation Limited

Agenda item IV

Dr Philco WONG
Projects Director
MTR Corporation Limited

Ms Maggie SO
Deputy General Manager – Projects and
Property Communications
MTR Corporation Limited

Mr Mark CUZNER
General Manager – WIL/SIL
MTR Corporation Limited

Mr James CHOW
General Manager – KTE
MTR Corporation Limited

Agenda item V

Dr Tony LEE
Chief of Operations Engineering
MTR Corporation Limited

Ms May WONG
General Manager – Corporate Relations
MTR Corporation Limited

Mr Terry WONG
General Manager – Infrastructure
MTR Corporation Limited

Clerk in attendance : Ms Sophie LAU
Chief Council Secretary (4)6

Staff in attendance : Miss Katherine CHAN
Council Secretary (4)6

Ms Emily LIU
Legislative Assistant (4)6

Action

I. Information papers issued since last meeting

- (LC Paper No. CB(4)261/14-15(01) - Administration's response to the letters from Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai, Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT and Hon TANG Ka-piu on a dog's death after straying onto railway tracks on East Rail Line)

The
Clerk

Members noted the above paper which had been issued since the last meeting. Ms Claudia MO suggested that the Administration should submit the full report on the stray dog incident on the East Rail Line in August 2014 to the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways ("the Subcommittee") and brief members on the subject at the forthcoming meeting. Mr Gary FAN supported. The Chairman remarked that the Secretariat would follow this up with the Administration and the MTR Corporation Limited ("MTRCL").

(Post-meeting note: The report on stray dog incident on the East Rail Line on 20 August 2014 was discussed at the Subcommittee meeting held on 6 March 2015.)

II. Items for discussion at the next regular meeting on 6 March 2015

(LC Paper No. CB(4)287/14-15(01) - List of outstanding items for discussion

LC Paper No. CB(4)287/14-15(02) - List of follow-up actions)

Action

2. Members agreed to discuss the following items at the next meeting to be held on Friday, 6 March 2015 –

(a) Update of the progress and financial situation of the construction of the Hong Kong section ("HKS") of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link ("XRL"), West Island Line ("WIL"), South Island Line (East) ("SIL(E)", Kwun Tong Line Extension ("KTE") and Shatin to Central Link ("SCL"); and

(b) Safety management measures for trains of HKS of XRL.

(Post-meeting note: The Administration planned to brief the Subcommittee on the progress update of the construction of WIL, SIL(E), KTE and SCL through information papers. The paper on progress update of the construction of SCL and the paper on progress update of the construction of WIL, SIL(E) and KTE were issued to members on 4 March 2015 vide LC Paper Nos. CB(4)596/14-15(01) and CB(4)596/14-15(02) respectively. Besides, the item "Safety management measures for trains of HKS of XRL" originally planned for discussion on 6 March 2015 would be deferred to a future meeting.)

III. Progress update of the construction of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link

(LC Paper No. CB(1)260/14-15(04) - Administration's paper on progress and financial situation of the construction of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link

LC Paper No. CB(1)260/14-15(05) - Paper on the construction of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (updated background brief)

Relevant papers

- LC Paper No. CB(1)1822/13-14(01) - First report by the Independent Board Committee on the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link project provided by the MTR Corporation Limited
- LC Paper No. CB(1)1825/13-14(01) - Letter from Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki on the first report issued by the Independent Board Committee of the MTR Corporation Limited on the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link project
- LC Paper No. CB(1)144/14-15(01) - Second report by the Independent Board Committee on the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link project provided by the MTR Corporation Limited
- LC Papers
CB(1)194/14-15(01)
CB(1)279/14-15(01)
- Nos. - Letter from Hon Michael
and TIEN Puk-sun on the
possibility of cost overrun
for the implementation of
the Hong Kong section of
the
Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong
Kong Express Rail Link
project and Administration's
response)

Action

3. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Administration and MTRCL briefed members on the progress update of the construction of HKS of XRL. The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

Admin /
MTRCL

4. After deliberation, the Administration and MTRCL were requested to provide –
- (a) more detailed information on how the Highways Department monitored the progress of the construction of HKS of XRL project in the past few years;
 - (b) information on the schedule of works for the construction of HKS of XRL project, such as the comparison of the planned and actual progress of the three critical works contracts; and
 - (c) the updated financial situation of the non-railway works of XRL project and information on cost overrun, if any.

