

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members
in examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06**

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

Session No.: 18

File name: ETWB(T)-e1.doc

Reply Serial No	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
ETWB(T)001	1615	CHAN Kam-lam	60	-
ETWB(T)002	0487	CHAN Wai-yip, Albert	60	Capital Projects
ETWB(T)003	0484	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	60	Railway Development
ETWB(T)004	0821	CHEUNG Hok-ming	60	District and Maintenance
ETWB(T)005	1103	CHEUNG Hok-ming	60	District and Maintenance
ETWB(T)006	0482	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	60	Technical Services
ETWB(T)007	0485	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	60	Railway Development
ETWB(T)008	0486	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	60	Railway Development
ETWB(T)009	0473	LAU Kong-wah	60	District and Maintenance
ETWB(T)010	0474	LAU Kong-wah	60	District and Maintenance
ETWB(T)011	0475	LAU Kong-wah	60	District and Maintenance
ETWB(T)012	0476	LAU Kong-wah	60	Railway Development
ETWB(T)013	0477	LAU Kong-wah	60	Railway Development
ETWB(T)014	0478	LAU Kong-wah	60	Railway Development
ETWB(T)015	0479	LAU Kong-wah	60	Railway Development
ETWB(T)016	0480	LAU Kong-wah	60	Technical Services
ETWB(T)017	0481	LAU Kong-wah	60	Technical Services
ETWB(T)018	0483	LI Fung-ying	60	-
ETWB(T)019	0816	LI Fung-ying	60	-
ETWB(T)020	1412	WONG Kwok-hing	60	Technical Services
ETWB(T)021	1438	WONG Kwok-hing	60	Technical Services
ETWB(T)022	1439	WONG Kwok-hing	60	Technical Services
ETWB(T)023	1443	WONG Kwok-hing	60	Capital Projects
ETWB(T)024	0094	FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick	91	Land Administration
ETWB(T)025	0864	CHAN Kam-lam	100	Port Services
ETWB(T)026	0785	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	100	Port Services
ETWB(T)027	0334	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	158	Transport
ETWB(T)028	0839	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	158	Transport
ETWB(T)029	0840	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	158	Transport
ETWB(T)030	1530	LAU Kong-wah	158	-

Reply Serial No	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
ETWB(T)031	1795	LAU Kong-wah	158	Transport
ETWB(T)032	1796	LAU Kong-wah	158	Transport
ETWB(T)033	1797	LAU Kong-wah	158	Transport
ETWB(T)034	1798	LAU Kong-wah	158	Transport
ETWB(T)035	0138	LEUNG Kwok-hung	158	Transport
ETWB(T)036	1783	LI Fung-ying	158	Transport
ETWB(T)037	1784	LI Fung-ying	158	Transport
ETWB(T)038	1809	TAM Yiu-chung	158	Transport
ETWB(T)039	1810	TAM Yiu-chung	158	Transport
ETWB(T)040	1811	TAM Yiu-chung	158	Transport
ETWB(T)041	1426	WONG Kwok-hing	158	Transport
ETWB(T)042	1427	WONG Kwok-hing	158	Transport
ETWB(T)043	1428	WONG Kwok-hing	158	Transport
ETWB(T)044	1429	WONG Kwok-hing	158	Transport
ETWB(T)045	0381	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)046	0382	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(T)047	0790	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	Management of Transport Services
ETWB(T)048	0791	CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)049	1392	CHENG Kai-foo, Andrew	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(T)050	1642	CHOY So-yuk	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)051	0369	HO Chung-tai, Raymond	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)052	0370	HO Chung-tai, Raymond	186	Management of Transport Services
ETWB(T)053	0371	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(T)054	0372	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)055	0373	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)056	0374	LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey	186	District Traffic and

Reply Serial No	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
				Transport Services
ETWB(T)057	0823	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(T)058	0824	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(T)059	0825	LAU Kin-ye, Miriam	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)060	0769	LAU Kong-wah	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(T)061	1517	LAU Kong-wah	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(T)062	1519	LAU Kong-wah	186	Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers
ETWB(T)063	1520	LAU Kong-wah	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)064	1521	LAU Kong-wah	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)065	1522	LAU Kong-wah	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)066	1523	LAU Kong-wah	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)067	1525	LAU Kong-wah	186	-
ETWB(T)068	1526	LAU Kong-wah	186	-
ETWB(T)069	1528	LAU Kong-wah	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)070	1529	LAU Kong-wah	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)071	0223	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)072	0226	LAU Wai-hing, Emily	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)073	1334	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)074	1335	LEONG Kah-kit, Alan	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)075	0959	LEUNG Kwok-hung	186	-
ETWB(T)076	0960	LEUNG Kwok-hung	186	-

Reply Serial No	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
ETWB(T)077	0961	LEUNG Kwok-hung	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)078	0379	LI Fung-ying	186	Management of Transport Services
ETWB(T)079	0380	LI Fung-ying	186	Management of Transport Services
ETWB(T)080	1780	LI Fung-ying	186	Management of Transport Services
ETWB(T)081	1770	Sin Chung-kai	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)082	1812	TAM Yiu-chung	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)083	1813	TAM Yiu-chung	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)084	1814	TAM Yiu-chung	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)085	1815	TAM Yiu-chung	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)086	1816	TAM Yiu-chung	186	-
ETWB(T)087	1817	TAM Yiu-chung	186	-
ETWB(T)088	1835	TAM Yiu-chung	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)089	1836	TAM Yiu-chung	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)090	1837	TAM Yiu-chung	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)091	0227	WONG Kwok-hing	186	Management of Transport Services
ETWB(T)092	0228	WONG Kwok-hing	186	Management of Transport Services
ETWB(T)093	0229	WONG Kwok-hing	186	Management of Transport Services
ETWB(T)094	0230	WONG Kwok-hing	186	Management of Transport Services
ETWB(T)095	0231	WONG Kwok-hing	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)096	0232	WONG Kwok-hing	186	District Traffic and

Reply Serial No	Question Serial No.	Name of Member	Head	Programme
				Transport Services
ETWB(T)097	0596	WONG Kwok-hing	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)098	0753	WONG Kwok-hing	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)099	0754	WONG Kwok-hing	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)100	1187	WONG Kwok-hing	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)101	1447	WONG Kwok-hing	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)102	1448	WONG Kwok-hing	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)103	0376	YOUNG Howard	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)104	0377	YOUNG Howard	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)105	0378	YOUNG Howard	186	Planning and Development
ETWB(T)106	1482	YOUNG Howard	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)107	1483	YOUNG Howard	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)108	1484	YOUNG Howard	186	District Traffic and Transport Services
ETWB(T)109	1486	YOUNG Howard	186	-
ETWB(T)110	1594	LI Wah-ming, Fred	706	-
ETWB(T)111	1595	LI Wah-ming, Fred	706	-

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)001

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

Question Serial No.

1615

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : Regarding the estimated expenditure for Personal Emoluments in 2005-06, there are decrease in Salaries but increases in both Allowances and Job-related allowances. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply: There will be increases in both overtime allowance and job-related allowances because we have planned to deploy staff to work at night or on public holidays on expressways/high-speed roads to cope with the following additional tasks in 2005-06 -

- (a) enhancement of bridge parapets to be completed under a tight schedule within 2005; and
- (b) additional survey work for installation of chainage markers on the expressways during night time.

The above aims to speed up the improvement of road safety, and at the same time minimise inconvenience to road users.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)002

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

Question Serial No.

0487

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : According to Programme (1), the financial provision for capital projects in 2005-06 is 5.3% lower than the original estimate in 2004-05. According to the Analysis of Financial and Staffing Provision, the reduction in provision is mainly due to the deletion of 7 posts. Please advise how the progress of road works can be effectively monitored in the face of the decrease in the number of staff.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply : Of the 7 posts to be deleted, 4 are in the Major Works Management Office: 2 Engineers, 1 Survey Officer (Quantity) and 1 Workman II. In deciding to delete the 4 posts, the Office has taken into account the workload and the overall manpower and resource arrangement in the coming year to ensure that there will be adequate manpower to supervise the works of the Office. The deletion of the posts will not affect the supervision nor the progress of the works.

3 other posts are to be deleted from the Works Division: 1 Survey Officer (Quantity), 1 Technical Officer (Civil) and 1 Chainman. They are junior technical staff. The deletion is made possible after a review of the staffing requirements and redistribution of workload. The deletion will not affect the effective implementation of the works of the Division.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)003

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

Question Serial No.

0484

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : Regarding the Indicators in Programme (3), please set out the items of the transport and planning studies with railway planning input provided by the Highways Department in 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : The following is a list of transport and planning studies for which the Highways Department will provide railway development input in 2005-06 -

- (1) Hong Kong 2030 – Planning Vision and Strategy
- (2) Drainage Improvement in Northern Hong Kong Island-Hong Kong West Drainage Tunnel and Lower Catchment Improvement
- (3) Survey on Goods Vehicle Trip Characteristics 2003
- (4) Strategic Highway Project Review
- (5) Hong Kong Section of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and Connection with North Lantau Highway-Investigation
- (6) Preliminary Study on Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Railway (Stage 2)
- (7) Kai Tak Planning Review
- (8) Wan Chai Development Phase II-Planning and Engineering Review
- (9) Restructuring and Enhancement of the Third Comprehensive Transport Study Model – Feasibility Study

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)004

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

Question Serial No.

0821

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : In this fiscal year, the Highways Department will employ methods of automating data collection on road surface conditions to improve the cost effectiveness and efficiency of highway maintenance. What are the details of these methods? What is the level of estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : We have employed a computer method to manage and analyse data on road condition. The computer output will facilitate the generation of more accurate timings and help the Department in prioritising maintenance works in the most economical manner.

