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29 May 2020

Dear Ms LAU

Panel on Transport
Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways

Thank you for your letter of 8 May 2020. We provide the following responses to the motions passed at the meeting of Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways held on 5 May 2020.

Motion on “Funding application for increase in approved project estimate for the main works of Shatin to Central Link” raised at the meeting on 3 March 2020 and passed at the meeting on 5 May 2020 (LegCo Paper no. CB(4)537/19-20(01))

Under the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) Project, the works for Tuen Ma Line has been substantially completed; the last 15% of the works for “North South Corridor” constitutes mostly the remaining works. The revised cost estimate has included and factored in all of the foreseeable risks by making appropriate provisions. If the application for the increase in the approved project

estimate for the main works of SCL is approved, the Government and MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) are confident in completing the remaining works within the revised cost estimate.

Motion passed under agenda item IV on “Tung Chung Line Extension” at the meeting on 5 May 2020 (LegCo Paper no. CB(4)537/19-20(02))

As we have pointed out at the meeting of 5 May, the suggested rail shuttle connecting Tung Chung East Station and the Airport involves several major technical challenges, including a possible and earlier exceedance of the estimated patronage of Tung Chung Line over its carrying capacity, increasing in travelling time of Airport Express Line, reducing the flexibility of increasing the train frequency of Airport Express Line and delaying the completion of Tung Chung East Station. Therefore, the rail shuttle will not be implemented. We note that the MTRCL is proceeding with a joint study with Hong Kong Airport Authority on other types of transport facilities. We have forwarded the suggestion about the automated intelligent light rail system as described in the motion to MTRCL for their consideration.

Yours sincerely,

[Chinese version signed]

(PANG Ka-yu)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

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