(Post-meeting note: The supplementary information provided by the Administration was issued to members on 27 February 2015 vide LC Paper No. CB(4)575/14-15(01).)

IV. Progress update of the construction of the South Island Line (East) and Kwun Tong Line Extension

(LC Paper No. CB(4)287/14-15(03) - Administration's paper on progress update of the South Island Line (East) and Kwun Tong Line Extension

LC Paper No. CB(4)287/14-15(04) - Paper on the construction of the South Island Line (East) and Kwun Tong Line Extension prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (updated background brief))

5. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Administration and MTRCL briefed members on the progress update of the construction of SIL(E) and KTE. The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

Action

Admin / MTRCL 6. After deliberation, the Administration and MTRCL were requested to provide information on the impact of the "Occupy Movement" on MTRCL's railway projects, such as project delay and additional cost thus entailed.

V. Outcome of the independent expert review of the MTR Corporation Limited's overhead line system as a result of the insulator incidents in February 2014

(LC Paper No. CB(4)287/14-15(05) - Administration's paper on the outcome of the independent expert's review on MTR overhead line system as a result of the insulator incidents in February 2014

LC Paper No. CB(4)287/14-15(06) - Paper on the outcome of the independent expert review of the MTR Corporation Limited's overhead line system as a result of the insulator incidents in February 2014 prepared by the Legislative Council Secretariat (background brief))

7. At the invitation of the Chairman, the Administration and MTRCL briefed members on the outcome of the independent expert review of MTRCL's overhead line system as a result of the insulator incidents in February 2014. The Subcommittee deliberated (index of proceedings attached at **Annex**).

Admin / MTRCL 8. The Administration and MTRCL were requested to provide information on any action taken against the supplier of the faulty insulators, which had reportedly led to the East Rail Line incidents on 9 and 18 February 2014 and the Light Rail incident on 22 January 2014. The Chairman remarked that due to time constraints, this agenda item would continue to be discussed at the next regular meeting to be held on 6 March 2015.

Action

VI. Any other business

9. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 1:00 pm.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
16 March 2015

Panel on Transport

Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways

**Proceedings of the meeting
on Friday, 2 January 2015, at 10:45 am
in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex**

