

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04**

**[Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works]
[Session No. : 9] [File name : ETWB(T)-e1.doc]**

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
ETWB(T)001	1451	CHAN Kam-lam	60	ALL
ETWB(T)002	1007	CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina	60	ALL
ETWB(T)003	0360	HO Chung-tai, Raymond	60	-
ETWB(T)004	1095	IP Kwok-him	60	District and Maintenance
ETWB(T)005	1096	IP Kwok-him	60	ALL
ETWB(T)006	1187	IP Kwok-him	60	-
ETWB(T)007	1289	LEE Cheuk-yan	60	ALL
ETWB(T)008	0706	WONG Sing-chi	60	Capital Projects
ETWB(T)009	0707	WONG Sing-chi	60	District and Maintenance
ETWB(T)010	0708	WONG Sing-chi	60	Technical Services
ETWB(T)011	0805	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	100	Port Services
ETWB(T)012	1393	CHAN Kwok-keung	158	Transport
ETWB(T)013	1394	CHAN Kwok-keung	158	Transport
ETWB(T)014	1395	CHAN Kwok-keung	158	Transport
ETWB(T)015	0786	CHAN Wai-yip, Albert	158	Transport
ETWB(T)016	0998	CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina	158	Transport
ETWB(T)017	1141	CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina	158	Transport
ETWB(T)018	0109	HO Sau-lan, Cyd	158	Transport
ETWB(T)019	1506	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	158	Transport
ETWB(T)020	0208	LAU Kong-wah	158	Transport
ETWB(T)021	0209	LAU Kong-wah	158	Transport
ETWB(T)022	0210	LAU Kong-wah	158	Transport
ETWB(T)023	1175	LEE Cheuk-yan	158	Transport
ETWB(T)024	0659	SHEK Lai-him, Abraham	158	Transport
ETWB(T)025	1396	CHAN Kwok-keung	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)026	1397	CHAN Kwok-keung	186	Management of Transport Services
ETWB(T)027	1398	CHAN Kwok-keung	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(T)028	1399	CHAN Kwok-keung	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
ETWB(T)029	0243	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)030	0244	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)031	0246	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)032	0247	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)033	0248	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)034	0249	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(T)035	0250	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Management of Transport Services
ETWB(T)036	0995	CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina	186	Planning and Development Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers District Traffic and Transport Services Management of Transport Services
ETWB(T)037	1009	HO Chung-tai, Raymond	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)038	0809	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)039	0810	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(T)040	0811	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)041	0812	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	186	-
ETWB(T)042	0813	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	186	-
ETWB(T)043	0207	LAU Kong-wah	186	Management of Transport Services
ETWB(T)044	0211	LAU Kong-wah	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)045	0215	LAU Kong-wah	186	-
ETWB(T)046	0216	LAU Kong-wah	186	-
ETWB(T)047	0217	LAU Kong-wah	186	-
ETWB(T)048	0218	LAU Kong-wah	186	-
ETWB(T)049	0219	LAU Kong-wah	186	-
ETWB(T)050	1320	LEE Cheuk-yan	186	ALL
ETWB(T)051	0566	TAM Yiu-chung	186	Management of Transport Services
ETWB(T)052	0685	TAM Yiu-chung	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)053	0680	TANG Siu-tong	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)054	0876	TANG Siu-tong	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)055	0877	TANG Siu-tong	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)056	0430	YOUNG Howard	186	-

Reply Serial No.	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
ETWB(T)057	0435	YOUNG Howard	186	-
ETWB(T)058	1251	LI Wah-ming, Fred	706	-

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)001

Head :
60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1451

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision, Programmes (1) – (4) mentioned the salary increments for staff. Please explain the nature of the increments and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply : Before an officer reaches the maximum pay point of the salary scale of his/her substantive rank, he/she may be granted an increment if and only if his/her performance at work (including conduct, diligence and efficiency) has been satisfactory. The expenditure on salary increment in the department is about \$6M in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **20 March 2003** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)002

Head : Subhead (No. & title) :
 60 – Highways Department

Question Serial No.

1007

Programme : 6001 – 6004

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide:

- (a) the establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the above programme areas by the following categories:
 - I: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including Directorate)
 - II: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44
 - III: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33
 - IV: Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below
(Please provide breakdown by programme areas.)
- (b) the number of posts (by ranks) already deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimize resources; and
- (c) the number of posts (by ranks) to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply : (a) The establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the programme areas by the following categories-

	<u>Programme 60-01</u>		<u>Programme 60-02</u>		<u>Programme 60-03</u>		<u>Programme 60-04</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>S</u>
Starting Pay at										
MPS 45 & above	47	42	43	42	29	26	42	36	161	146
MPS 34 to 44	14	14	22	22	0	0	8	7	44	43
MPS 12 to 33	225	225	311	311	53	53	134	134	723	723
MPS 11 & below	378	378	442	425	25	25	156	156	1001	984
	<u>664</u>	<u>659</u>	<u>818</u>	<u>800</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>104</u>	<u>340</u>	<u>333</u>	<u>1929</u>	<u>1896</u>

E: Establishment
 S: Strength

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)002

Question Serial No.

1007

- (b) The number of posts (by ranks) already deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimize resources are as follows:-

Rank	No.
Senior Engineer	1
Senior Survey Officer (Engineering)	1
Survey Officer/Survey Officer Trainee (Engineering)	1
Survey Officer/Survey Officer Trainee (Quantity)	2
Senior Inspector of Works	1
Inspector of Works	2
Assistant Inspector of Works	2
Works Supervisor I	4
Works Supervisor II	4
Assistant Clerical Officer	1
Chainman	1
Workman II	5
Property Attendant	3
Artisan	10
Clerical Assistant	1
Traffic Assistant	1
Total	40

- (c) The Department is considering the deletion or redeployment of posts in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 21 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)003

Head : 60 - Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title) : 272 Electricity for public lighting

Question Serial No.

0360

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The increase in financial provision under Subhead 272 (Electricity for public lighting) for 2003-04 over the revised estimate for 2002-03 is due to the additional requirements for street lighting, traffic signals and ventilation equipment at bus termini installed during 2002-03 and those to be installed in 2003-04. In 2003-04,

- (a) where will these additional facilities be installed?
- (b) what is the financial provision for the ventilation equipment at bus termini?
- (c) will there be any increase in lighting equipment at highways? If yes, please provide the details.

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

- Reply : (a) The additional facilities include public lighting and traffic signals in our new road projects such as Improvement to Island Eastern Corridor-section between North Point Interchange and Sai Wan Ho and other minor roads and in the eight new Public Transport Interchanges (PTIs) at West Rail stations; improvements to/upgrading of ventilation systems for the bus termini at Admiralty (East), South Horizon, Tuen Mun Town Centre, Bayview Garden, and Yen Chow Street; and provision of new ventilation systems at PTIs at West Rail Stations in Tsuen Wan West and Yuen Long North.
- (b) The financial provision for the ventilation equipment at bus termini is about \$60M.
 - (c) In addition to those in (a) above, we shall, in 2003-04, provide 1,200 nos. of new village lighting for villages as requested by Director of Home Affairs and 700 nos. of new lighting to the directional signs and gantry signs.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)003

Question Serial No.

0360

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 20 March 2003

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

Head : Subhead (No. & title) :
60 – Highways Department

Question Serial No.

1095

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding “Matters Requiring Special Attention”, the Highways Department will “enhance the standard of streetscape through installation of more high quality pavers in footpaths”. Please inform the Committee of:

- (a) the cost of material per square metre, installation cost and estimated service life of the materials currently adopted by the government in the pavers of footpaths. Please provide the details in a table.
- (b) the kinds of pavers commonly used by the Highways Department. What kinds of pavers in the table set out in (a) above will be used by the department more frequently in the coming year?
- (c) the area of footpaths (square metres) the Highways Department has to pave each year. Please provide figures of the past three years.
- (d) the estimated additional expenditure for installing more high quality pavers.