The estimated expenditure for this purpose is \$5.3 million in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)005

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

Question Serial No.

1103

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : Regarding the estimated expenditure on highways maintenance -

- (a) what maintenance works are involved? Is every road in the territory involved? (Please provide the number of roads in Hong Kong). How many times of maintenance works can a road sustain?
- (b) the estimated expenditure this year is slightly lower than that of last year. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply : (a) The maintenance works include:

- (i) slope maintenance;
- (ii) general road maintenance (cleansing and repair);
- (iii) structural maintenance for subways, footbridges and highways bridges;
- (iv) lighting maintenance; and
- (v) vegetation maintenance.

The maintenance works cover all public roads in Hong Kong which, by end-2004, had a total length of 1 943 km. We will carry out maintenance works where necessary based on the results of our half-yearly detailed road inspections, weekly safety inspections, and upon receipt of referral cases.

- (b) The expenditure for 2005 is estimated at \$776 million, which represent a reduction of \$64 million or 8% compared to 2004. The reduced expenditure is a result of rescheduling and reprioritisation of the maintenance works based on the results of the pavement condition survey.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)006

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

Question Serial No.

0482

Programme : (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : The Highways Department (HyD) mentions that it will continue to improve the streetscape and carry out landscaping works. It is noted that the HyD carried out a pilot scheme on the installation of screen for road surface outfall last year with a view to improving the problems of accumulated rubbish at outfall and mosquito breeding. What are the findings of the pilot scheme? Will it be extended to all other districts so as to improve the hygiene? What is the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply : We have installed gully inlet traps to prevent debris from blocking the drainage system, confine odour within the drainage system and prevent breeding of mosquitoes within the drainage system under a trial scheme. The performance of the trial scheme is being monitored to see whether it should be extended to all existing gullies in Hong Kong. The cost incurred in the trial is \$1.45 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)007

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

Question Serial No.

0485

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : The Highways Department will formulate, negotiate and agree detailed implementation plans for the Tseung Kwan O South Station in 2005. Please introduce the railway station project, including the preliminary scheduled alignment, completion date, cost and the construction company. Also, what is the expenditure undertaken by the Government? Will there be any capital injection by the Government?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply : The Tseung Kwan O South Station (the new station) is part of the MTR Tseung Kwan O Extension project of the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL). The new station will be located next to the MTR Tseung Kwan O Depot in Tseung Kwan O Area 86. When it is commissioned, the MTR Tseung Kwan O Line will bifurcate into two lines at Tseung Kwan O Station with one line heading north towards Po Lam Station and the other line heading south towards the new station. According to MTRCL, construction of the station will commence in April 2006 for completion in February 2009. The estimated cost of the new station is about \$1.2 billion. The MTRCL has yet to start the tendering exercise for the project, and therefore a construction company has yet to be chosen for it. The MTRCL will bear the full cost of the project without the Government's financial support.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)008

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

Question Serial No.

0486

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : The Highways Department indicates that it will continue to undertake route protection of the recommended railway projects and other longer term proposals in 2005-06. Which districts will be provided with railways in the preliminary proposal and what will be the scale of the railways? What will be the expenditure on study undertaken by the department? Will there be any capital injection by the Government?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply : Administrative Route Protection Plans have been issued for the following railway projects under planning -

	<u>Potential rail projects</u>	<u>Districts</u>
1.	North Hong Kong Island Line	Central, Wan Chai, Causeway Bay and North Point
2.	Tai Wai to Diamond Hill Link	Tai Wai, Diamond Hill
3.	East Kowloon Line	Diamond Hill, Kai Tak, Ma Tau Wai, To Kwa Wan, Ho Man Tin and Hung Hom
4.	East Rail Fourth Harbour Crossing	Hung Hom, Causeway Bay, Wan Chai and Central
5.	East Kowloon Line Fourth Harbour Crossing (alternative of (4))	Hung Hom, Causeway Bay, Wan Chai and Central
6.	Kowloon Southern Link	Yau Ma Tei, Tsim Sha Tsui, East Tsim Sha Tsui and Sham Shui Po
7.	Regional Express Line/Northern Link	West Kowloon/Kam Sheung Road, Chau Tau and Lok Ma Chau
8.	West Hong Kong Island Line	Kennedy Town, University, Sai Ying Pun and Sheung Wan
9.	South Hong Kong Island Line	Southern District (South Horizons, Lei Tung, Wong Chuk Hang, Ocean Park and Admiralty)
10.	Port Rail Line	Mainland China to Port Rail Terminal at Kwai Chung

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)008

Question Serial No.

0486

With the Railway Development Strategy 2000 providing a strategic framework for the further expansion of Hong Kong's rail network, we will continue to monitor and review the need and the timing for implementing individual rail projects closely against updated planning, demographic and socio-economic data. It is through this continuous monitoring and planning process that we determine the best network expansion plan to meet the transport needs of the community as a whole. When the need and timing of an individual rail project is established, the Government would invite the railway corporation concerned to prepare at its own cost a proposal for the rail project for the Government's consideration. Whether the Government will provide funding support for the rail project is assessed on a case-by-case basis.

The above railway route protection, monitoring and review works, and the related studies are undertaken by our in-house staff. Hence, no extra funding is required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)009

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

Question Serial No.

0473

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : In 2004, the expenditure on highways maintenance was \$840 million, which was 30% higher than that of 2003. What are the reasons? Besides, please provide the reasons and details for the estimated expenditure of \$776 million in 2005.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The expenditure on highways maintenance in 2004 was 30% higher than that of 2003 since additional repair works were carried out on defective road drains that affected the safety of adjacent slopes and associated slope works on the basis of the recommendations in a relevant study. Moreover, with the implementation of the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance since 1 April 2004, the Highways Department has also been required to pay for excavation permit applications for its excavation works. Furthermore, newly completed highways and bus termini, including the Widening of the Tolo Highway between Island House Interchange and Ma Liu Shui Interchange and eight newly completed public transport interchanges had been added to and thereby expanded the highways network being maintained by the Department.

The expenditure for 2005 is estimated at \$776 million, which represents a reduction of \$64 million or 8%. The Department will cope with the reduction through rescheduling and reprioritising its maintenance works based on the outcome of a pavement condition survey to ensure the optimum use of its maintenance funds.

The estimated amount of \$776 million will be spent on the following areas -

- (a) slope maintenance - \$65 million;
- (b) general road maintenance - \$520 million;
- (c) structural maintenance of subways, footbridges and highways bridges - \$113 million;
- (d) lighting maintenance - \$64.5 million; and
- (e) vegetation maintenance - \$13.5 million.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)009

Question Serial No.

0473

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)010

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

Question Serial No.

0474

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : In 2004, the expenditure on roadside slope works was \$90 million, which was 34% higher than that of 2003. What are the reasons? Besides, please provide the details on the estimated expenditure of \$117 million in 2005.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The increase in expenditure on roadside slope works (from \$67 million in 2003 to \$90 million in 2004) was due to additional upgrading/improvement works to some roadside slopes and the provision of safe access for slope inspection to comply with the safety standard as required under the Construction Sites (Safety) Regulations (Cap. 59I). Additional works are planned for 2005 and the estimated expenditure is as follows -

routine maintenance	\$65 million
upgrading/improvement	\$23 million
provision of safe access	\$29 million
	<u>\$117 million</u>
	=====

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)011

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

Question Serial No.

0475

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : During 2005-06, the Administration will assist in implementing pedestrian schemes. What are the estimated expenditure and the relevant details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The pedestrian scheme aims to turn part or the whole of a street into a pedestrian precinct. Related works carried out by the Highways Department include laying of clay pavers, renovation of pedestrian railings, improvement to the street lightings and provision of greenery. The total estimated cost is about \$7 million for 2005-06, covering Central, Wanchai, Causeway Bay, Jordan and Sham Shui Po.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)012

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

Question Serial No.

0476

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : During 2005-06, what measures will the Administration adopt to oversee the progress of Disneyland Resort Line and Lok Ma Chau Spur Line to ensure their timely completion? What are the expenditure and details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : Before the commissioning of the Disneyland Resort Line (DRL), Highways Department will continue to oversee the construction progress of the rail by holding regular progress meetings with MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL), carrying out site inspections, reviewing MTRCL's monthly progress reports and comparing the actual progress with the planned programme. Moreover, various task groups set up with the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau and other concerned government departments will continue to monitor the interface issues and service readiness in order to ensure that the commissioning of the rail line will tie in with the opening of the Hong Kong Disneyland. So far, the progress has been good. Up to end February 2005, construction of DRL was about 86% completed. Testing and trial runs are in progress. The expenditure of MTRCL on DRL in 2005-06 will be about \$295 million. The above progress monitoring work is undertaken by our in-house staff. No extra funding is required.

As regards the Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line by the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC), Highways Department will continue with its monitoring work to ensure the scheduled completion of the Spur Line by mid-2007. So far, the progress has been good. Up to end February 2005, construction of the Spur Line was about 69% completed. The expenditure of the KCRC on the Spur Line in 2005-06 will be about \$1.4 billion. The above progress monitoring work is undertaken by our in-house staff. No extra funding is required.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)012

Question Serial No.

0476

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)013

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

Question Serial No.

0477

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : What are the details of the two planning studies carried out by consultants in 2004? As there are no estimates for expenditure and number of studies in this respect in 2005-06, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The details of the two consultant-aided studies carried out in 2004 are tabulated below -

Study Title	Expenditure in 2004
Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link-Technical and Institutional Study	\$0.3 million
Independent Checking of the Construction Method for the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation Kowloon Southern Link along Salisbury Road, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon	\$0.5 million
Total :	\$0.8 million

At this stage, we do not anticipate any demand for consultant-aided study in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)014

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

Question Serial No.