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
<i>Agenda Item I – Information papers issued since last meeting</i>			
000113 – 000422	Chairman Ms Claudia MO Mr Gary FAN	Members noted the Administration's paper on the stray dog incident on the East Rail Line in August 2014 [LC Paper No. CB(4)261/14-15(01)] issued since last meeting and suggested following up the matters at the forthcoming meeting of the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways ("the Subcommittee").	The Clerk to follow up (paragraph 1 of minutes)
<i>Agenda Item II – Items for discussion at the next regular meeting on 6 March 2015</i>			
000423 – 000501	Chairman	The Chairman informed members that the Administration agreed to discuss the following items at the next regular meeting on 6 March 2015: (a) Update of the progress and financial situation of the construction of the Hong Kong section ("HKS") of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link ("XRL"), West Island Line ("WIL"), South Island Line (East) ("SIL(E)", Kwun Tong Line Extension ("KTE") and Shatin to Central Link; and (b) Safety management measures for trains of HKS of XRL.	
<i>Agenda Item III – Progress update of the construction of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link</i>			
000502 – 000925	Chairman Administration	The Administration briefed members on the progress update of the construction of HKS of XRL.	
000926 – 001618	Chairman MTR Corporation Limited ("MTRCL")	With the aid of a powerpoint presentation [LC Paper No. CB(4)311/14-15(01)], MTRCL gave a briefing on the progress update of the construction of HKS of XRL.	
001619 – 002103	Chairman Mr WONG Kwok-hing MTRCL	Mr WONG Kwok-hing expressed the following concerns: (a) as only 41% of the concrete structural works for the West Kowloon Terminus ("WKT") Station	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>North (Contract 810A) had been completed, MTRCL might not be able to catch up with the works progress; and</p> <p>(b) measures taken by MTRCL to prevent recurrence of damage caused by flooding as in the tunnel construction works at Yuen Long tunnel section connecting Tsat Sing Kong and Tai Kong Po in 2014.</p> <p>In response, MTRCL explained that:</p> <p>(a) difficult ground conditions had caused delay in the works progress at WKT Station North while the proposed use of blasting was expected to expedite the excavation of the underlying rock there; and</p> <p>(b) they learnt a lesson from the last year's experience and implemented measures to minimize the impact brought by inclement weather on HKS of XRL construction sites. These measures were proved to be effective in subsequent rainstorms.</p>	
002104 – 002509	Chairman Mr Gary FAN Administration	<p>Citing the recommendations of the Second Report by the Independent Board Committee on HKS of XRL project provided by MTRCL, Mr Gary FAN enquired whether the implementation of the arrangements for co-location of boundary control facilities ("the co-location arrangements") at WKT had hindered the progress of the construction of HKS of XRL, such as WKT Station design. Also, he urged the Administration to inform members of the timetable set for implementing the co-location arrangements.</p> <p>The Administration explained that they were actively studying the implementation of the co-location arrangements and discussing them with their Mainland counterparts. As the work was rather complex, it took a longer time to deliberate and examine the legal and constitutional issues. The relevant work was still underway. Their goal was to strive for the implementation of the co-location arrangements at WKT when HKS of XRL was completed and commissioned by the end of 2017.</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
002510 – 002929	Chairman Hon CHAN Kam-lam Administration MTRCL	<p>Mr CHAN Kam-lam expressed the following views and concerns:</p> <p>(a) as the implementation of the co-location arrangements at WKT was very important to the realization of the intended purpose of HKS of XRL to be a timesaving express railway, he urged the Administration to resolve the relevant legal and constitutional issues as quickly as possible;</p> <p>(b) expressed concern about the financial situation of HKS of XRL project and asked whether all the contracts had been awarded or not; and</p> <p>(c) given that HKS of XRL project would incur an additional cost of \$6.5 billion, when the Administration would seek additional funding from the Legislative Council ("LegCo").</p> <p>The Administration made the following response:</p> <p>(a) they would spare no efforts to implement the co-location arrangements at WKT;</p> <p>(b) as at end September 2014, the awarded contract sum for the contracts and the cumulative expenditure for the awarded contracts were \$45.215 billion and \$41.108 billion respectively; and</p> <p>(c) concerning the overrun of the approved project estimate, they would act in accordance with the entrustment agreement signed with MTRCL. Subject to MTRCL's request, they would consider seeking additional funding from LegCo in due course.</p> <p>MTRCL explained that all the major contracts for the construction of HKS of XRL had been awarded and over 60% of the works were completed. Besides, WKT construction site faced critical challenge. The Corporation would closely monitor the works progress and carefully control the costs of the project.</p>	