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply : (a) The costs (including material and installation costs) of various types of paving materials are given in the Table below –

<i>Type of paving materials</i>	<i>Material and installation cost (\$/m²)</i>
In-situ concrete/bituminous paving	\$50 - \$75
Conventional concrete paver	\$100 - \$150
High quality concrete paver	\$200 - \$280
Clay paver	\$370 - \$500
Artificial granite paver	\$390 - \$700
Natural granite paver	\$580 - \$800

The service life of the pavers ranges from 10 years to 15 years.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)004

Question Serial No.

1095

- (b) Of the types of paving materials set out in the table in (a) above that have been used in our footpaths, the first three types i.e. in-situ concrete/bituminous paving; conventional concrete paver; and high quality concrete paver are the most commonly used. HyD will take into account the pedestrian flow and usage, location of the pavement in relation to its surroundings, specific characteristics of the district, its strength, aesthetic and durability requirements, etc in deciding on the appropriate paving materials to be used. The high quality concrete paver as set out in (a) above will be used more frequently in the coming year.
- (c) HyD paves about 150 000m² of footpath each year. The areas of footpath laid with pavers in 2000/01 and 2001/02 were both 150 000m² while the area paved in 2002/03 was 220 000m².
- (d) We have yet to determine the appropriate types of paving materials to be used in paving the footpaths in 2003/04 for reasons given in reply to (b) above. As such we are not able to estimate the amount of additional expenditure for installing more high quality pavers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 21 March 2003

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

ETWB(T)005

Head : Subhead (No. & title) :
60 – Highways Department 000 Operational expenses

Question Serial No.

1096

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The expenses of the four programmes are affected by the “salary increments for staff”. In this connection, please inform the Committee of:

- (a) the number and ranks of the staff involved in the “salary increments for staff” and the amount of expenses involved in 2003-04;
- (b) how the department could take up the additional expenses arising from the salary increments on one hand, and provide equivalent or better services with less resources on the other;
- (c) the actual amount of savings in the implementation of salary reduction of civil servants in 2002-03. Whether the savings offset part of the expenses in (a) above.

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply : To implement civil servants’ salary reduction with effect from 1.10.2002, an amount of about \$26 million has been deducted from the department’s operating expenditure envelope in 2003-04.

An officer may be granted an increment only if his/her performance at work (including conduct, diligence and efficiency) has been satisfactory and he/she has not yet reached the maximum pay point of the salary scale of his/her substantive rank. There are about 630 officers of various ranks in the department who may be granted salary increments subject to satisfactory performance. The expenditure required for this purpose amounts to about \$6 million which will be absorbed within the provision in the envelope.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)005

Question Serial No.

1096

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 21 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)006

Head :

60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

700 General other non-recurrent
526 Feasibility study for
contracting out road maintenance to private
sector in the form of Public Private Partnership
and drafting standard Public Private Partnership
contract

Question Serial No.

1187

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The government has allocated \$1 m for the “Feasibility study for contracting out road maintenance to private sector in the form of Public Private Partnership and drafting standard Public Private Partnership contract”. However, the allocation has not been used. Please inform the Council of the reason and the schedule of progress.

Asked by : Hon. IP Kwok-him

Reply : The allocation was granted on 2 December 2002. The government is selecting the appropriate consultant for the feasibility study. The study is anticipated to commence in April 2003 and to be completed in November 2003.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)007

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

Question Serial No.

1289

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide the number of non-civil service contract staff employed and the level of expenditure involved in 2002-03. Are there any plans to employ more or less non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If so, what are the reasons? And what will be the number of staff and the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : The number of non-civil service contract staff employed by the department in 2002-03 is 199 with an expenditure level of \$43.3 M. Having reviewed the service/operational need in 2003/04, we plan to reduce the number of non-civil service contract staff by about 50. The amount of expenditure involved is about \$6.15 M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 21 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)008

Head : Subhead (No. & title) :
60 – Highways Department

Question Serial No.

0706

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the matters requiring special attention in 2003-04, the Highways Department will commence a joint study with the Mainland authorities on a possible land transport link between Hong Kong and Pearl River West. Please provide the details. When will the study commence? When will be the completion date? What are the resources required?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The State Development Planning Commission (SDPC) and the HKSAR Government have jointly commissioned the Mainland's Institute of Comprehensive Transportation to conduct a study on the "Transport linkage between Hong Kong and Pearl River West". The study will look into the need and role of a transport link between Hong Kong and Pearl River West, taking into account factors including the future development of Hong Kong and the west bank of the Pearl River, their economic relationship, and traffic forecast. The study commenced in January 2003 and is anticipated to complete some time in mid 2003. The cost involved is about \$1.6 million. SDPC and the HKSAR Government will each contribute 50% of the cost.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)009

Head :
60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0707

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2003-04, the Highways Department will assist in implementing pedestrian schemes. What is the estimated expenditure? What improvement works will be carried out under the schemes?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The 2003-04 estimated expenditure on pedestrian facilities for Causeway Bay, Central, Wan Chai, Tsim Sha Tsui, Jordan, Mong Kok and Sham Shui Po is about \$14M. Improvement works such as footpath widening, reconstruction of road pavers and improved street lighting will be carried out to enhance the overall walking environment for pedestrians. In addition, street furniture such as crash barriers/gates, railings, tree guards/grilles, seats and signage made of durable materials will be installed in the pedestrianised areas.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **MAK CHAI KWONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **20 March 2003** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

ETWB(T)010

Head :
60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0708

Programme : (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In 2003-04, the Highways Department will continue to carry out landscaping works. What is the estimated expenditure? Where will these landscaping works be carried out? Please provide the details.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply : The 2003-04 estimated expenditure on landscaping works is about \$20M. These landscaping works will be carried out to enhance our environment with trees and shrubs in conjunction with the following major road projects: (i) Widening of Tolo Highway between Island House Interchange and Ma Liu Shui Interchange; (ii) Widening of Fo Tan Road and Related Improvements in Fo Tan; (iii) Castle Peak Road Improvement between Area 2 and Ting Kau, Tsuen Wan; (iv) Completion Contract for Improvement to Castle Peak Road from Siu Lam to So Kwun Tan; and (v) Kam Tin Bypass.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)011

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Port Services

0805

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

Among the matters requiring special attention in 2003-04, the Marine Department will improve the general environment of the China Ferry Terminal (CFT) and Macau Ferry Terminal (MFT). What are the details? What resources will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

We will undertake the following measures in 2003-04 to improve the general environment of the two ferry terminals –

- renew all the seats in the passenger waiting areas;
- revamp all the signage for guiding passengers and complete the replacement of the public address and closed-circuit television systems for improvement of crowd control;
- renovate the interior walls and wall mountings at MFT;
- renew escalators at CFT; and
- refurbish passenger boarding facilities at the berths.

About \$28 million will be involved.

Signature _____

Name in block
letters _____

S. Y. TSUI

Post Title _____

Director of Marine

Date _____

20 March 2003

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

ETWB(T)012

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.

Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

1393

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Bureau will carry out a study on fare regulation and a feasibility study on the merging of Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation/MTR Corporation Limited in 2003-04, will the Government inform this Council of the amount of expenditure and the number of staff (by ranks) involved, and the work objectives and programmes expected to be achieved within this year?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The studies on the regulation of public transport fares and the merging of KCRC/MTRCL are conducted through the deployment of internal resources and existing staff. The objective of the study on public transport fare is to develop a more rational and transparent process for fare adjustments which would allow for increase as well as reduction in fares, taking into account all relevant factors, and that for the study on the merging of KCRC/MTRCL is to consider the potential costs and benefits of merging KCRC and MTRCL. We aim to complete the two studies in the coming few months.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment)

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment)

1394

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Bureau will carry out the preparation for the opening of the West Rail before end 2003, will the Government inform this Committee of the number of staff (by ranks) and the amount of expenditure involved, and the specific arrangements for that?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : To prepare for the opening of West Rail before end 2003, monitoring and co-ordination arrangements have been put in place for Government to monitor the implementation of the project. The work for the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (the Bureau) is undertaken by existing resources. The Bureau is also supported by Government departments including Transport Department and Highways Department in this work.