0478

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : During 2005-06, the Administration will continue to undertake route protection of the recommended railway projects and other longer term proposals. What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : During 2005-06, Administrative Route Protection Plans would be issued/updated for the following railway projects under planning -

- (1) North Hong Kong Island Line
- (2) Tai Wai to Diamond Hill Link
- (3) East Kowloon Line
- (4) East Rail Fourth Harbour Crossing
- (5) East Kowloon Line Fourth Harbour Crossing
- (6) Kowloon Southern Link
- (7) Regional Express Line / Northern Link
- (8) West Hong Kong Island Line
- (9) South Hong Kong Island Line
- (10) Port Rail Line

By adopting the administrative route protection procedure, it is intended that the government departments concerned will engage in early discussions on and get an early understanding of potential problems of interface between their projects and the various railway proposals. Where there are likely conflicts, necessary and appropriate actions in line with the Government's objectives and policy could be taken in a timely manner to resolve them.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)015

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

Question Serial No.

0479

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : During 2005-06, what progress will the Administration anticipate in respect of the planning and design of the Sha Tin to Central Link?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : In 2005-06, we will continue our assessment of the Draft Final Proposal on the Sha Tin to Central Link (SCL) submitted by the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) and the SCL scheme proposed in the Joint Merger Report submitted by the KCRC and the MTR Corporation Limited. In doing so, we will take into consideration the latest planning parameters available and the outcome of the relevant planning studies along the route (viz., Kai Tak Planning Review and the Wan Chai Development Phase II) with a view to formulating an implementation programme for the project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)016

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

Question Serial No.

0480

Programme : (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : What is the estimated expenditure for the improvement of streetscape and appropriate landscaping works in 2005-06? Does the Administration have any plan to carry out landscaping works in certain locations or streets? If so, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The Highways Department will continue to enhance the environment with improved streetscape and appropriate landscaping works with estimated expenditure of \$43.5 million in 2005-06. The streetscape improvement works include pedestrian schemes, reconstruction of footpaths, colour dressing and painting of cycle tracks. The following are some improvement works that will be carried out in 2005-06 -

- (a) pedestrian scheme at Causeway Bay - Lockhart Road (section between Cannon Street and East Point) and East Point Road;
- (b) pedestrian scheme at Queen's Road Central;
- (c) reconstruction of footpath along Shing Mun River Promenade section between Heritage Museum and Sha Tin Rural Committee Road;
- (d) reconstruction of footpath at Perth Street;
- (e) reconstruction of footpath at Causeway Bay Road eastbound adjoining the Victoria Park;
- (f) colour dressing of the cycle track between Pictorial Garden and Yiu On Estate; and
- (g) cycle track painting along Yuen Shin Road and Ting Kok Road between Dai Kwai Street and Tai Po Tai Wo Road.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)017

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

Question Serial No.

0481

Programme : (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : In 2004, the expenditure on maintenance of road lights was \$67 million. What proportion did the regular expenses and the expenses incurred by accidental damages account for in this maintenance expenditure? What are the estimated manpower and salary expenses required for the work in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : In 2004, regular maintenance of road lights accounted for 99% of the expenditure with the remaining 1% was for maintenance after accidental damages. The number of staff and estimated staff cost for road lighting maintenance is 29 and \$8.5 million respectively in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)018

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

Question Serial No.

0483

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : It is anticipated that there will be a deletion of 27 permanent posts in 2005-06. Please provide the details by the posts, ranks, length of service, terms of appointment of the staff involved and in what ways will these posts be deleted?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The details of the 27 permanent posts to be deleted in 2005-06 are as follows -

14 posts comprising 1 Technical Officer (Civil), 2 Survey Officer (Quantity) (SO(Q)), 6 Work Supervisor II (WSII) , 1 Senior Artisan, 2 Chainman, 1 Workman II and 1 Office Assistant (OA) posts are existing vacancies.

9 posts comprising 3 Engineer, 3 Inspector of Works and 3 Assistant Inspector of Works posts are time-limited and will lapse in 2005-06. The incumbents, on permanent establishment (PE) terms, will take up other posts within the grades to continue their service.

4 posts comprising 1 Geotechnical Engineer, 1 SO(Q), 1 WSII and 1 OA posts are anticipated vacancies arising from natural wastage of staff -

- (a) the Geotechnical Engineer will leave the service upon completion of his Local Service Agreement after over nine years of service;
- (b) the SO(Q) will leave the service upon completion of agreement. The officer retired on PE terms and has been re-employed without a break on Local Service Agreement terms, rendering a total service period of over forty-one years;
- (c) the WSII will retire under PE terms with over thirty-two years of service; and

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)018

Question Serial No.

0483

- (d) the OA will leave the service upon completion of agreement. The officer retired on PE terms and has been re-employed without a break of service on Local Service Agreement terms, rendering a total service period of over forty-two years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)019

Head : 60 Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

700 General non-recurrent

0816

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : The estimated expenditure of general non-recurrent for 2005-06 is \$800,000, which is substantially lower than the revised estimate of \$3.648 million for 2004-05. What are the reasons? Please provide the breakdown of the items and the level of expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The breakdown of the general non-recurrent items for 2005-06 is as follows -

	\$
(a) Implementation of ISO14001 Environmental Management System in Highways Department	500,000
(b) Research on Fire Protection to Tunnel Structures	<u>300,000</u>
	800,000
	=====

The estimated expenditure is substantially lower than the revised estimate of \$3.648 million for 2004-05 as most of the items included therein were completed in 2004-05 and a relatively low level of expenditure will be incurred in 2005-06.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways**

Date _____ **8 April 2005**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)020

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Technical Services

1412

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : How many items of works will the Administration anticipate to carry out to improve streetscape and provide more greening, better lighting fixtures and landscaping works this year? What is the level of expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : About 60 items of works costing \$43.5 million are planned for 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)021

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Technical Services

1438

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : According to the Indicators, the number of "road lighting points completed" decreases from 7 689 in 2003 to 6 300 in 2005. What are the reasons? What is the level of expenditure anticipated for the item?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The "road lighting points completed" generally refers to lighting installation on new roads and lighting improvement on existing roads. In 2003, we devoted extra resources to providing lighting to directional signs and upgrading gantry sign lighting. As a result, about 1 000 directional signs and gantry sign lighting were provided with lighting or upgraded. The total number of road lighting points completed in 2003 thus increased to 7 689. The improvement scheme for directional signs and gantry sign lighting has been substantially completed, hence the decrease in the number of lighting points to be completed in 2005.

The estimated cost for the lighting works in 2005 is about \$54 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)022

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Technical Services

1439

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : "Landscape cases designed/implemented" in 2004 is 2 517, representing an increase of 465 over the number of 2003. However, the item only increases by 13 in the estimate for 2005. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : In 2004, we deployed an additional 20% staff resources for designing and implementing landscaping works. Hence, there was an increase in the number of landscape cases designed/implemented in 2004 compared to 2003. The staff resources in 2005 will be maintained at the 2004 level and, therefore, a stable output is forecast with a small increase of 13 cases.

Signature _____

Name in block letters **MAK CHAI KWONG**

Post Title **Director of Highways**

Date **8 April 2005**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)023

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

1443

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : Please advise the current progress, the expenditure of last year and the estimated expenditure of this year in respect of the following projects -

- (a) Improvement to Tung Chung Road between Lung Tseng Tau and Cheung Sha;
- (b) Improvement to Castle Peak Road; and
- (c) Reconstruction of Causeway Bay Flyover and associated widening of Victoria Park Road.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : (a) Improvement to Tung Chung Road between Lung Tseng Tau and Cheung Sha

1. The construction works started in June 2004. As at end-March 2005, about 10% of the overall work was completed.
2. The project expenditure in 2004-05 was \$87.3 million.
3. The estimated expenditure in 2005-06 is \$261.4 million.

(b) Improvement to Castle Peak Road

This project is being implemented under four different project items, namely, 6365TH, 6553TH, 6731TH and 6541TH. Details of expenditure in 2004-05, forecast expenditure in 2005-06 and progress of these four project items as at end-March 2005 are given below –

Project item	6365TH Between Area 2 and Sham Tseng	6553TH Between Sham Tseng and Ka Loon Tsuen	6731TH Between Ka Loon Tsuen and Siu Lam	6541TH Between Siu Lam and So Kwun Tan	Total
Revised Estimate 2004-05 (\$ million)	485.00	190.00	145.49	0.80	821.29
Estimate 2005-06 (\$ million)	205.87	106.00	216.32	0.25	528.44
% completed as at end-March 2005 (approx.)	86%	67%	26%	100%	

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)023

Question Serial No.

1443

(c) Reconstruction of Causeway Bay Flyover and associated widening of Victoria Park Road

1. The project was about 37% completed as at end-March 2005.
2. The project expenditure in 2004-05 was \$31.2 million.
3. The estimated expenditure in 2005-06 is \$27.1 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)024

Question Serial No.