002930 – 003348	Chairman Mr WU Chi-wai Administration	<p>Mr WU Chi-wai expressed the following views and concerns:</p> <p>(a) whether the difficulties encountered in the implementation of the co-location arrangements</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>would adversely affect the construction progress at WKT Station or not; and urged the Administration to provide the schedule of implementing the co-location arrangements; and</p> <p>(b) requested the Administration to provide more detailed information on how the Highways Department ("HyD") monitored the progress of the construction of HKS of XRL project in the past few years.</p> <p>The Administration responded that:</p> <p>(a) they were actively studying the implementation of the co-location arrangements and discussing the issues with the Mainland counterparts. They aimed at implementing the co-location arrangements at WKT upon the commissioning of HKS of XRL at the end of 2017; and</p> <p>(b) HyD had been carrying out its monitoring role since the commencement of HKS of XRL project. For instance, the Project Supervision Committee led by the Director of Highways held monthly meetings with MTRCL and relevant government departments to review project progress and financial situation. Besides, to enhance transparency of the monitoring mechanism, HyD's work was reported in detail in the half-yearly report for the period ending 30 September 2014 [LC Paper No. CB(4)260/14-15(04)].</p>	<p>Administration to provide information / response (paragraph 4 of minutes)</p>
<p>003349 – 003812</p>	<p>Chairman Mr Michael TIEN MTRCL</p>	<p>Mr Michael TIEN raised the following views and questions:</p> <p>(a) given that only about 30% of the concrete structural works for WKT had been completed in November 2013 and after about one year, the completion rate was only 41%, he expressed worry that MTRCL might not be able to catch up with the works progress at this pace;</p> <p>(b) whether a fallback mechanism was in place if the co-location arrangements could not be implemented at WKT upon commissioning of HKS of XRL; and</p> <p>(c) as regards the cost overrun for HKS of XRL project, whether the Administration or MTRCL would bear the relevant cost or not.</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>In response, MTRCL explained that the ground condition at WKT works site was extremely complex. They were working closely with the contractors to raise the production rate by improving the arrangement of manpower, say increasing the number of workers and their working hours. The Corporation would endeavour to catch up with the programme.</p>	
<p>003813 – 004243</p>	<p>Chairman Administration MTRCL</p>	<p>The Chairman raised the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) if the acute labour shortage problem led to further delay in HKS of XRL project, which parties (e.g. MTRCL or contractors) should bear the responsibility; and (b) in respect of project cost, whether the remaining contingencies of HKS of XRL project could fully cover the amount to be claimed; if not, whether the Administration would apply for supplementary provision from LegCo. <p>The Administration made the following response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) according to the entrustment agreement signed by the Administration and MTRCL, the Corporation should try its best endeavours to complete the railway project. If manpower shortfall led to additional project cost, the Administration would act in accordance with the entrustment agreement as regards the responsibility to bear such cost; and (b) MTRCL had estimated that the latest cost to complete HKS of XRL project was about \$71.52 billion, which was about \$6.5 billion more than the approved project estimate. The Administration was reviewing MTRCL's estimate in detail and requested MTRCL to provide further information. If necessary, they would consider seeking additional funding from LegCo. <p>MTRCL explained that they had implemented various measures to mitigate the labour shortage problem encountered in the construction of HKS of XRL. For example, they would hire labour first and then provide them with proper training to increase the manpower. Also, contractors had applied for importation of labour through the Supplementary Labour Scheme ("SLS").</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
004244 – 004650	Chairman Ms Claudia MO Administration	<p>Ms Claudia MO expressed the following worries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the intended purpose of HKS of XRL as an express railway might be defeated if the co-location arrangements at WKT could not be implemented. As such, she urged the Administration to work hard on its realization and provide a timetable for implementing the co-location arrangements; and (b) given that HKS of XRL project would probably need a cost increase of \$6.5 billion, whether this amount would be further increased in future. <p>In response, the Administration advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) they were actively studying the implementation of the co-location arrangements and would spare no efforts to resolve the concerned legal and constitutional challenges; and (b) MTRCL's latest estimated cost to complete HKS of XRL project (i.e. \$71.52 billion) was under review. The Administration would consider seeking additional funding from LegCo in due course. 	
004651 – 005145	Chairman Mr Tony TSE Administration MTRCL	<p>Mr Tony TSE suggested that the Administration should provide updated information of the construction of HKS of XRL because the data given in the half-yearly report [LC Paper No. CB(4)260/14-15(04)] and the powerpoint presentation [LC Paper No. CB(4)311/14-15(01)] was only up to 30 September 2014.</p> <p>The Administration explained that in view of the delay in the construction of HKS of XRL, they would submit the report on the progress update and financial situation from half-yearly basis to quarterly basis for members' reference. The forthcoming report for the period ending December 2014 would be made available in the first quarter of 2015.</p> <p>Mr TSE requested that the Administration and MTRCL should provide information on the schedule of works for the construction of HKS of XRL project, such as the comparison of the planned and actual progress of the three critical works contracts, for members' reference.</p>	Administration / MTRCL to provide information / response (paragraph 4 of minutes)