The major tasks include :

- (a) monitoring the overall West Rail project progress including construction and operational readiness;
- (b) monitoring the progress of essential public infrastructure works for West Rail;
- (c) ensuring the safety and security of West Rail;
- (d) working out risk assessments and contingency plans for the West Rail project with KCRC;
- (e) overseeing the public transport plan for the opening of West Rail; and

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)013

Question Serial No.

1394

(f) overseeing KCRC's Light Rail reorganization plan upon West Rail opening.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch) 1395

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : For the planning and design of the Shatin to Central Link and the Kowloon Southern Link, what is the number of staff (by ranks) and the amount of expenditure involved? Is it necessary to contract out the planning and design work?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The detailed planning and design of the Shatin to Central Link and Kowloon Southern Link is being undertaken by the KCRC.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)015

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

0786

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : As shown under Programme (2), the financial provision for Transport for 2003-04 will decrease by 8.6%. Which items of expenses will be cut down and what areas of work of the bureau will be affected by the decrease in allocation?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : The decrease of 8.6% in the financial provision for 2003-04 is mainly due to the transfer of provision in Personal Emoluments to the Works Branch of the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (the Bureau) to enable it to take up the central support functions of office administration, finance and information technology for the entire Bureau. No public service will be affected.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS RITA LAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment)

Date 20 March 2003

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

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead:
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide:

- (a) the establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the above programme area by the following categories:
- I. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above (including Directorate)
 - II. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44
 - III. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33
 - IV. Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below
- (b) the number of posts (by ranks) already deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimise resource, and
- (c) the number of posts (by ranks) to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply :

- (a) The establishment and strength of the Transport Sub-branch under Head 153 – Government Secretariat: Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (Transport and Works), which will be included under Head 158 from 2003-04 onwards, as at 31 March 2003 are as follows:

	Establishment	Strength
Ranks with starting salary at		
MPS 45 & above	29	22
MPS 34 to 44	6	3
MPS 12 to 33	39	47
MPS 11 & below	40	41
Total	114	113

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)016

Question Serial No.

0998

- (b) In 2002-03, one Administrative Officer Staff Grade C, one Personal Secretary I and one Chauffeur have been redeployed to serve in the Director of Bureau's Office. In addition, one Personal Assistant has also been redeployed to serve in another Bureau.
- (c) The Administrative Officer Staff Grade C and a total of 26 general grade posts consisting of Executive Officer, Chinese Language Officer and Clerical Officer grades will be transferred from the Transport Sub-branch to the Works Branch for central support functions such as administration, finance and information technology of the bureau. The centralization of the administrative and support functions is the first phase of reorganization of the bureau. Restructuring of the bureau in other aspects is being critically examined. The exact number of posts to be deleted or redeployed has yet to be finalized.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS RITA LAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date 21 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)017

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment and Transport Branch) 1141

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Financial Secretary has indicated that the Government will introduce infrastructure projects for private sector participation as far as possible. He has also indicated in the past that the expenditure on public works will be about \$29 b per year for the next few years. Please inform this Council of the infrastructure projects that will be introduced for private sector participation in 2003-04, the details of them, and the amount of expenditure expected to be saved as a result of the private sector participation.

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, Selina

Reply : The Financial Secretary announced in his Budget Speech 2003 that the Government will introduce a list of infrastructure projects for private sector participation on a trial basis. The private sector will be invited to submit expressions of interest on 10 or so recreational and cultural facilities projects worth about \$2.5 billion. The Home Affairs Bureau is working on the details. The Government will consider extending the scheme, if successful, to cover projects under the purview of other bureaux. Pending the result of the trial scheme, there are no plans at this stage to extend the scheme to transport infrastructure projects.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MRS RITA LAU

Post Title Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date 19 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)018

Question Serial No.

0109

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

60 – Highways Department
91 – Lands Department
100 – Marine Department
118 – Planning Department
186 – Transport Department

Programme: (2) Transport

Controlling Officer: Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding consultancy studies for policy making and assessment (if any) commissioned by the above bureau and departments, please provide details in the following format:

(1) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has been allocated respectively in 2001-02 and 2002-03:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study

(2) Please provide the following details on the consultancy studies for which financial provision has not been allocated respectively in 2001-02 and 2002-03, though consultancy studies have been made during the year:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study

(3) Has financial provision been allocated for commissioning consultancy studies in 2003-04? If yes, please provide the following details:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)

Asked by: Hon. HO Sau-lan, Cyd

Reply: (1) The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (Environment and Transport Branch) (ETWB (E&T)) and the Highways Department (HyD) commissioned consultancy studies for policy making and assessment in 2001-02 and 2002-03. Details are as follows:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are available to deal with the subjects under study
Wilbur Smith Association Limited	The study serves to collect data and conduct researches on mainland and overseas experience in operating and managing tunnel and tolled roads with a view to exploring ways to optimise the utilisation of road harbour crossings. (ETWB (E&T))	\$3,400,000	In progress	The preliminary findings of the study will be available in April 2003 and the Administration will present the findings to LegCo Panel on Transport in April 2003.	N.A.
Ove Arup & Partners	Consultancy study for reviewing schedule of rates for highway term maintenance contracts (HyD)	\$450,000	Completed	The consultant's recommendations on schedule of rates have been incorporated as base rates for the highway term maintenance contracts	N/A

For other departments, there have been no provisions for conducting such consultancy studies in 2001-02 and 2002-03.

(2) Details of the consultancy study for policy making and assessment commissioned by HyD in 2001-02 and 2002-03 for which financial provision has not been allocated are as follows:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Progress on consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)	The Administration's follow-up action on the study reports and the progress made	Reasons for no follow-up action on the study reports and whether other measures are

					available to deal with the subjects under study
MVA Hong Kong Ltd	Provision of technical assistance and advice on transport policy issues in relation to the Feasibility Study on MTRCL/ KCRC Merger (HyD)	\$800,000	In progress	N/A	N/A

For other departments, they have not conducted such consultancy studies in 2001-02 and 2002-03.

(3) Proposed provisions have been included in the Estimates for continuing one study by HyD in 2003-04. Details are as follows:

Name of consultants (if available)	Description	Consultancy fees	Status of consultancy studies (planning/ in progress / completed)
N/A	Feasibility study for contracting out road maintenance to private sector in the form of Public Private Partnership and drafting standard Public Private Partnership contract (HyD)	N/A	Tender stage

For other departments, there have been no provisions for conducting such consultancy studies in 2003-04.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____
Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ 19 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)019

Head :158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead:

Environment, Transport and
Works Bureau (Environment
and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

1506

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the total expenditure of the Bureau for commissioning of
consultants in 2003-04? What are the items covered?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply : The total provision for commissioning of consultants in 2003-04 amounts to
\$1.78 million. There is only one project, which is a traffic consultancy on
optimising the utilisation of road harbour crossings.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)020

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment & Transport Branch) 0208

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : For the opening of the West Rail before end 2003, what are the progress
and details of the preparations? How much resources of the Bureau are
involved in the preparations?

Asked by : Hon. Lau Kong-wah

Reply : By end February 2003, the overall progress of West Rail has reached 94%
completion with station structures almost 100% complete. Inspections by
Government departments on the engineering works and station facilities are
being carried out. Provision of associated essential public infrastructure works
including essential connecting roads and public transport interchanges is
underway for completion in tandem with the commissioning of West Rail before
end 2003. Local consultation on Light Rail reorganisation and public transport
reorganisation plans are being conducted by Kowloon-Canton Railway
Corporation and Government respectively, and the reorganisation plans will be
finalised having regard to views of the public and relevant District Councils.