0094

Head: 91 Lands Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Land Administration

Controlling Officer: Director of Lands

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

Question : Under the indicator of "Land acquisition", the land affected by "railway development projects" is estimated to be 1.4 hectares for 2005. Please provide the details and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply: To implement the Kowloon Southern Link project, the Lands Department is required to resume the affected private land and acquire from the existing holders of government leases the rights of temporary occupation for works during the construction stage of the project. The total affected area based on the current scheme as gazetted is about 1.4 hectares (ha) and the breakdown is as follows -

- | | |
|---|---------|
| a) an underground stratum of land within private lots to be resumed | 0.01 ha |
| b) rights of temporary occupation of private lots to be created | 0.15 ha |
| c) rights of temporary occupation of government land presently occupied and maintained by adjoining owners to be created | 1.10ha |
| d) rights of temporary occupation of an underground stratum of government land presently occupied and maintained by adjoining owners to be acquired | 0.10ha |

The cost for the above resumption and acquisition of rights of temporary occupation is estimated to be \$10 million, which will be reimbursed from the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters PATRICK L C LAU

Post Title Director of Lands

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)025

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Port Services

0864

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

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

Question : What measures will be introduced to improve the general environment of the China Ferry Terminal and Macau Ferry Terminal? What are the expenses involved for each programme? How will such improvement works enhance user-friendliness?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply :

As part of the programme to maintain and improve the facilities in the two marine ferry terminals, the following works will be carried out in 2005-06 –

- (a) replacement of three hydrofoil platforms;
- (b) replacement of deteriorated components of the air-conditioning systems;
- (c) replacement of one hydraulic hoisting crane;
- (d) replacement of two escalators;
- (e) replacement of rails for ferry boarding ramps;
- (f) replacement of the six air circuit breakers and associated components of the electricity system; and
- (g) replacement of passenger seating.

Estimated provision in 2005-06 for all the above items is about \$22 million. In addition, subject to approval of funds by the Finance Committee, we also plan to replace the sailing information display system at the ferry terminals. The estimated cashflow requirement for 2005-06 is \$1 million. The improvement works will generally help to ensure passengers' smooth and comfortable movements when using the ferry terminals.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ S.Y. TSUI

Post Title _____ Director of Marine

Date _____ 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)026

Head : 100 Marine Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Port Services

0785

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

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

Question : The Marine Department will continue to improve the general environment of the China Ferry Terminal and Macau Ferry Terminal in 2005-06. What are the details and expenses of the improvement programmes?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

As part of the programme to maintain and improve the facilities in the two marine ferry terminals, the following works will be carried out in 2005-06 –

- (a) replacement of three hydrofoil platforms;
- (b) replacement of deteriorated components of the air-conditioning systems;
- (c) replacement of one hydraulic hoisting crane;
- (d) replacement of two escalators;
- (e) replacement of rails for ferry boarding ramps;
- (f) replacement of the six air circuit breakers and associated components of the electricity system; and
- (g) replacement of passenger seating.

Estimated provision in 2005-06 for all the above items is about \$22 million. In addition, subject to approval of funds by the Finance Committee, we also plan to replace the sailing information display system at the ferry terminals. The estimated cashflow requirement for 2005-06 is \$1 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ S.Y. TSUI

Post Title _____ Director of Marine

Date _____ 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)027

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

Question Serial No.

0334

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question : It is mentioned in “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06” that the Administration will work jointly with franchised bus companies on the deployment of environmentally-friendly buses along busy corridors. In this connection, please provide the percentage of environmentally-friendly buses running on busy corridors in 2004-05 and the estimated percentage of the same for 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply: As at end January 2005, about 79% of the franchised buses operating on the five busy corridors, viz. Yee Wo Street, Hennessy Road, Queensway, Des Voeux Road Central and Nathan Road, were of Euro II or above emission standard. The percentage of environmentally-friendly buses to be deployed on busy corridors in 2005-06 depends on a number of factors, including the current bus fleet composition of bus operators and the possible impact of the bus deployment on operational flexibility and efficiency. Since the pursuit of this environmental initiative may involve purchase of new buses, we also have to carefully examine individual companies' financial situation to avoid causing a significant increase in their operating cost which may in turn exert pressure on bus fare. We will continue to encourage franchised bus companies to deploy more environmentally-friendly buses to run on busy corridors with a view to reducing roadside emission.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOSHUA LAW _____

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

Date _____ 6 April 2005 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)028

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

Question Serial No.

0839

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question : In 2005-06, the Transport Branch will continue to review the current regulatory system for cross-boundary traffic. What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply : The cross-boundary vehicle quota system, which is jointly administered by the HKSARG and the Mainland authorities, aims to regulate cross-boundary traffic to ensure that our land crossings are not overloaded, and to facilitate smooth cross-boundary freight traffic flow, which is vital to Hong Kong's economy. Under this system, except for goods vehicles, all cross-boundary vehicles are subject to quota control.

There has been significant growth in cross-boundary traffic in the past few years. To cope with the growing demand, the Government has been continuously upgrading facilities at our control points and streamlining clearance procedures to improve clearance capacity. Together with the Mainland authorities, we review the number of quotas on a regular basis, having regard to the handling capacity of our control points and the traffic demand.

The opening of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor in 2006 will significantly improve our capacity in handling cross-boundary traffic and provide room for relaxing the present quota control system. We have been discussing with the Mainland authorities possible options for relaxation upon the commissioning of the new crossing.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOSHUA LAW _____

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

Date _____ 6 April 2005 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)029

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0840

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question : Regarding the deployment of environmentally-friendly buses along busy corridors, how will the Administration work jointly with franchised bus companies?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply : As at end January 2005, about 79% of the franchised buses operating on the five busy corridors, viz. Yee Wo Street, Hennessy Road, Queensway, Des Voeux Road Central and Nathan Road, were of Euro II or above emission standard. The Transport Department (TD) will continue to encourage franchised bus companies to deploy more environmentally-friendly buses to run on busy corridors with a view to reducing roadside emission. In examining the franchised bus companies' deployment proposals, TD will take into account factors including their current bus fleet composition and the possible impact of the proposals on operational flexibility and efficiency. Since the pursuit of this environmental initiative may involve purchase of new buses, we also have to carefully examine individual companies' financial situation to avoid causing a significant increase in their operating cost which may in turn exert pressure on bus fare.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOSHUA LAW _____

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

Date _____ 6 April 2005 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)030

Head : Subhead (No. & title) :
158 – Government Secretariat: 700 – General Non-recurrent
Environment, Transport and
Works Bureau (Transport Branch)

Question Serial No.

1530

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question : Please give the reasons for the substantial reduction in the estimates for 2005-06 as compared with those for 2003-04 and 2004-05, and the reasons for the difference of over \$1 million between the revised and approved estimates for 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The substantial reduction in provision in the 2005-06 estimates under Subhead 700 General Non-recurrent is mainly due to the completion of the study on Mainland and overseas experience in operating and managing tunnel and tolled roads in 2004. The contingency reserve for this study in 2004-05 was not used and thus had resulted in a decrease of the revised estimate of \$1.2 million as compared to the approved estimates.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOSHUA LAW _____

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

Date _____ 6 April 2005 _____

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

ETWB(T)031

Head :

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1795

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question : For the planning and monitoring of the Sha Tin to Central Link, the Administration will adopt either the proposal by MTR Corporation Limited or that by Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation for providing railway services to the Whampoa area. Please provide details and progress of the study concerned. And what is the progress of the study of the transport arrangements for Causeway Bay North Station?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The Administration is assessing the Draft Final Proposal on the Sha Tin to Central Link (SCL) submitted by the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) and the SCL scheme proposed in the Joint Merger Report submitted by KCRC and the MTR Corporation Limited. On providing rail service for the Whampoa area, we are considering whether the proposed KCR Automated People Mover System or the proposed MTR Kwun Tong Line Extension will serve the Whampoa area better. As regards the proposed SCL Causeway Bay North Station, we are examining the necessary temporary traffic diversion arrangements required during the construction of the station in order to minimise the inconvenience to road users, pedestrians and commercial operations in the vicinity.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)032

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

Question Serial No.

1796

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question : The Administration proposed to formulate a fare adjustment mechanism which would allow for increase as well as reduction in public transport fares. What is the latest progress of the consultation on the mechanism and the timetable for its implementation?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The Government is developing a more transparent and objective fare adjustment mechanism to allow franchised bus fares to be adjusted upwards or downwards having regard to relevant factors and a predetermined formula. We have been discussing with the franchised bus operators on the details of the mechanism and the exchanges will continue. It takes time to formulate an objective and transparent fare adjustment mechanism which is acceptable to various parties. The mechanism involves complicated and sensitive issues like cost-effectiveness, expenses and the business environment of franchised bus operation as well as the interest of passengers. Bus operators have different views on the issue. We will carefully examine these issues with a view to achieving a balance among various parties. We hope to reach a consensus with the franchised bus operators as soon as possible.

As for railway services, the adoption of a more objective and transparent fare adjustment mechanism was set by the Government as one of the key parameters of the merger discussion between MTR Corporation Limited and Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation. The Government is examining the joint report submitted by the two railway corporations on the possible rail merger. In view of the complexity and wide implications of the possible rail merger, we are not able to set an implementation timetable at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOSHUA LAW _____

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

Date _____ 6 April 2005 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)033

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

Question Serial No.

1797

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question : For the merging of the MTR Corporation Limited and the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation, does the Administration have any timetable for the announcement of the merger plan? Please give details of the number of staff involved in this project and the expenditure required for their emoluments. Please also give details of the number of consultancy studies and the amount of expenditure involved for the merger plan.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB) and the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) are discussing with the two railway corporations matters arising from the latter's Joint Merger Report. The two bureaux are also discussing with the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) the terms of the merger, which have to strike a balance between public interest on one hand against the interest of minority shareholders of MTRCL on the other. In view of the complexity and wide implications of the possible merger, we do not have a set timetable for implementation at this stage.

A dedicated team comprising five staff and headed by an Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3) officer has been set up in ETWB to take on the additional work arising from the rail merger study, involving an annual provision of \$5.128 million. The provision is met by internal redeployment of resources within ETWB.