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
005146 – 005611	Chairman Mr Frankie YICK Administration MTRCL	<p>Mr Frankie YICK raised the following questions:</p> <p>(a) whether the design of WKT had set aside space for the provision of the facilities for co-location arrangements for the Mainland and Hong Kong or not; and urged the Administration to consult the public on the said arrangements and to commence the legislative drafting procedure as early as possible because it might involve complicated legal issues and take time to study and resolve;</p> <p>(b) what was the result of the trial blasting conducted at WKT Station North and whether blasting method could lead to higher productivity so that MTRCL might catch up with the works progress; and</p> <p>(c) how many of the 5 322 construction workers hired for HKS of XRL project were imported labour and whether SLS could help alleviate the manpower shortage or not.</p> <p>In response, the Administration explained that they had already reserved space at WKT to accommodate facilities for the co-location arrangement. They were actively working on the implementation of the co-location arrangements. Once specific agreements had been reached with the Mainland authorities on the arrangements, they would report them to LegCo in a timely manner.</p> <p>MTRCL made the following response:</p> <p>(a) trial blasts at WKT Station North had been conducted since September 2014 and were completed smoothly. The blasting works would commence in January 2015; and</p> <p>(b) 433 construction workers in HKS of XRL project were imported labour. Besides, the processing time of the applications for labour importation through SLS was shortened to about six months.</p>	
005612 – 010024	Chairman Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung	<p>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed the following views and concerns:</p> <p>(a) the Administration should ask MTRCL to enhance its monitoring of contractors who should be responsible for solving the labour</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>shortage problem faced in HKS of XRL project;</p> <p>(b) urged the Administration to resolve the challenges encountered in implementing the co-location arrangements at WKT as soon as possible. Otherwise, the intended purpose of HKS of XRL to be a timesaving express railway would be defeated; and</p> <p>(c) questioned which parties should be held accountable for the cost overrun for HKS of XRL project.</p>	
010025 – 010440	Chairman Mr TANG Ka-piu Administration	<p>Mr TANG Ka-piu expressed the following views:</p> <p>(a) requested the Administration to provide the updated financial situation of the non-railway works of HKS of XRL project and information on cost overrun, if any; and</p> <p>(b) pointed out that the cost overrun for the construction of WIL under ownership approach was much less than that for HKS of XRL under concession approach; and enquired whether ownership approach was more appropriate than concession approach in implementing new railway projects as MTRCL would have to bear the risk of cost overrun under ownership approach.</p> <p>The Administration explained that after careful considerations, they had decided to adopt ownership approach for WIL and concession approach for HKS of XRL. Under ownership approach, MTRCL was responsible for the finance, design, construction, operation and maintenance of WIL and would own the railway. Under concession approach, the Administration was responsible for the construction costs of HKS of XRL and would receive a service concession payment annually from MTRCL.</p>	Administration / MTRCL to provide information / response (paragraph 4 of minutes)
010441 – 011050	Chairman Dr Priscilla LEUNG Mr WU Chi-wai Mr Michael TIEN Administration	<p>Dr Priscilla LEUNG:</p> <p>(a) expressed concern that delay in the construction of HKS of XRL had caused much inconvenience to the community, such as traffic congestion in the vicinity of Jordan Road and Kowloon Station;</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>(b) expressed worry that labour shortage problem would not only adversely affect the construction of HKS of XRL, but would also hinder the progress of other railway projects, say KTE; and</p> <p>(c) urged the Administration to inform the Subcommittee about the problems encountered in the implementation of the co-location arrangements as soon as possible; and suggested that the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services might help resolve the concerned legal and constitutional issues.</p> <p>The Administration made the following response:</p> <p>(a) they would spare no effort in mitigating the labour shortage problem encountered in the construction of new railway lines; and</p> <p>(b) they would take into account Dr LEUNG's views when studying the implementation of the co-location arrangements. Once specific agreements had been reached with the Mainland authorities on the co-location arrangements at WKT, they would report them to LegCo in a timely manner.</p> <p>The Chairman remarked that the Administration should take members' views and concerns into consideration, in particular the implementation of the co-location arrangements, and brief the Subcommittee on the relevant progress in due course. Also, he requested the Administration and MTRCL to follow up with the views of Messrs WU Chi-wai, Tony TSE and TANG Ka-piu and provide supplementary information accordingly.</p>	<p>Administration / MTRCL to provide information / response (paragraph 4 of minutes)</p>