The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau oversees and monitors the
implementation of the project with support from relevant government
departments including Transport Department and Highways Department. No
additional resources have been provided and the work is being undertaken by
existing staff in addition to their normal duties.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ 19 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)021

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment & Transport Branch) 0209

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question : (a) For the implementation of the recommendations proposed in the “Railway Development Strategy 2000”, please provide details of the design and planning of each railway line, as well as the development of the surrounding areas.
- (b) Will the content of the “Railway Development Strategy 2000” be revised in accordance with the actual situation?
- (c) How much resources are put in for this item?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : (a) The Railway Development Strategy 2000 (RDS-2000) recommended the implementation of six rail projects i.e. the Kowloon Southern Link (KSL), Shatin to Central Link (SCL), Island Line Extensions (ILE), Northern Link (NOL), Regional Express Line (REL) and Port Rail Line (PRL).

The KSL is being developed by Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC). It is now at a detailed planning and design stage. KSL will start at Nam Cheong Station of West Rail, run along Canton Road, turn eastwards underneath the former Marine Police Headquarters into Salisbury Road and finally merge with the KCR Extension to Tsim Sha Tsui. Construction is expected to start by the end of 2004 for completion in 2008-2009.

The SCL is also being developed by KCRC. This will run from Tai Wai in Sha Tin to the Central Business District on Hong

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)021

Question Serial No.

0209

Kong side through East Kowloon. The alignment and the number and location of stations are being reviewed by KCRC. The current plan is to finalize these by mid-2003 for detailed design to commence afterwards. Construction is expected to start in 2004-2005 for completion in 2008-2009.

The ILE comprises the North Hong Kong Island Line (NIL) and the West Hong Kong Island Line (WIL). The function of the NIL is to relieve congestion at Mass Transit Railway Tsuen Wan Line and Island Line. Due to the reduction in forecast employment in the Western District and along the north shore of Hong Kong Island, we have decided to defer the implementation of NIL beyond 2016. We have asked MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to proceed with further planning of the WIL Phase 1 from Sheung Wan to Belcher. Planning of the WIL Phase 2 from Belcher to Kennedy Town will be reviewed in the context of the review of the proposed reclamation at Western District Development.

The implementation of the NOL depends both on the development programme of the Strategic Growth Areas (SGA) along this rail line, which is under review and the growth in cross-boundary rail traffic. We will continue to monitor its implementation in the light of these two factors.

The implementation of PRL depends on the growth of the cross-boundary rail-borne freight traffic to the Kwai Chung Container Ports. KCRC will soon complete its study on the viability of the PRL.

The REL is designed as a direct and separate rail link running from Hung Hom to the boundary. It will form part of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and we are now conducting a feasibility study jointly with the Mainland's Ministry of Railways on this link.

- (b) As illustrated above, the implementation programme of the rail projects recommended in RDS-2000 will be regularly reviewed to

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)021

Question Serial No.

0209

take into account the latest planning parameters and transport demand.

- (c) The work is undertaken by existing staff with no additional resources provided.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ 19 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)022

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead (No. & title) : Question Serial No.
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
(Environment & Transport Branch) 0210

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : How much does it cost for conducting the study on fare regulation mechanism and feasibility study on the merging of Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation /MTR Corporation Limited? When will the results of the studies be announced?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The studies on the regulation of public transport fares and the merger of KCRC/MTRCL are still on-going. We will present our findings and consult the Transport Panel of this Council as soon as we are ready. The former study is conducted by deployment of existing resources and in respect of the latter, a consultancy study costing \$800,000 is being undertaken.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and Works
(Environment)

Date _____ 19 March 2003

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

ETWB(T)023

Head :158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead: 000 Operational Expenses
Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

1175

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the number of persons employed as non-civil service contract staff in 2002-03 and the expenditure involved? Is there any plan to increase or decrease the number of non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If there is, please give the reasons for the increase or decrease, and the number of persons and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : Five non-civil service contract staff have been employed in 2002-03 and the provision involved is \$0.6 million. Upon completion of an ad hoc assignment in 2003-04, one non-civil service contract staff with an annual expenditure of \$0.12 million will complete his contract, which will then not be renewed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works (Environment)

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)024

Head : 158 – Government Secretariat: Subhead : 700 General
Environment, Transport and other non-
Works Bureau recurrent
(Environment and Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

0659

Programme : (2) Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for the Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment and Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide a breakdown, by item, of the estimate under subhead 700 for the year 2003-04 (i.e. item 007 Traffic consultancy on optimizing the utilization of road harbour crossings/ 008 Publicity campaign on railway development).

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply : Traffic consultancy on optimizing the utilization of road harbour crossings - the provision of \$1,780,000 is for collecting data and conducting researches on Mainland and overseas experience in operating and managing tunnels and tolled roads.
Publicity campaign on railway development - the provision of \$300,000 for this item comprises \$200,000 for wall banners and \$100,000 for posters.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MRS RITA LAU

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Environment)

Date _____ 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)025

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1396

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding your plan to implement pedestrian schemes in the streets of Central, Wan Chai, Jordan, Sham Shui Po and Causeway Bay, please provide details of schemes, establishment concerned, and costs involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The following pedestrian schemes are planned in 2003:

		Nature of works
1.	<u>Causeway Bay</u> Lee Garden Road (Between Lan Fong Road and Hysan Avenue)	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
2	Pak Sha Road	Upgrade to daily part-time closure.
3 .	Central Duddell Street	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
4 .	On Lan Street	
5.	Queen's Road Central (Between Pedder Street and Pottinger Street)	

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)025

Question Serial No.

1396

6.	<u>Wan Chai</u> Johnston Road (Between Tai Wo Street and Stone Nullah Lane)	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
7.	Johnston Road (Between Swatow Street and Ship Street)	
8.	Johnston Road (Between Wan Chai Road and Triangle Street)	
9.	<u>Mong Kok</u> Soy Street (Between Fa Yuen Street and Sai Yeung Choi Street)	Extend to daily part-time closure
10.	Sai Yeung Choi Street South (Between Nelson Street and Dundas Street)	Ditto
11.	Nelson Street (Between Fa Yuen Street and Sai Yeung Choi Street)	Ditto
12.	Shan Tung Street (Between Nathan Road and Fa Yuen Street)	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
13.	<u>Jordan</u> Nanking Street (Between Nathan Road and Parkes Street)	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)025

Question Serial No.

1396

14.	<u>Sham Shui Po</u> Fuk Wa Street (Between Yen Chow Street and Kweilin Street)	Trial on part-time closure
15.	Kweilin Street (Between Fuk Wa Street and Fuk Wing Street)	

In addition to the above planned schemes, Transport Department will continue to develop further pedestrian schemes in the above districts as well as other districts including Tsim Sha Tsui.

Transport Department has a dedicated team led by a Chief Engineer for the planning, development and monitoring of pedestrian facilities in the territory including pedestrian schemes, walkway systems and signages. Implementation of the above schemes forms part of their portfolio.

The estimated cost of the associated road works at the above areas is around \$1.5 million and will be funded from Highways Department's block vote under CWRF.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

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

ETWB(T)026

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1397

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the plan to upgrade the ventilation plants at six covered public transport interchanges to improve the air quality, would the Government provide details of the upgrading works, and the implications on manpower resources (in terms of staff establishment) and expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : We plan to upgrade the ventilation plants of 5 covered public transport interchanges (PTIs) at Bayview Garden, Yen Chow Street, South Horizon, Tuen Mun Town Centre and Admiralty East. Having reviewed the air quality of the PTI at the Peak and the financial implication of upgrading its ventilation plant, we intend to improve the ventilation condition of this PTI through other improvements to the operation of the existing ventilation facilities in the short term.

The upgrading project is entrusted to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department through the trading fund arrangement. The administration of the entrustment works is absorbed by Transport Department's existing resources.

The total capital cost for upgrading the ventilation plants at the five covered PTIs is about \$23M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 20 March 2003 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)027

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

1398

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What are the manpower resources and expenditure required for the issue of Group 1 (private car and light goods vehicle) Private Driving Instructor's licences? What is the detailed arrangement of the test?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : Existing human and financial resources within Transport Department (TD) are deployed as far as practicable for the current exercise of issuing new Private Driving Instructor's licences. The additional resources incurred solely by this exercise include \$190,000 for modifying the computer programme, \$288,000 for employing contract staff and \$28,000 for other preparations such as printing of application forms, making a total of \$506,000. They are absorbed within TD's existing provisions.