A provision of about \$400,000 has been included in the estimates under Head 158 in 2005-06 for the rail merger study. Apart from this, FSTB has also set aside \$450,000 under Head 147 - Government Secretariat: Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch) in 2005-06. These provisions are for engaging consultants to advise the Government on the financial, legal, transport and other relevant aspects of the possible merger.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOSHUA LAW

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

Date _____ 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)034

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

Question Serial No.

1798

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question : Regarding the regulatory system for cross-boundary traffic, please provide details on the following -

- (a) the progress of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor; and
- (b) the Corridor which will be opened in 2006. The Administration has indicated that consideration will be given to building an Easterly Link Road to connect it with Route 3 to divert the traffic. A number of options have been put forward in this regard. What is the progress of examining the options? Will there be any implication on expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : (a) Cross-boundary traffic is currently regulated by a quota system which is jointly administered by the HKSARG and the Mainland authorities. It aims to ensure that our land crossings are not overloaded, and to facilitate smooth cross-boundary freight traffic flow, which is vital to Hong Kong's economy. Under this system, except for goods vehicles, all cross-boundary vehicles are subject to quota control.

The opening of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor (HK-SWC) in 2006 will significantly improve our capacity in handling cross-boundary traffic and provide room for relaxing the present quota control system. We have been discussing with the Mainland authorities possible options for relaxation upon commissioning of the new crossing.

- (b) We have been discussing actively with Route 3 (Country Park Section) Company the feasibility of some form of public-private-partnership in the construction of the Easterly Link Road (ELR). The discussion is still in progress. The ELR, if implemented, will not be funded by the provisions earmarked for the HK-SWC.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)034

Question Serial No.

1798

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

JOSHUA LAW

Post Title _____

**Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Transport)**

Date _____

6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)035

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0138

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question : With regard to the formulation of a more objective and transparent fare adjustment mechanism for public transport services, please provide details of the work and the expenditure in 2004-05. What is the work plan and estimated expenditure for 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply : The Government is developing a more transparent and objective fare adjustment mechanism to allow franchised bus fares to be adjusted upwards or downwards having regard to relevant factors and a predetermined formula. In 2004-05, we discussed with the franchised bus operators on the details of the mechanism and the exchanges will continue in 2005-06. The formulation of the mechanism is handled by existing manpower resources, with input from a financial consultancy involving funding of \$1.25 million for 2005-06. As for railway services, the adoption of a more objective and transparent fare adjustment mechanism was set by the Government as one of the key parameters of the merger discussion between MTR Corporation Limited and Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation. The Government is examining the joint report submitted by the two railway corporations on the possible rail merger.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOSHUA LAW _____

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

Date _____ 6 April 2005 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)036

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

Question Serial No.

1783

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question : The Administration will finalise the formulation of an objective and transparent fare adjustment mechanism for public transport services and implement measures to improve the regulation of non-franchised bus operation. In this connection, please provide information on the manpower and the costs involved, and the details and implementation programmes of various tasks and measures.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The Government is developing a more transparent and objective fare adjustment mechanism to allow franchised bus fares to be adjusted upwards or downwards having regard to relevant factors and a predetermined formula. In 2004-05, we discussed with the franchised bus operators on the details of the mechanism and the exchanges will continue in 2005-06. The formulation of the mechanism is handled by existing manpower resources, with input from a financial consultancy involving funding of \$1.25 million for 2005-06. Regarding timing for implementing the fare adjustment mechanism, it takes time to formulate an objective and transparent fare adjustment mechanism which is acceptable to various parties. The mechanism involves complicated and sensitive issues like cost-effectiveness, expenses and the business environment of franchised bus operation as well as the interest of passengers. Bus operators have different views on the issue. We will carefully examine these issues with a view to achieving a balance between various parties. We hope to reach a consensus with the franchised bus operators as soon as possible. As for railway services, the adoption of a more objective and transparent fare adjustment mechanism was set by the Government as one of the key parameters of the merger discussion between MTR Corporation Limited and Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation. The Government is examining the joint report submitted by the two railway corporations on the possible rail merger. In view of the complexity and wide implications of the possible rail merger, we are not able to set an implementation timetable at this stage.

The improvement measures on regulation of the non-franchised bus (NFB) operation, formulated on the basis of the Review of Regulation of NFB Operation conducted by the Transport Advisory Committee from end-2003 to July 2004, were

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)036

Question Serial No.

1783

presented to the Legislative Council Panel on Transport on 1 March 2005. Three categories of measures will be adopted to -

- (a) coordinate the change in NFB services with demand;
- (b) strengthen regulatory control over NFB operation; and
- (c) enhance effectiveness and efficiency of enforcement actions.

The Government will proceed to implement the measures in phases. Some of the measures will be implemented after further discussion with the NFB trade on implementation details so as to facilitate the trade's compliance of the new measures. Those that do not require amendment to conditions of Passenger Service Licence (PSL) will be implemented from April 2005 onwards. Amendments to the PSL conditions will take effect after the Transport Department fulfills the statutory requirement of giving PSL holders three-months notice. It is expected that the new PSL conditions will take effect in phases starting from the third quarter of 2005. The implementation of the measures is handled by existing manpower resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)037

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

Question Serial No.

1784

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question : Has financial provision been made for conducting a study on the development of the railway network in Hong Kong and its implication for the operation of other public transport modes? If so, what is the timetable for the study, and the expenditure involved? If not, why not? Will there be a study to be conducted in the future?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : The Government commissioned the Second Railway Development Study (RDS-2) in 1998 to examine how the rail network should be expanded to best meet the transport needs of the community. Based on the findings of RDS-2, the Government formulated the Railway Development Strategy 2000 (RDS-2000), in which various railway schemes were shortlisted for planning and implementation up to 2016. Since the promulgation of RDS-2000, we have been closely keeping in view the changes in the various planning parameters, including population growth, economic development and cross-boundary traffic, and various planned developments in the territory for the purpose of refining the implementation programme for the possible rail schemes identified in RDS-2000. The work is mainly done by the Highways Department and the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau using internal resources. As it is unlikely that there will be a drastic change in the planning parameters, the Government currently has no plan to undertake a new railway development study. Therefore, no financial provision for this purpose has been made.

As regards the impact of new rail projects on road-based public transport modes, we will continue our practice of assessing the impact and taking the assessment results into account in considering which new rail project is to be taken forward. The assessment is done by the railway corporation concerned at its own cost and by the Transport Department using its internal resources. Therefore, no extra financial provision has been made for the work done by the Transport Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOSHUA LAW

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

Date _____ 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)038

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1809

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question : In 2005-06, the Administration will work jointly with the Mainland authorities on the development of the Guangzhou- Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link. What are the specific arrangements for this task?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2005-06, the Joint Expert Group on the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link set up by the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau and the Ministry of Railways will continue to focus its study on a revised alignment of the rail link which starts in Shibi, passes through Humen, Longhua and crosses the boundary underground through Huanggang before entering into Hong Kong.

On Hong Kong's side, we have asked the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) to conduct a more detailed study on the feasibility of using the existing West Rail and the proposed Northern Link as the Hong Kong section of the rail link. We will assess in detail the study report which KCRC will submit to us by the middle of this year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)039

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

Question Serial No.

1810

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question : What is the specific plan in 2005-06 for the advance preparatory work for the
Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2005-06, the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge Advance Work Coordination
Group set up by the governments of the Hong Kong SAR, Guangdong Province and
the Macao SAR will complete its deliberation on the feasibility study report on the
Bridge submitted by the consultant, with a view to submitting an application to the
State Council for the official establishment of the project. The three governments
will also decide on the actions that need to be taken in the next stage of work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOSHUA LAW _____

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

Date _____ 8 April 2005 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)040

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

Question Serial No.

1811

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question : What is the specific plan in 2005-06 for the formulation of a fare adjustment mechanism for public transport services? Will the Administration be able to complete the task this year? Will consultant services be engaged to help drawing up details of the plan?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : The Government is developing a more transparent and objective fare adjustment mechanism to allow franchised bus fares to be adjusted upwards or downwards having regard to relevant factors and a predetermined formula. In 2004-05, we discussed with the franchised bus operators on the details of the mechanism and the exchanges will continue in 2005-06, with the help of a financial consultant. Regarding timing for implementing the fare adjustment mechanism, it takes time to formulate an objective and transparent fare adjustment mechanism which is acceptable to various parties. The mechanism involves complicated and sensitive issues like cost-effectiveness, expenses and the business environment of franchised bus operation as well as the interest of passengers. Bus operators have different views on the issue. We will carefully examine these issues with a view to achieving a balance among various parties. We hope to reach a consensus with the franchised bus operators as soon as possible.

As for railway services, the adoption of a more objective and transparent fare adjustment mechanism was set by the Government as one of the key parameters of the merger discussion between MTR Corporation Limited and Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation. The Government is examining the joint report submitted by the two railway corporations on the possible rail merger. In view of the complexity and wide implications of the possible rail merger, we are not able to set an implementation timetable at this stage.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)040

Question Serial No.

1811

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 6 April 2005

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

Head :

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1426

Programme : Transport

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

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

- Question :
- (a) The construction works of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor, the Deep Bay Link and the widening of the Yuen Long Highway will be completed in 2005. What is the present progress of these projects and their estimated expenditure this year?
 - (b) Further to the question above, will relevant supporting measures be required for these projects? If yes, what is the present progress and the expenditure involved? What will be the overall implication for Hong Kong upon the commissioning of these projects?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : (a) The Hong Kong – Shenzhen Western Corridor (HK-SWC), Deep Bay Link (DBL) and widening of Yuen Long Highway (YLH) were 66.1%, 64.7% and 54.5% completed respectively as at end-March 2005. The estimated expenditures on the three projects in 2005-06 are \$706 million, \$707.4 million and \$298 million respectively.