<i>Agenda Item IV – Progress update of the construction of the South Island Line (East) and Kwun Tong Line Extension</i>			
011051 – 011324	Chairman Administration	The Administration briefed members on the progress update of the construction of SIL(E) and KTE.	
011325 – 012227	Chairman MTRCL	With the aid of a powerpoint presentation [LC Papers Nos. CB(4)311/14-15(02) and (03)], MTRCL gave a briefing on the progress update of the construction of SIL(E) and KTE.	
012228 – 012720	Chairman Mr Gary FAN	Mr Gary FAN expressed the following views and concerns:	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
	Administration MTRCL	<p>(a) given that the original target of opening SIL(E) in 2015 could not be achieved, he urged the Administration to inform the public about the revised commissioning date of SIL(E) as early as possible;</p> <p>(b) opined that the delay in the underpinning works beneath the Island Line tunnel at Admiralty Station should be the major reason hampering the overall progress of the construction of SIL(E) and that the impact of "Occupy Movement" should not be blamed for delay of SIL(E) project; and</p> <p>(c) requested the Administration and MTRCL to provide the Subcommittee with the progress report of SIL(E) for the period from September to December 2014.</p> <p>In response, the Administration explained that the critical challenge for the construction works of SIL(E) was the delay in the underpinning works beneath the Island Line tunnel at Admiralty Station.</p> <p>MTRCL supplemented that while the "Occupy Movement" to some extent had impact on the construction of SIL(E), the underpinning works beneath the Island Line tunnel at Admiralty Station was the critical challenge and they would spare no efforts to improve the works progress. They said that the target for opening of SIL(E) was end 2016.</p>	
012721 – 013130	Chairman Mr WONG Kwok-hing MTRCL	<p>Mr WONG Kwok-hing expressed that:</p> <p>(a) as the construction of SIL(E) was affected by the "Occupy Movement", he urged MTRCL to spare no efforts to catch up with the works progress;</p> <p>(b) given that the underpinning works beneath the Island Line tunnel at Admiralty Station was the critical challenge in the construction of SIL(E), how MTRCL would improve the works progress so that SIL(E) could be commissioned by end 2016; and</p> <p>(c) as good progress had been achieved in the construction of SIL(E) in the Southern District such as Wong Chuk Hang, Lei Tung and South Horizons, he suggested that road traffic in the vicinity of those construction sites should be</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>resumed normal as early as possible.</p> <p>MTRCL made the following response:</p> <p>(a) despite the challenge in the underpinning works beneath the Island Line at Admiralty Station, they would strive the best to expedite the works progress of SIL(E), say working on a seven-day-a-week, 24-hour basis and deploying additional manpower and machinery; and</p> <p>(b) they would spare no efforts to complete the construction works of SIL(E) in the Southern District as scheduled and make the roads available for public use as quickly as practicable.</p>	
013131 – 013620	Chairman Mr Michael TIEN Administration	<p>Mr Michael TIEN:</p> <p>(a) appreciated MTRCL's excellent service performance in coping with additional demand for railway services during the 79-day "Occupy Movement";</p> <p>(b) expressed worry that MTRCL had underestimated the difficulties in the underpinning works beneath the Island Line tunnel at Admiralty Station and urged MTRCL to assess more realistically the works progress of SIL(E); and</p> <p>(c) as the Administration commented MTRCL's revised target commissioning date of SIL(E) as "a great risk" and that of KTE as "still risks" in the information paper, he requested the Administration to express those risks in terms of percentage.</p> <p>The Administration explained that they did not use percentages to express the risks or possibility of MTRCL being unable to achieve the revised target commissioning dates of SIL(E) and KTE. They used some general terms to report the works progress so that the public could understand easily. Nevertheless, they would take account of Mr TIEN's suggestion and try to improve the wording in future to reflect the situation.</p>	
013621 – 014029	Chairman Mr Tony TSE	Mr Tony TSE raised the following views and questions:	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
	MTRCL	<p>(a) echoed Mr Michael TIEN's views on MTRCL's excellent service performance during the "Occupy Movement";</p> <p>(b) noting the persistent delay of the excavation works at Whampoa Station of KTE, he asked for the planned and actual progress of the works of KTE project; and</p> <p>(c) whether the excavation works for the platform tunnel connecting the East and West concourses of Whampoa Station was one of the critical works for the commissioning of KTE.</p> <p>In response, MTRCL explained that the excavation works for the said platform tunnel was still in progress and had encountered difficult geological conditions underground. Besides, excavation works actually commenced in the fourth quarter of 2014, instead of the third quarter of 2014 as planned. The platform tunnel was expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2015.</p>	