The test is made up of two parts, the written test and the road test. Each candidate will be allowed only one attempt for each part of the test. In the current exercise, the number of applicants far exceeds the target number of licences to be issued. In accordance with the law, the order of the applications in which they are dealt with will be determined by drawing lots. Each applicant will be so allocated with a priority number which determines the order of his being invited to the written test. Only those applicants who have passed the written test will be invited to take the road test. The vacancies left by those who fail in the written test or the road test will be filled by the successors in the queue. Applicants who have passed both parts will be qualified for issuance of Group 1 Private Driving Instructor's Licences, provided that they have not been convicted of "causing death by dangerous driving" or "driving a motor vehicle under the influence of drink or drugs" in the past five years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 20 March 2003

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

ETWB(T)028

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1399

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the expenditure (e.g. facilities for computerization) required for the project on Computerization of Written Test?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kwok-keung

Reply : The capital cost for the project on computerisation of written test and a directly related project on computerisation of driving test forms is \$6M, comprising expenses on procurement of hardware and software, site preparation, application development, hiring of contract staff and implementation services. The annual recurrent cost is \$400,000, covering the expenses on software and hardware maintenance, and is to be absorbed by Transport Department within its own existing provisions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 20 March 2003 _____

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

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0243

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : One of the key performance measures in respect of Programme 1 - Planning and Development is to process 7 public transport forward planning programmes in 2003. Would Government please advise the names of these programmes?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : The seven public transport forward planning programmes are:

1. Citybus Limited (Franchised Division I) Five Year Forward Planning Programme (2003-2007)
2. Citybus Limited (Franchised Division II) Five Year Forward Planning Programme (2003-2007)
3. The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited Five Year Plan (2003-2007)
4. New World First Bus Services Limited Five Year Forward Planning Programme (2003-2007)
5. Long Win Bus Company Limited Five Year Plan (2003-2007)
6. New Lantao Bus (1973) Company Limited Five Year Forward Plan (April 2002 to March 2008)
7. The “Star” Ferry Company Limited Five Year Forward Plan (Franchised Services) (2003-2007)

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 20 March 2003 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)030

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0244

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please explain the decrease of 8 in the number of licences granted or extended for licensed ferry services in 2003 compared with that in 2002 and list out the eight licensed ferry services?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : The licence period of licensed ferry services may vary taking into account, inter alia, pier availability and service demand. Furthermore, the licence period may vary from one to three years. Therefore, the number of licences to be granted or extended in each year may vary.

98 ferry service licences were granted or extended in 2002. For 2003, it is expected that 89 ferry service licences which are due to expire would be considered for licence extension and one new ferry service licence would be granted for the operation of a Harbour Tour Service, thus making a total of 90.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 20 March 2003 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)031

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0246

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the study on the impact of Ngong Ping cable car on bus services in Lantau, will it be carried out by the Transport Department in-house or by the consultant? If the former, what is the required financial resource? If the latter, what is the estimated cost?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : The study will be carried out by a consultant to be commissioned by the Transport Department at an estimated cost of about \$1 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 20 March 2003 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)032

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0247

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What are the concrete plans and expenditure involved for introducing a harbour tour service?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : The Harbour Tour Service (HTS) will be plying within the Victoria Harbour with calling points at Central, Wan Chai, Hung Hom and Tsim Sha Tsui. The operator of the HTS was selected through open tender last December. It is expected that the HTS will commence operation in the 3rd quarter of 2003.

To tie in with the commencement of the HTS, minor modification/enhancement works including signage improvement, pier facilities upgrading e.g. lighting and painting will be carried out. Additional expenditure for minor improvement works is expected to be absorbed by the relevant departments within their own existing provisions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 20 March 2003 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)033

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0248

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding implementation of new bus-bus interchange schemes at suitable locations in conjunction with franchised bus companies, please indicate what are the suitable locations.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : For 2003, we plan to implement 43 bus-bus interchange schemes at 34 locations, subject to District Council consultation. The locations are set out in Annex.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

20 March 2003

Locations of bus-bus interchange schemes planned for 2003

Hong Kong Island

1. Pok Fu Lam Road
2. Queensway
3. Shau Kei Wan Road

Kowloon

4. Ma Tau Wai Road
5. Lung Cheung Road
6. Kwun Tong Road
7. Prince Edward Road East
8. Ma Tau Chung Road
9. Nathan Road
10. Hung Hom Station
11. Waterloo Road
12. Cornwall Street

New Territories

13. Tai Wo Bus Terminus
14. Luen Wo Hui
15. Sheung Shui Landmark North Bus Terminus
16. Pak Wo Road
17. Sheung Shui Bus Terminus
18. Bayview Garden Bus Terminus
19. Castle Peak Road
20. Tai Ho Road
21. Cheong Wing Road
22. Tin Shui Wai Town Centre Bus Terminus
23. New Town Plaza Bus Terminus
24. Hung Mui Kuk Road
25. Yuen Wo Road
26. Tai Chung Kiu Road
27. Lui Ming Road
28. Tai Po Road (Tai Po)
29. Che Kung Miu Road
30. Tat Tung Road
31. Shun Tung Road
32. Scenic Road

Toll Plaza area

33. Tsing Ma Control Area
34. Tate's Cairn Tunnel

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)034

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

0249

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question :
- (a) Why the target average waiting time for driving test candidates increased to 85 days in 2003 as compared to 63 days in 2001 & 2002?
 - (b) Why the target average waiting time for vehicle inspection at government centers in 2003 is 5 working days, much longer than the actual 2 working days average waiting time for vehicle inspection at government centres in 2001 and 2002?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) In the past several years we have set a target of confining the average waiting time for driving test candidates to not more than 85 days. Since 2001, we have achieved shorter average waiting time of 63 days with the resources available. However, in 2003, there will be additional demand on our resources from recently introduced initiatives such as the issuing of new private driving instructor's licences and providing lectures for Driver Improvement Courses and Quality Driving Instructor Courses. We have hence been more conservative in our estimate of the average waiting time. We will aim to shorten the actual waiting time for driving test as far as possible in practice.
- (b) The target average waiting time for vehicle inspection at the Transport Department's vehicle examination centres is 5 working days. In the past two years, we have shortened the actual average waiting time to 2 working days. Since the inspection lane equipment at one of the vehicle examination centres is scheduled for replacement in 2003 and the inspection capacity may be affected during the replacement period, we have adopted a conservative estimate of 5 working days as the planned average waiting time for vehicle inspection in 2003. We will aim to shorten the actual waiting time for vehicle inspection as far as possible in practice.

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Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 20 March 2003 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)035

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0250

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : As mentioned in Programme (4), the Transport Department will improve the physical environment of five public transport interchanges. What are the locations of these transport interchanges? What are the improvement works? What is the estimated cost in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : The Transport Department plans to improve the passenger waiting environment of five public transport interchanges (PTIs) at Admiralty (East), Tsuen Wan MTR, Cheung Sha Wan Plaza, Lok Fu and Yen Chow Street.

The plan is to upgrade the ceilings, walls, passenger waiting platforms, and lighting at the PTIs with a view to bringing them up to present day standards. The estimated expenditure in 2003-04 is about \$23M which will be funded by the relevant works department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 20 March 2003 _____

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

ETWB(T)036

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) to (4)

0995

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury

Question : (a) The establishment and strength (as at 31 March 2003) for implementing the above programme area by the following categories:

- I : Ranks with starting pay at MPS 45 & above(including Directorate)
- II : Ranks with starting pay at MPS 34 to 44
- III : Ranks with starting pay at MPS 12 to 33
- IV : Ranks with starting pay at MPS 11 & below

(b) The number of posts(by ranks) already deleted or redeployed in 2002-03 to enhance productivity and optimise resources; and

(c) The number of posts (by ranks) to be deleted or redeployed in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's "3R1M" objective.