- (b) In view of the different traffic configurations in Hong Kong and the Mainland, lane changeover facilities will be provided at Shekou and will be completed together with Shenzhen's works on the construction of their section of the HK-SWC which is targeted for completion by end-2005. The construction cost of the lane changeover facilities is to be shared by the two governments. Based on the Shenzhen side's estimate that the lane changeover facilities will cost about \$220 million, we have reserved \$110 million for this purpose.

In addition, a new control point for the HK-SWC will be constructed at Shekou at an approved project estimate of \$2.174 billion. As at end-March 2005, the piling work for the Hong Kong Passenger Terminal Building had been completed whilst that for other ancillary buildings/facilities was in progress.

The HK-SWC, together with the corresponding new local road of DBL and the widened YLH, will relieve congestion at the existing land boundary crossings and cater for the growing economic activities between Hong Kong and the Mainland, thus bringing about substantial economic benefits to Hong Kong.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)041

Question Serial No.

1426

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

JOSHUA LAW

Post Title _____

**Permanent Secretary for the
Environment, Transport and
Works (Transport)**

Date _____

7 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)042

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

Question Serial No.

1427

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question : What is the present progress of the merging of the MTR Corporation Limited and the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation? Will a timetable for the merger be introduced this year? What is the plan of the Administration for this project this year? What amount of resources will be required? Please provide the details.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB) and the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) are discussing with the two railway corporations matters arising from the latter's Joint Merger Report. The two bureaux are also discussing with the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) the terms of the merger, which have to strike a balance between public interest on one hand against the interest of minority shareholders of MTRCL on the other. In view of the complexity and wide implications of the possible merger, we do not have a set timetable for implementation at this stage.

A provision of about \$400,000 has been included in the estimates under Head 158 in 2005-06 for the rail merger study. Apart from that, the FSTB has set aside \$450,000 under Head 147 – Government Secretariat: Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch) in 2005-06. These provisions are for engaging consultants to advise the Government on the financial, legal, transport and other relevant aspects of the possible merger.

A dedicated team comprising five staff and headed by an Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3) officer has been set up in the ETWB to take on the additional work arising from the rail merger study, involving an annual provision of \$5.128 million. The provision is met by internal redeployment of resources within ETWB.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)043

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

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1428

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question : The Disneyland Resort Line (Penny's Bay Rail Link) is scheduled for completion in 2005. What is the present progress of the project and the estimated expenditure this year? What is the latest project estimate and how does it differ from the original estimate?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The construction works for the Disneyland Resort Line (DRL) are progressing well. All the civil works have been substantially completed. Installation and testing of the electrical and mechanical systems are now in good progress. We expect that the DRL will be ready for commissioning later this year to tie in with the scheduled opening of the Hong Kong Disneyland.

The forecast expenditure of the MTR Corporation Limited for the DRL project in 2005-06 is about \$295 million. Both the latest project cost estimate and the original project cost estimate stand at \$1.978 billion.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOSHUA LAW

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

Date _____ 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)044

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

Question Serial No.

1429

Programme : Transport

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

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

- Question :
- (a) What is the present progress of the Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line project and the estimated expenditure this year? What is the latest project estimate and how does it differ from the original estimate?
 - (b) What planning and financial implications does the merger of the railway corporations have on the future railway projects such as the Sha Tin to Central Link, the Kowloon Southern Link and the Northern Link? Will the Administration be able to come up with a schedule for the implementation of these projects this year? Have provisions been included in the estimates this year for carrying out studies and administrative work for the merger?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

- Reply :
- (a) The construction works for the Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line are progressing well. As at end-March 2005, the project was about 70% completed overall. We expect that the project will be completed on schedule by mid 2007 and within the original project cost of \$10 billion. The forecast expenditure of the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation for the project in 2005-06 is about \$1.4 billion.
 - (b) Early resolution of the interchange arrangements of the Sha Tin to Central Link (SCL) by the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) and the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) is one of the key parameters set by the Administration for the negotiation of the two railway corporations on the possible rail merger. At present, we are examining the Draft Final Proposal on SCL submitted by KCRC and the SCL scheme proposed in the Joint Merger Report submitted by MTRCL and KCRC. We will decide on the way forward for SCL having regard to the decision on the possible rail merger in due course.

Since there is no interchange arrangement between the MTR and KCR systems for the Kowloon Southern Link (KSL) and the Northern Link (NOL) projects, the delivery of these two projects will not be affected by the merger study. As for the KSL, we are now processing the objections received during the gazettal of the KSL scheme under the Railways Ordinance, and hope to secure authorisation of the KSL scheme by mid 2005 to enable commencement of works shortly thereafter. As for the NOL, KCRC is now carrying out a feasibility study and will submit the study report to the Government for consideration by mid 2005.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)044

Question Serial No.

1429

A provision of about \$400,000 has been included in the estimates under Head 158 in 2005-06 for the rail merger study. Apart from that, the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau has set aside \$450,000 under Head 147 – Government Secretariat: Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (The Treasury Branch) in 2005-06. These provisions are for engaging consultants to advise the Government on the financial, legal, transport and other relevant aspects of the possible merger.

A dedicated team comprising five staff and headed by an Administrative Officer Staff Grade B (D3) officer has been set up in the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (ETWB) to take on the additional work arising from the rail merger study, involving an annual provision of \$5.128 million. The provision is met by internal redeployment of resources within ETWB.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

ETWB(T)045

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

0381

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for TransportDirector of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and WorksQuestion : According to Programme (1), the number of bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes to be implemented in 2005 is 25. Please provide the details of the BBI schemes.Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, AndrewReply :

The 25 bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes proposed for implementation in 2005 involve 77 routes serving the New Territories, Kowloon, Hong Kong Island and the Airport with fare discounts ranging from \$1.0 to \$3.5. The 25 schemes are proposed to be implemented at the following 20 locations -

Hong Kong Island

1. Gloucester Road, Wanchai

Kowloon

2. Lung Cheung Road, Wong Tai Sin
3. Kwun Tong Road, Kwun Tong
4. Prince Edward Road East, Wong Tai Sin
5. Choi Hung Estate Bus Terminus
6. Ma Tau Chung Road, To Kwa Wan
7. Ma Tau Wai Road, To Kwa Wan

New Territories

8. Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan
9. Tai Wo Bus Terminus, Tai Po
10. Luen Wo Hui, Fanling
11. Sheung Shui Landmark North
12. Pak Wo Road, Fanling
13. Sheung Shui Bus Terminus
14. Bayview Garden Bus Terminus, Tsuen Wan
15. Tai Ho Road, Tsuen Wan
16. Cheong Wing Road, Kwai Chung
17. New Town Plaza Bus Terminus, Sha Tin
18. Hung Mui Kuk Road, Sha Tin
19. Yuen Wo Road, Sha Tin
20. Tai Chung Kiu Road, Sha Tin

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)045

Question Serial No.

0381

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)046

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

0382

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : With regard to the target of Programme (2) on Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers, what is the average waiting time for those who could not have their driving tests conducted within 85 days ?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

In 2004, 70% of the candidates had their driving tests conducted within 85 days upon application. For those cases where the target was not met, the average waiting time was around 104 days.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)047

Head :186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

0790

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : For on-street parking meters, what were the figures for malfunctioning in the past three years : 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 ?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply : The figures for parking meter malfunctioning in the past three years were :

2002-03	30 778
2003-04	16 779
2004-05*	10 009

* For 2004-05, the annual figure is projected from the actual figure for the period from April 2004 to February 2005.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 6 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)048

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0791

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the matters requiring special attention for District Traffic and Transport Services, what are the details of the planning and design of further pedestrian schemes in Wan Chai and Tsim Sha Tsui ?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

Wan Chai

We are carrying out planning work for full-time pedestrian schemes in Ship Street, Tai Yuen Street, Stone Nullah Lane and Triangle Street, and part-time pedestrian schemes in Spring Garden Lane and Tai Wo Street. These pedestrian schemes will be implemented in a progressive manner to tie in with the programme of Urban Renewal Authority's redevelopment projects in the area.

Tsim Sha Tsui

Planning Department and Transport Department are undertaking an area improvement study for Tsim Sha Tsui. The study started in January 2004 and is currently scheduled for completion by the end of 2005. Detailed proposals are being formulated, taking into account views collected in a public consultation exercise completed in January 2005. Some of the proposals will include, for example, footpath widening and pedestrian schemes to improve the pedestrian environment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 8 April 2005 _____

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)049

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

1392

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : For the indicator on inquiries on unauthorised non-franchised bus operation under Programme (2), the actual number of inquiries conducted in 2004 was 51, indicating a substantial increase as compared to that of 2003. What are the reasons for such an increase? What are the results of the 51 inquiries?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

To tackle the operation of unauthorised non-franchised bus (NFB) services which have affected law abiding NFB operators and other public transport trades, the Transport Department has redeployed resources to step up enforcement actions against such operations since late 2003, resulting in an increase in the number of inquiries in 2004.

Of the 51 inquiries conducted in 2004, sanctions on 42 cases have been announced. The remaining nine cases are still being processed. The sanctions include temporary and permanent cancellation of the entire passenger service licences (PSL) of two bus operators, cancellation of the PSL of two buses and temporary suspension of the PSL of 53 buses for one to six months.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)050

Question Serial No.

1642

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the noise within public transport carriers that may cause nuisance to their passengers and staff, has the Administration got any plan to address such problem in 2005 -06? If yes, what are the detailed plan and the associated cost? If not, why?