014030 – 014433	Chairman Dr Priscilla LEUNG MTRCL	<p>Dr Priscilla LEUNG expressed the following views and concerns:</p> <p>(a) the delay in KTE project disappointed the public, in particular the residents in the vicinity of Whampoa Station;</p> <p>(b) whether the simultaneous implementation of many railway projects had aggravated the labour shortage problem and caused delay in the construction works of KTE; and</p> <p>(c) since some of the excavation works of the East and West concourses of Whampoa Station would be carried out at night time, what mitigation measures would be implemented to minimize the noise impact on residents nearby.</p> <p>MTRCL made the following response:</p> <p>(a) several challenges, such as varying geological conditions underground at Whampoa Station and manpower shortfall, had caused delay in the construction of KTE. They would spare no efforts to overcome the difficulties;</p> <p>(b) the electrical and mechanical installation and fitting out works at Whampoa Station would</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>commence soon. They would closely monitor the manpower situation in KTE project; and</p> <p>(c) when carrying out excavation works of the East and West concourses of Whampoa Station at night time, they would implement a number of measures to minimize the noise impact on the community, such as applying for an extension of the Construction Noise Permit from the Environmental Protection Department for works with the least noise impact and installation of noise barriers.</p>	
014434 – 014902	Chairman Mr TANG Ka-piu Administration MTRCL	<p>Mr TANG Ka-piu raised the following question and views:</p> <p>(a) what was the planned and actual progress of the works in SIL(E) and KTE projects; and</p> <p>(b) suggested conducting a site visit to the construction site at Admiralty Station so that the Subcommittee could better understand the progress of underpinning works.</p> <p>MTRCL explained that up to the end of October 2014, 79.2% of the works for SIL(E) had been completed whereas the planned works progress was 88.1%. For KTE, the actual and planned works progress was 69.1% and 69.6% respectively. The critical challenge faced by KTE was the excavation works for the platform tunnel connecting the East and West concourses of Whampoa Station.</p> <p>The Administration advised that due to safety concerns, visit to the construction site at Admiralty Station might not be appropriate at the present moment.</p>	
014903 – 015317	Chairman Mr CHAN Kam-lam MTRCL	<p>Mr CHAN Kam-lam raised the following views and question:</p> <p>(a) although the underpinning works at Admiralty Station was one of the major reasons causing the delay in the progress of the construction of SIL(E), the impact of "Occupy Movement" should not be overlooked. He urged the Administration and MTRCL to carefully assess the impact of the event; and</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		<p>(b) whether the Administration and MTRCL had made reference to the geological information of Whampoa Garden when conducting the preliminary planning and ground investigation for KTE project.</p> <p>MTRCL explained that before the commencement of KTE project, they had already collected and studied the geological information in the vicinity of Whampoa Station. However, during the course of construction, they encountered different challenges, such as varying geological conditions underground at Whampoa Station.</p>	
015318 – 015726	Chairman Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung	<p>Mr LEUNG Kwok-hung expressed the following views and concerns:</p> <p>(a) opined that the "Occupy Movement" did not have much impact on the construction of the railway projects because the event only lasted for about 70 days and the participants acted peacefully;</p> <p>(b) as the Administration's information paper reported in paragraph 29 that construction materials could not be delivered to the Harcourt Garden site and the excavated materials could not be handled in time during the "Occupy Movement", how it affected the overall progress of the construction of SIL(E); and</p> <p>(c) the traffic conditions resumed normal at Queensway in mid-October 2014, why the Mines Division could not deliver explosives to the work site until 23 October 2014.</p>	
015727 – 020141	Chairman Administration MTRCL	<p>The Chairman enquired whether the Administration and MTRCL would review the impact of "Occupy Movement" on the railway construction works; and if yes, whether they would submit the relevant assessment to the Subcommittee for reference.</p> <p>In response, MTRCL explained that the daily works progress of the construction of SIL(E) was recorded in details. However, the impact of "Occupy Movement" on the construction works was still being assessed. They would spare no efforts to achieve the target commissioning date of SIL(E).</p>	