Asked by : Hon. CHOW LIANG Shuk-yee, Selina

Reply :

(a) The required information is listed below-

	Programme 186-01		Programme 186-02		Programme 186-03		Programme 186-04		TOTAL	
	E	S	E	S	E	S	E	S	E	S
Starting Pay at										
MPS 45 & above	52	40	8	6	34	32	9	8	103	86
MPS 34 to 44	16	15	15	15	19	14	9	8	59	52
MPS 12 to 33	114	116	134	115	129	126	17	15	394	372
MPS 11 & below	141	135	367	346	195	184	35	37	738	702
	323	306	524	482	377	356	70	68	1294	1212

E: Establishment

S: Strength

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)036

Question Serial No.

0995

- (b) In 2002-03, we have deleted or redeployed 20 posts [2 Senior Clerical Officers, 2 Clerical Officers, 3 Assistant Clerical Officers, 3 Clerical Assistants, 1 Supervisor of Typing Services, 1 Senior Typist, 1 Typist, 1 Confidential Assistant, 2 Motor Drivers, 1 Tracer, 1 Supplies Supervisor II, 1 Workman I and 1 Traffic Assistant] to enhance productivity and optimise use of resources.
- (c) The Department is considering deletion or redeployment of posts in 2003-04 to accomplish the Government's efficiency objectives.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)037

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1009

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : The Transport Department will implement additional traffic management schemes to alleviate traffic congestion in the Central Business District within the financial year 2003-04. Are there any current proposals of traffic management schemes to be implemented? If yes, what are the details and required budget?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : The following traffic management and improvement measures are in the pipeline to alleviate congestion in Central District:

- (a) provision of an additional traffic lane for right-turning from Pedder Street to Connaught Road Central eastbound to increase the junction capacity. Works are in progress and the target completion date is mid 2003;
- (b) provision of an additional traffic lane on Connaught Road Central westbound near junction with Gilman Street to remove the traffic bottleneck thereat. Works are in progress and scheduled for completion in early 2004; and
- (c) traffic management schemes to cope with vehicular traffic generated by the occupation of Two International Finance Centre (Two IFC) in late 2003. These include the provision of a direct linkage from Jubilee Street Underpass onto Rumsey Street Flyover, and the signalization of the junction of Man Kat Street and Connaught Road Central. Works are scheduled for completion in late 2003 to tie in with the occupation of Two IFC.

All these traffic management schemes are minor in nature and the required expenditure will be funded from Highways Department's block vote under CWRF.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)038

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0809

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : (a) Transport Department will develop and implement a Transport Information System. How much funding has been allocated for its implementation? What is the scope of its application? Would the System provide traffic information services to the public and tourists?
(b) What are the concrete plans for introducing a harbour tour service?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

- (a) \$63.6 million has been allocated for the development and implementation of the Transport Information System (TIS).

The system is a centralised data warehouse for the collection, processing and dissemination of comprehensive traffic and transport information. It will have two main outputs, namely, a Public Transport Information Service (PTIS) and an Intelligent Road Network (IRN).

The PTIS will be available on the Internet, and will assist public transport users and tourists to make pre-trip planning. The public will initially be able to access transport information on buses and railways, such as service schedules, locations of stops and routing details by clicking their set off points and destinations on a digitised map. The public will subsequently be able to search for their optimum public transport routes based on least distance, least cost or least interchange. Through PTIS, motorists will also be able to search for their optimum driving routes based on options such as least distance or minimum tunnel or bridge toll.

The IRN will contain up-to-date information on traffic directions, turning movements at road junctions and stopping restrictions, etc. It will enable value-added service providers in the private sector to develop specific ITS applications such as car navigation, fleet management, etc.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)038

Question Serial No.

0809

- (b) The Harbour Tour Service (HTS) will ply within the Victoria Harbour with calling points at Central, Wan Chai, Hung Hom and Tsim Sha Tsui. The operator of the HTS was selected through open tender last December. It is expected that the HTS will commence operation in the 3rd quarter of 2003.

To tie in with the commencement of the HTS, minor modification/enhancement works including signage improvement, pier facilities upgrading e.g. lighting and painting will be carried out.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)039

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

0810

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : (a)The target average waiting time for driving test candidates in 2003 is 85 days, but the actual ones in 2001 and 2002 were 63 days. Will Transport Department change the target to 63 days or less?
 (b)Transport Department will introduce “one-stop-shop” vehicle type approval service. What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

- (a) In the past several years we have set a target of confining the average waiting time for driving test candidates to not more than 85 days. Since 2001, we have achieved shorter average waiting time of 63 days with the resources available. However, in 2003, there will be additional demand on our resources from recently introduced initiatives such as the issuing of new private driving instructor’s licences and providing lectures for Driver Improvement Courses and Quality Driving Instructor Courses. We have hence been more conservative in our estimate of the average waiting time.
- (b) At present, vehicle manufacturers and suppliers are required to complete and submit separate vehicle type approval application documents to Transport Department (TD), Environmental Protection Department (EPD) as well as Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) in case of gas vehicle for processing and approval.

Under the proposed “one-stop-shop” mechanism to be launched on trial in April 2003, TD would take the lead to coordinate type approval applications. An integrated type approval application document, which unifies the separate application documents now adopted by the three departments, has been developed. Upon receipt of the application, TD would coordinate with EPD and EMSD for processing. We have consulted the transport trade which indicated support for the proposed arrangement as a service enhancement.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)040

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0811

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : It is estimated that the number of pedestrian streets to be implemented in 2003 is 15. Please provide details and the costs.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply : The following pedestrian schemes are planned in 2003:

		Nature of works
1.	<u>Causeway Bay</u> Lee Garden Road (Between Lan Fong Road and Hysan Avenue)	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
2.	Pak Sha Road	Upgrade to daily part-time closure
3.	<u>Central</u> Duddell Street	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
4.	On Lan Street	
5.	Queen's Road Central (Between Pedder Street and Pottinger Street)	
6.	<u>Wan Chai</u> Johnston Road (Between Tai Wo Street and Stone Nullah Lane)	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
7.	Johnston Road (Between Swatow Street and Ship Street)	
8.	Johnston Road (Between Wan Chai Road and Triangle Street)	

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)040

Question Serial No.

0811

9.	<u>Mong Kok</u> Soy Street (Between Fa Yuen Street and Sai Yeung Choi Street)	Extend to daily part-time closure
10.	Sai Yeung Choi Street South (Between Nelson Street and Dundas Street)	ditto
11.	Nelson Street (Between Fa Yuen Street and Sai Yeung Choi Street)	ditto
12.	Shan Tung Street (Between Nathan Road and Fa Yuen Street)	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
13.	<u>Jordan</u> Nanking Street (Between Nathan Road and Parkes Street)	Traffic calming (including footpath widening)
14.	<u>Sham Shui Po</u> Fuk Wa Street (Between Yen Chow Street and Kweilin Street)	Trial on part-time closure
15.	Kweilin Street (Between Fuk Wa Street and Fuk Wing Street)	

In addition to the above planned schemes, Transport Department will continue to develop further pedestrian schemes in the above districts as well as other districts including Tsim Sha Tsui.

The total estimated cost of the associated road works at the above areas is around \$1.5 million which will be funded from Highways Department's block vote under CWRP.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

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

ETWB(T)041

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700
General other non-recurrent

Question Serial No.

0812

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : When will the ferry service monitoring survey be conducted under
Subhead 700 Item 563?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply : The survey is planned to be carried out in early 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 20 March 2003 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)042

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

700 General other

non-recurrent

843 Minor consultancies for traffic
and transport studies (block vote)

Question Serial No.

0813

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the total expenditure on employment of consultants in 2003-04?
Please advise the ambit of the relevant items.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply : The total expenditure for employment of consultants in 2003-04 is estimated to be \$13.780M. The detailed breakdown is as follows :-

Subhead	Item No.	Description	2003-04 Estimate \$M
700	529	Consultancy services for additional monitoring surveys on public bus services	0.250
700	532	Hong Kong Island North and Kowloon West district traffic study	0.838
700	533	Tuen Mun and Yuen Long district traffic study	1.205
700	544	Studies on co-ordination of other public transport services with new railways	0.060
700	548	Consultancy for Base District Traffic Models	2.500
700	555	Consultancy to update the Parking Demand Study	0.321
700	556	Consultancy for digitisation of traffic aids drawings	1.398
700	557	Consultancy studies for pedestrianisation schemes	1.800

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)042

Question Serial No.