Asked by : Hon. CHOY So-yuk

Reply :

It is the Government's on-going task to ensure that public transport operators implement appropriate measures to improve services, the travelling environment and comfort for their passengers and staff. Normally, traffic noise generated by the carriers can be mitigated through regular inspection, proper maintenance and improved design of the vehicles. Further, promulgation of good driving practice, e.g. to apply the brake properly, or to slow down while negotiating bends, would also reduce traffic noise and hence improve the comfort for both passengers and staff.

With regard to the sound from audio-visual broadcasting on franchised buses, the Transport Department has worked and will continue to work closely with the relevant bus operators to put in place measures to address some passengers' concern about broadcasting volume. So far, the measures implemented include-

- (a) lowering the volume to a level close to the ambient noise level of a bus;
- (b) using a compressor to narrow the variations in the pitch of different programmes; and
- (c) designating a quiet zone at the back portion of the lower deck and allowing only one speaker to be turned on at the lower deck for TV broadcasting.

All relevant measures are implemented by transport operators at their costs and monitored by the Government using existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)051

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0369

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In 2005-06, the Transport Department will continue the renewal of the area traffic control and closed circuit television systems on Hong Kong Island. What is the estimated expenditure of this project in 2005-06? Are there any other associated supplementary measures to improve the traffic conditions on Hong Kong Island? If so, how much funding is required?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply :

The estimated expenditure of the project to renew the area traffic control and closed circuit television systems on Hong Kong Island in 2005-06 is about \$21.4 million. The project is a standalone project involving the replacement of the existing systems that are reaching the end of their respective serviceable lives. The project is not associated with any other new traffic improvement measures.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 6 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)052

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

0370

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding Programme (4), the 2005-06 estimate is 22% lower than the 2004-05 revised estimate, which is mainly due to reduced operating expenses.

- (a) What is the amount of reduction in operating expenses and the percentage of such reduction to the total allocation for 2005-06?
- (b) What are the details of the reduced expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply : (a) The reduction of \$17.6 million represents 2% of the total allocation of \$854.3 million for 2005-06.

- (b) The reduced expenditure is achieved mainly through the following measures -
 - (i) cessation of the contractor management scheme for public transport interchanges (about \$15 million);
 - (ii) reduction in maintenance expenses after negotiation with the service provider (about \$2 million); and
 - (iii) combining the management and maintenance contracts for the Central Mid-levels Escalator system into one single contract with a view to obtaining a more competitive price (about \$1 million).

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ROBERT FOOTMAN _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 11 April 2005 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

ETWB(T)053

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

0371

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The problems of non-franchised buses (NFB) breaching licensing conditions are getting more and more serious. The number of inquiries conducted by the Transport Department (TD) against unauthorised NFB services increases from six in 2003 to the estimated 50 in 2005. What are the measures relating to regulation and licensing of NFB? What is the related expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

To tackle the problems of oversupply of NFBs and operation of unauthorised NFB services, the Administration invited the Transport Advisory Committee (TAC) in 2004 to conduct a review on the regulation of NFB operation. Based on the recommendations of the TAC and after consulting the NFB trade and the Legislative Council Panel on Transport, the Administration will implement a number of measures to improve the regulation of NFB operation. These measures can broadly be classified into the following three categories -

- (a) measures to co-ordinate the change in NFB services with demand, including stringent vetting of NFB applications and documentary requirements, tightening control over service endorsements, encouraging operators to source vehicles from existing fleet, etc.;
- (b) measures to strengthen regulatory control over NFB operation, including measures to improve the regulation of contract hire services, imposition of additional passenger service licence (PSL) conditions to increase the responsibility of PSL holders, requiring joint applications by hirers and operators and stipulation of schedule of service on NFB services of a regular nature, etc.; and
- (c) measures to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of enforcement actions, including improving the identification system of NFBs, banning cash payment on board for certain services, streamlining enforcement procedures, applying more stringent sanctions and penalties, imposing traffic management measures and improving regular public transport services, etc.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)053

Question Serial No.

0371

In 2004, TD processed about 9 000 NFB licensing applications. The annual expenditure for staff involved in the handling of NFB licensing matters is about \$4.1 million. On enforcement against unauthorised NFB, in addition to existing staff involved in routine monitoring, TD has set up a dedicated team of inspectors since 2004 for the enforcement work, involving an annual expenditure of about \$1.6 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)054

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0372

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In the past few years, the average traffic speeds in urban and New Territories have been maintained at about 25 and 41 km/hr respectively. Apart from building new roads, has TD imposed other measures for increasing average traffic speeds to improve the congested traffic condition? If yes, what are the details and the expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

Apart from building new roads, we have -

- (a) encouraged the use of public transport by implementing new railway projects, introducing new bus feeder services, providing bus-bus interchanges, and rationalising bus stops and bus routes;
- (b) implemented appropriate road improvement schemes such as road widening, junction improvements and new footbridges;
- (c) implemented traffic management schemes such as traffic rerouting schemes and no-stopping restrictions;
- (d) provided more up-to-date traffic information to the public, such as the Journey Time Indication System (JTIS), variable message signs (VMS) and closed circuit television (CCTV) broadcasts on the Internet, to show the latest traffic conditions; and
- (e) extended the area traffic control (ATC) systems to Sha Tin and Tsuen Wan. We are now also extending the ATC to Tai Po and North Districts.

Many of the above measures are implemented in conjunction with other government departments or outside bodies such as Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation, MTR Corporation Limited and bus companies. As such, it would be difficult to provide a meaningful indication of the Department's expenditure on these measures. However, for those items wholly within the purview of the Department, the capital expenditure comprised \$20 million for implementing the JTIS and \$151 million for expanding the ATC systems to Sha Tin, Tsuen Wan, Tai Po and North District. Separately, the Department also carries out traffic management schemes and road improvement works, maintains the ATC, CCTV and JTIS systems and provides CCTV broadcasts on traffic conditions. The expenditure for these measures in 2004-05 was \$103.6 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)055

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0373

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The Transport Department has indicated that they will implement additional traffic management proposals to ease traffic congestion in Central Business District in 2005-06. Please describe the details, time table and costs of the proposals.

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

The traffic management proposals to be implemented in Central Business District in 2005-06 are as follows-

Location and Description	Target Completion Date	Estimated Cost (\$)
1. Provision of an additional eastbound traffic lane at the junction of Cotton Tree Drive where it joins Harcourt Road	Mid 2005	0.5 million
2. Traffic re-routing scheme along Chater Road and Murray Road – to re-route Murray Road from southbound to northbound, and the eastern section of Chater Road from two-way to one-way eastbound	Early 2006	2.0 million
3. Widening of Connaught Road Central eastbound outside Jardine House by improving the adjoining bus bay	Late 2005	0.5 million

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)056

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0374

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The Transport Department has also indicated that it would continue to rationalise bus services and bus stops to improve traffic flow. On what roads will the rationalisation schemes be implemented? How many bus routes will be involved? How many bus stoppings will be reduced? What will be the estimated reduction in bus journey time? How much departmental expenses will be required?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

The Transport Department pursues and encourages measures to rationalise bus services and bus stops to improve network efficiency, traffic flow and the environment. The District Councils are being consulted on 78 rationalisation proposals involving 90 bus routes submitted by franchised bus companies for implementation in 2005 in various parts of the territory. The proposals will improve operational efficiency of the bus network, and reduce bus trips and congestion along busy corridors such as Des Voeux Road Central, Queensway, Hennessy Road, Yee Wo Street and Nathan Road. If implemented in full, about 5 700 bus stoppings in the busy corridors would be reduced daily. Implementation of these measures would improve bus journey times to various extent depending on local traffic conditions. No additional departmental expenses will be required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)057

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

0823

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : How many persons have attended the Quality Driving Instructor Course since its introduction?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

Up to 31 March 2005, 224 driving instructors have attended the Quality Driving Instructor Course since its introduction on 18 December 2004.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)058

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles & Drivers

0824

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : After the business process reengineering of the licensing services, what specific licensing services will be improved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

The business process re-engineering of the licensing services will streamline and simplify the renewal process for driving and vehicle licences. The requirement for supporting documents will be reduced, and it will be more convenient for the public to renew their driving and vehicle licences.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)059

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0825

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The Transport Department will implement additional traffic management proposals to ease traffic congestion in Central Business District. Please describe the details of the proposals.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The traffic management proposals to be implemented in Central Business District in 2005-06 are as follows-

Location and Description	Target Completion Date
1. Provision of an additional eastbound traffic lane at the junction of Cotton Tree Drive where it joins Harcourt Road	Mid 2005
2. Traffic re-routing scheme along Chater Road and Murray Road – to re-route Murray Road from southbound to northbound, and the eastern section of Chater Road from two-way to one-way eastbound	Early 2006
3. Widening of Connaught Road Central eastbound outside Jardine House by improving the adjoining bus bay	Late 2005

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)060

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

0769

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : How many persons have attended the Quality Driving Instructor Course in 2004-05? What is the amount of subvention to the course? Has the Government made any assessment on the effectiveness of the course?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The Quality Driving Instructor Course was introduced on 18 December 2004. It is a self-financing course jointly organised by the Vocational Training Council and the Transport Department. As at 31 March 2005, 224 driving instructors had attended the course.