Time marker	Speaker	Subject(s)	Action required
		The Administration supplemented that the latest progress of SIL(E) was reported in the information paper, including delay in the critical underpinning works beneath the Island Line tunnel at Admiralty Station and the impact of the "Occupy Movement".	
020142 – 020515	Chairman Mr Christopher CHUNG Administration MTRCL	Upon Mr Christopher CHUNG's request, the Administration and MTRCL would provide information on the impact of the "Occupy Movement" on MTRCL's railway projects (say project delay in terms of months, additional cost thus entailed and change in construction method).	Administration / MTRCL to provide information / response (paragraph 6 of minutes)
<i>Agenda Item V – Outcome of the independent expert review of the MTR Corporation Limited's overhead line system as a result of the insulator incidents in February 2014</i>			
020516 – 020859	Chairman Administration	The Administration briefed members on the outcome of the independent expert review of MTRCL's overhead line system as a result of the insulator incidents in February 2014.	
020900 – 021237	Chairman MTRCL	With the aid of a powerpoint presentation [LC Paper No. CB(4)311/14-15(04)], MTRCL gave a briefing on the outcome of the independent expert review of MTRCL's overhead line system as a result of the insulator incidents in February 2014.	
021238 – 021531	Chairman Mr Michael TIEN Mr WONG Kwok-hing	Mr WONG Kwok-hing requested the Administration and MTRCL to provide information on any action taken against the supplier of the faulty insulators, which had reportedly led to the East Rail Line incidents on 9 and 18 February 2014 and the Light Rail incident on 22 January 2014. The Chairman remarked that due to time constraints, this agenda item would be discussed further at the next regular meeting to be held on 6 March 2015.	Administration / MTRCL to provide information / response (paragraph 8 of minutes)