0813

Subhead	Item No.	Description	2003-04 Estimate \$M
700	558	Feasibility study on introducing trolley bus system in Hong Kong	1.578
700	562	Consultancy to review the operation of all non-area traffic control junctions in the Southern and Peak Districts and to test the applicability of video-based vehicle detection technology	0.130
843	-	Minor consultancies for traffic and transport studies (block vote)	<u>3.700</u>
		Total	<u>13.780</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)043

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0207

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Will the Administration inform the Committee details of the upgrading of ventilation plants at public transport interchanges in 2002-03? What is the expected improvement to air quality brought by the upgrading works? What is the planned upgrading works for other public transport interchanges? What is the cost implication?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong Wah

Reply : In 2002-03, we have upgraded the ventilation plants of 4 covered public transport interchanges (PTIs) at Kwai Hing MTR, Tsim Sha Tsui East, Sam Shing and Sai Lau Kok in order to meet Environmental Protection Department's (EPD) air quality guidelines.

We plan to upgrade the ventilation plants of another 5 covered PTIs at Bayview Garden, Yen Chow Street, South Horizon, Tuen Mun Town Centre and Admiralty East. Having reviewed the air quality of the PTI at the Peak and the financial implication of upgrading its ventilation plant, we intend to improve the ventilation condition of this PTI through other improvements to the operation of the existing ventilation facilities in the short term, which would enable it to meet EPD's guidelines.

The total capital cost for upgrading the ventilation plants at these 9 PTIs is \$39M.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)044

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

0211

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes, would the Administration advise:

- (a) why the number of BBI schemes implemented in 2002 has increased significantly in comparison with 2001 but the number to be introduced in 2003 would be less than that in 2002; how many BBI schemes have been approved so far; how many are being processed and what are the details; and
- (b) details of applications for interchange schemes other than bus-bus interchange schemes being processed by the Administration.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

- (a) In planning BBI schemes, the bus companies would take into account factors such as the scope to improve network coverage and efficiency, operational and financial implication of the schemes, suggestions from public, etc. and the implementation of these schemes are subject to consultation with the relevant District Councils. Therefore, the number of BBI schemes implemented in each year may vary. So far, Transport Department has approved a total of 139 applications for introduction of BBI schemes, 100 of which have been implemented and the remaining 39 schemes are planned for implementation before the end of the year subject to consultation with the relevant District Councils. About 340 bus routes are involved in the 139 approved schemes.
- (b) The Administration does not have on hand any applications for interchange schemes other than BBI schemes, but we understand that individual railway and franchised bus operators are exploring the possibility of introducing new rail-bus interchange scheme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)045

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700
General other non-recurrent

Question Serial No.

0215

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the consultancies for Base District Traffic Models (BDTMs) provided under Item 548, what are the details of the models? What is the current progress?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong Wah

Reply :

Details of the BDTMs are as follows:

The traditional approach in Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) studies involved developing separate local traffic models for individual studies. Those new local traffic models (notably road network and trip matrices) had to be prepared, calibrated and validated from scratch each time before they could be applied for traffic forecasting purposes. The setting up of BDTMs, covering the whole territory, provides a consistent and efficient base framework for conducting TIA studies. This stems from the fact that the basic network and matrices data built up in their development/updates can be re-used in other TIA studies. As such, there will be savings (about 20%) in both time and costs for conducting future TIAs. In addition, BDTMs will also be used to facilitate the planning of traffic management schemes on a district level.

As regards the progress, the base models have been substantially set up and validated to 2000-based planning data issued by the Planning Department. As Planning Department issued an updated 2001-based planning dataset last year and to ensure that local traffic forecasts by BDTMs are compatible with updated planning data and the corresponding network assumptions, works are required to re-validate and update the BDTMs. Opportunities will also be made to enhance the performance and functionalities of the models.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ROBERT FOOTMAN** _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 20 March 2003 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)046

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700
General other non-recurrent

Question Serial No.

0216

Programme : (4) Management of Transport services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What is the progress of the trial scheme to accept Octopus on electronic parking devices? Why is there a substantial difference between the approved commitment for the item and the revised estimated expenditure in 2002-03?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The trial of reloadable card-operated parking meters was undertaken from November 2000 to September 2001 at 200 parking spaces in busy areas. The trial proved that these parking meters performed satisfactorily in an outdoor, off-line and unattended environment. It also revealed public acceptance of Octopus as a payment card for parking meters. In view of the success of the trial scheme, a contractor was selected by open tender to replace in phases the existing electronic parking meters with Octopus-operated meters. The contract was awarded in December 2002. The first 1,000 new parking meters will be installed commencing in May 2003.

Given that no similar trials have been conducted overseas/locally and due to limited sources of information, Transport Department (TD)'s cost estimate of \$9.1M for the trial scheme was based on relevant information supplied by the existing provider of the electronic parking meters. Having further ascertained that other companies in the market could offer similar technology, TD invited interested parties to participate in the trial scheme. Amongst those companies which expressed interest, we have chosen five who indicated that they would bear the hardware and software development costs and would participate in the trial at nominal costs to TD. As a result, only \$3M was spent, which explained the difference between the approved commitment and the revised estimated expenditure.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)047

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700
General other non-recurrent

Question Serial No.

0217

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding Item 558, please provide details and progress of the feasibility study on introducing trolley bus system in Hong Kong.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The study concluded that there are important technical and operational issues concerning trolley bus operation in busy urban areas and in tunnels which taken together, present important risks for introducing trolley bus operation in these areas. These issues include vertical clearance of overbridges and trolley bus speed, potential traffic delays, removal and relocation of hanging signs, maintenance of fire fighting access in the narrow streets of Hong Kong, and problems with the siting of depots, traction poles, underground feeder cables, etc.

In addition, the study noted that the trolley buses can bring improvements to air quality and are relatively quiet, but the visual impact of the overhead wiring system of a trolley bus system to the city landscape could be an issue. Financial viability and higher fares are also a key problem.

Unless the financial viability problem, higher fares and the important technical and operational risks involved can be resolved, the Administration does not consider that there is a case to introduce trolley buses in existing built-up areas. On the other hand, for new development areas, better planning at the design stage would help address some of the problems associated with trolley bus operation. The Administration will study the merits of introducing trolley buses amongst other environmentally friendly transport modes in South East Kowloon Development to determine the best choice of transport mode for this new development area.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)048

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

843 - Minor consultancies for
traffic and transport studies
(block vote)

Question Serial No.

0218

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What are the details and current progress of the on-going traffic and transport studies? Please list the planned expenditure items with breakdowns.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : Details and current progress of the on-going Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) studies are as follows:

- (a) CE32/2000 – TIA for 6 Residential Sites in Kowloon; 100% completed.
- (b) TD84/2001 – TIA for 1 Residential Site in Hong Kong and 1 Residential Site in the New Territories; 95% completed.
- (c) TD54/2002 – TIA for 2 Residential Site in the New Territories; 75% completed.

Details of planned expenditure with breakdowns:

	2003-04 (\$'000)
(a) Consultancy fees for TIAs carried over from 2002-03	250
(b) Consultancy fees for carrying out TIAs for 3 sites ^(#)	750
(c) Study on the impact of Ngong Ping cable car on bus services in Lantau	1,000
(d) Comprehensive Review of Pedestrian Facilities and Traffic and Transport Arrangement in the Centre of Aberdeen	400
(e) Study of Traffic pattern at road junctions	<u>1,300</u>
Total:	<u>3,700</u>

- exact locations to be identified.

Signature _____
Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)049

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 Question Serial No.
General other non-recurrent

0219

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding Item 560 - Travel Characteristics Survey 2002, please inform the progress of the concerned work and when will the final survey report be announced? Will the concerned balance be allocated to conduct traffic surveys for other areas?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : All field works of the Survey have been completed and we are analyzing the survey results. We plan to complete the final study report in end 2003. The balance of \$3.062M in the Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04 for this item is for the payment of remaining expenditure of this item after the financial year 2002-03.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 20 March 2003 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)050

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1320

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Please provide the number of non-civil service contract staff employed and the level of expenditure involved in 2002-03. Are there any plans to employ more or less non-civil service contract staff in 2003-04? If so, what are the reasons? And what will be the number of staff and the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Cheuk-yan

Reply : During 2002-03, Transport Department has about 180 non-civil service contract staff. The estimated expenditure for 2002-03 on employment of non-civil service contract staff is about \$25 million.

In 2003-04, the contracts of 6 non-civil service contract staff employed for specific projects will end upon completion of these projects. We also review the operational need to retain contract staff before deciding whether to renew their contracts. Depending on operational needs, there may also be a need to recruit some non-civil service contract staff on ad hoc basis to meet our short-term demands. Taking into account the increase/decrease of non-civil service contract staff, there should not be any significant changes in the expenditure for non-civil service contract staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 20 March 2003 _____

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

ETWB(T)051

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 Question Serial No.
General other non-recurrent

0566

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question :
- (a) As shown in Programme (4), the estimate for 2003-04 as compared to 2002-03 revised estimate will require an additional expenditure of \$11.7M mainly due to the award of more management contracts for public transport interchanges (PTIs) in the territory. How many contracts are involved? What are the financial provisions for these contracts?
 - (b) At present, how many PTIs are contracted out for management? What is their proportion to the total no. of existing PTIs in the territory?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

- (a) We planned to award two contracts for about 16 government-owned covered PTIs in 2003-04 at an estimated management cost of about \$10M per annum. We are reviewing the plan, taking into account the current financial situation.
- (b) So far, three management contracts involving 16 PTIs have been awarded. The 16 PTIs contracted out represents about 28% of government-owned covered PTIs in the territory.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)052

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0685

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : On implementation of bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes, what is the reason for the reduction of 26 BBI schemes planned for implementation in 2003 as compared with the figure in the previous year ?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In planning BBI schemes, the bus companies would take into account factors such as the scope to improve network coverage and efficiency, operational and financial implication of the schemes, suggestions from public, etc., and the implementation of these schemes are subject to consultation with the relevant District Councils. Therefore, the number of BBI schemes implemented in each year may vary.

We will continue to encourage the bus companies to introduce more BBI schemes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)053

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0680

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What are the reasons for the three times increase in the number of bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes implemented in 2002 as compared with the previous estimate? What are the routes included in the 40 BBI schemes in 2003?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply : In planning BBI schemes, the bus companies would take into account factors such as the scope to improve network coverage and efficiency, operational and financial implications of the schemes, suggestions from the public, etc. and the implementation of these schemes is subject to consultation with the relevant District Councils. Therefore, the number of BBI schemes implemented may vary depending on changes in circumstances.

Four BBI schemes have been implemented since January 2003. The latest development is that another 39 schemes are planned for implementation before the end of the year subject to consultation with relevant District Councils. The 43 BBI schemes cover a total of about 130 bus routes operating throughout the territory.

Signature _____

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Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

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Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)054

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0876

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What are the routes involved in the rationalization schemes to be implemented in 2003-04?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply : To improve operating efficiency and reduce congestion and air pollution problems in the busy urban corridors, Transport Department is developing rationalization schemes which include proposals for truncation, cancellation or frequency reduction of routes with low patronage. A total of about 70 bus routes operating in different areas in Hong Kong are being considered. In pursuing these proposals, Transport Department will ensure that affected passengers are provided with reasonable alternatives.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)055

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0877

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Among the road safety remedial measures planned for 2003-04, how many of which are traffic accident blacksites and have already been investigated? Is there any plan to review and obviate the identified traffic accident blacksites?

Asked by : Hon. TANG Siu-tong

Reply : We have an on-going programme to investigate sites with a higher number of accidents or where serious accidents had occurred. We call these sites "accident blacksites" which would be investigated for road safety remedial measures.

When an accident blacksite is identified, the Transport Department will conduct detailed investigation to examine if there are any distinct accident patterns and identify common factors contributing to these accidents. Remedial measures will be proposed to address the common factors identified. We estimate that we can develop effective measures at about 120 blacksites in 2003-04. Such measures usually include installation of warning signs, modification of road markings, erection of hand railings and modification of traffic signals.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)056

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) : 700 Question Serial No.
General other non-recurrent

0430

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : For the item 560, the balance for the “Travel Characteristics Survey 2002” is \$3,062,000. As the survey has already been completed, will the Administration inform the Committee how the remaining balance will be used?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply : We have completed the field works of the survey. The results are being analysed. Most of the remaining balance as at the end of the financial year of 2002-03 will be used for the detailed analysis of survey results, report writing and submission of the deliverables, including the database, computer software and reports, to the Government.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)057

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0435

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : What are the concrete plans and expenditure involved for introducing a harbour tour service?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply : The Harbour Tour Service (HTS) will be plying within the Victoria Harbour with calling points at Central, Wan Chai, Hung Hom and Tsim Sha Tsui. The operator of the HTS was selected through open tender last December. It is expected that the HTS will commence operation in the 3rd quarter of 2003.

To tie in with the commencement of the HTS, minor modification/enhancement works including signage improvement, pier facilities upgrading e.g. lighting and painting will be carried out. Additional expenditure for minor improvement works is expected to be absorbed by the relevant departments within their own existing provisions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2003

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

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund
Head 706 – Highways

Subhead (No. & title) : 6100TX

Question Serial No.

1251

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : Regarding the block allocation Subhead 6100TX—Highway works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme, please set out the works items in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The proposed works items to be carried out in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts under Subhead 6100TX include:-

1. Road reconstruction at Tung Yuen Street and Yan Yue Wai
2. Improvement to Lam Tin Public Transport Interchange
3. Pavement resurfacing works at Kwun Tong Road (section between On Ting Street and Hong Ning Road)
4. Pavement resurfacing works at Lei Yue Mun Road (section between Tsui Ping Road and Kai Tin Road)
5. Resurfacing works at Ko Chiu Road
6. Resurfacing works at Kai Tin Road (near Tak Tin Street)
7. Resurfacing works at Sau Mau Ping Road (section between Hip Wo Street and Sau Ming Road)
8. Laying of low noise surfacing material at Pik Wan Road (section between Tak Shui House and Tak Shing House)
9. Resurfacing works at Prince Edward Road East (section between Rhythm Garden and Ping Shek Estate eastbound route)
10. Resurfacing works at Lung Cheung Road (section between Fung Mo Street and Lung Yin Road)
11. Resurfacing works at Kwun Tong Bypass (Route 3—Laguna City section)
12. Anti-skid road resurfacing at Clear Water Bay Road (section between Jat's Incline and Fung Shing Street downhill route)
13. Anti-skid road surfacing at Diamond Hill Public Transport Interchange

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)058

Question Serial No.

1251

14. Anti-skid road surfacing at Sheung Fung Street (near Shung Wah Street)
15. Installation of cushion barriers at Prince Edward Road East (near King Tai Street westbound route)
16. Pavement resurfacing works at Junction Road (section between Lok Fu Shopping Centre and Practical Education Centre)
17. Pavement resurfacing works at Kwun Tong Road (section between Kai Yip Estate and Kowloon Bay MTR Station westbound route)
18. Resurfacing works at Hing Yip Street
19. Resurfacing works at Shing Yip Street
20. Pavement resurfacing works at Hoi Yuen Road
21. Resurfacing works at Lam Hing Street (section between Wang Hoi Road and Wang Kwun Road)
22. Resurfacing of low noise surfacing material at Kwun Tong Road (section between Kai Yip Estate and Prince Edward Road East westbound route)
23. Resurfacing works at Tai Yip Street

The priority and implementation programme of the above proposed works items will be subject to actual site and traffic conditions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 21 March 2003