The usefulness of the course is evaluated by course participants. So far, over 99% of the participants considered the course helpful to their training of learner drivers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)061

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

1517

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : On non-franchised bus (NFB) services, please advise:
(a) the details of the outstanding applications for NFB routes;
(b) the details of the inquiries on unauthorised NFB services; and
(c) the number of complaints against NFB services and the progress on handling these complaints.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

- (a) As at 28 February 2005, there were 150 outstanding applications for operation of NFB routes.
- (b) 51 inquiries on unauthorised NFB services were conducted in 2004. Sanctions on 42 cases have been announced. The remaining nine cases are still being processed. The sanctions include temporary and permanent cancellation of the entire passenger service licences (PSL) of two bus operators, cancellation of the PSL of two buses and temporary suspension of the PSL of 53 buses for one to six months.
- (c) In 2004, the Transport Department received 560 complaints against NFB services. They mainly relate to non-adherence to timetable and routing, overloading, poor performance of drivers, poor vehicle conditions, nuisance caused by buses, unauthorised services, etc. All of these complaints have been followed up with the operators.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)062

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

1519

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the monitoring of the bus maintenance of franchised bus companies, what are the details of work, number of staff and salary expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The safety and condition of franchised buses are monitored by the Transport Department through a programme of annual examinations and surprise spot checks. Any defects or abnormalities found would need to be rectified before the bus is released for normal service. In addition, franchised bus companies are required to carry out monthly inspections and scheduled overhaul of vehicle components.

Any maintenance problems are brought to the attention of the management of the bus companies, and the quality of the maintenance work is discussed at regular meetings held between the Transport Department and the bus companies. Bus companies are required to make improvements by enhancing their maintenance standards and procedures.

Six Motor Vehicle Examiners are deployed for the inspection work. The estimated expenditure is \$2.6 million per year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)063

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1520

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What was the reason for the increase of bus rationalisation schemes from 72 in 2003 to 139 in 2004? What is the reason for the reduction in bus rationalisation schemes to 78 in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The Transport Department pursues and encourages measures to rationalise bus services to match changes in passenger demand, improve efficiency of the bus network, and reduce bus congestion and road-side emission. The number of rationalisation schemes planned for implementation in a year is affected by factors such as community development, population changes, opening of new railways and other transport infrastructure which would affect demand for bus services. These factors vary between years, hence the variation in the number of rationalisation schemes.

More bus route rationalisation schemes were implemented in 2004 because-

- (a) the opening of West Rail (WR) in late December 2003 affected a large part of the bus network. The new railway straddles five districts, hence its opening offered more scope for bus rationalisation. Out of a total of 73 rationalisation schemes implemented to match changes in passenger demand after the opening of WR, 71 were implemented in 2004. Compared to WR, the number of bus rationalisation schemes associated with the opening of MTR Tseung Kwan O Extension (TKOE) in September 2002 (total 42 schemes) and Ma On Shan Railway (MOSR) in December 2004 (total 36 schemes) was smaller. The number of schemes implemented in 2003 due to the opening of TKOE was eight only because most of the schemes were implemented in 2002. The total number of bus rationalisation schemes to be implemented in 2005 due to the opening of MOSR will be 35; and
- (b) Citybus and New World First Bus critically reviewed their bus network on Hong Kong Island and implemented 37 route rationalisation schemes in 2004. The scope for further rationalisation in 2005 is smaller.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

ETWB(T)064

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1521

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for TransportDirector of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and WorksQuestion : What will be the details and implementation schedule of the eight new green minibus service routes to be introduced in 2005-06?Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wahReply :

Of the eight new green minibus service routes, two have been introduced since February 2005 following the successful completion of a tender exercise in 2004-

	<u>Date of Introduction</u>
<u>Kowloon</u>	
(1) Parc Palais (Yaumati) – Jordan MTR Station	February 2005
(2) Sham Shui Po Reclamation Area (Site 10) – Mei Foo MTR Station	February 2005

Of the remaining six new green minibus service routes, we plan to conduct two tender exercises in the second quarter and fourth quarter of 2005. Subject to selection of suitable operators, the new routes may be launched in late 2005 and early 2006-

	<u>Proposed Date for Tendering</u>
<u>Kowloon</u>	
(3) Wyler Garden (Kowloon City) – Lok Fu MTR Station	Second quarter 2005
(4) Kowloon City (Kowloon City Road) – Kowloon Hospital (circular)	Second quarter 2005
<u>New Territories</u>	
(5) Tung Lo Wan Hill (Tai Wai) – Tai Wai KCR Station (circular)	Second quarter 2005
(6) Yoho Town (Yuen Long) – Sun Yuen Long Centre (circular)	Second quarter 2005
(7) Kwai Chung (Lai Kong Street) – Sham Shui Po (Shun Ning Road) (circular)	Second quarter 2005
(8) Agean Coast (Tuen Mun) – Tsuen Wan MTR Station	Fourth quarter 2005

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)064

Question Serial No.

1521

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

ETWB(T)065

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1522

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In 2005-06, what are the plans of the Administration to implement the service readiness tasks for the Disneyland Resort Line (DRL)? What are the details of work and related expenses in the overall co-ordination of the traffic arrangements with the opening of the DRL?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The Disneyland Resort Line (DRL) is constructed to serve the Hong Kong Disneyland (HKD) which is scheduled to open in September 2005. Passengers may take the MTR Tung Chung Line to interchange with the DRL at Sunny Bay Station to reach the HKD. To monitor the progress of work related to the service readiness of the DRL, the Administration has been working on arrangements for the commissioning of the railway service, including provision of facilities at public transport interchanges, provision of pedestrian facilities, monitoring of train service performance during trial operations and preparing contingency transport plans to handle upsurge in passenger demand and any service disruption due to railway incidents.

The Administration is also co-ordinating the provision of the following public transport services to serve the HKD-

- (a) rail service: Disneyland Resort Line linking Sunny Bay Station with Disneyland Resort Station on Lantau Island;
- (b) franchised bus services: three new direct bus routes and three diverted airbus services;
- (c) taxi services: both urban and Lantau taxis will provide services to the HKD. The Transport Department (TD) is working on the necessary legislative amendments to allow New Territories taxis to serve the HKD;
- (d) ferry service: the TD is conducting an open tender for the operation of a licensed ferry service between Central and the HKD; and
- (e) non-franchised bus services: arrangements for dedicated cross-boundary coach services and other non-franchised bus services for serving the HKD are under active discussion.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)065

Question Serial No.

1522

The TD will continue to work closely with the public transport operators and other government departments and bureaux on provision of public transport services, publicity on traffic and transport arrangements, and development of contingency plans. A dedicated team (comprising one Chief Transport Officer, two Senior Transport Officers and two Transport Officers I) has been assigned to oversee and co-ordinate the requisite work. The expenditure on these staff is about \$2.3 million. The resources required are absorbed through internal re-deployment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)066

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1523

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Ma On Shan Rail has been commissioned for 3 months. What is the progress of the Administration's co-ordination of the transport arrangements? Moreover, will any bus or green minibuses route in the district be cancelled in 2005-06? If yes, what are the details? The Administration has indicated that they would continue monitoring the provision of road-based public transport services in the district. Will the Administration consult the local residents on any new suggestions?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

Ma On Shan Rail was commissioned on 21 December 2004. A public transport re-organisation plan has been developed to enhance feeder services and maintain an efficient and viable public transport network through rationalisation and improved co-ordination of public transport services. The proposals in the plan are being implemented in phases, taking into account the actual change in passenger demand after the rail opening. Most of the adjustments to the public transport services were completed in 2004-05. As regards cancellation of routes, there is only one outstanding proposal involving a bus route (Kowloon Motor Bus Route 86A). This bus route might be cancelled in 2005-06 depending on the actual patronage change.

The Administration will continue to monitor the passengers' travel patterns carefully, and keep in close contact with District Council members and local representatives on any further adjustments to the existing public transport services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)067

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

Question Serial No.

1525

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the general non-recurrent expenses, please explain why the revised estimate of \$8,283,000 for 2004-05 is much lower than the approved estimate of \$18,230,000 for 2004-05.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The decrease is mainly attributable to revised cashflow requirements and lower-than-expected consultants' fees. The balances of some items will be carried forward to 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)068

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

Question Serial No.

1526

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The estimate for light and power under departmental expenses for 2005-06 is \$3,500,000, versus revised estimate of \$2,940,000 for 2004-05. Please account for the substantial increase.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : The increase is mainly due to the payment of electricity bills for the Central Mid-level Escalator system. At present, the electricity bills for the system are settled by the management contractor and subsumed under the management fees. After expiry of the current contract in October 2005, the Government, instead of the contractor, would need to settle the electricity bills direct, thus resulting in an increase in expenditure on light and power. The expenditure on management fees would be reduced correspondingly.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)069

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1528

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the use of environmentally-friendly buses by franchised bus companies, does the Government have any information on the number of such buses currently held by each bus company? What is the proportion of such buses in their fleet? What is the Government's plan in 2005-06 on encouraging the use of more environmentally-friendly buses by the concerned bus companies?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply : As at end February 2005, there were 5 943 licensed franchised buses. 5 003 (84%) of these buses had engines which met Euro emission standards, with 2 124 also fitted with emission reduction devices. The remaining 940 buses (16%) were pre-Euro buses but had all been retrofitted with emission reduction devices.

The distribution of the 5 003 Euro buses among the franchised bus companies was as follows -

- (a) Kowloon Motor Bus – 3 309 (80% of fleet);
- (b) Citybus - 857 (94% of fleet);
- (c) New World First Bus - 628 (93% of fleet);
- (d) New Lantao Bus - 73 (85% of fleet); and
- (e) Long Win - 136 (94% of fleet).

In 2005-06, the Government will continue to encourage franchised bus companies to retrofit emission reduction devices on their buses where it is technically feasible and financially viable for them to do so. To promote the use of environmentally-friendly buses, a provision has been added to the franchises of Citybus Limited (North Lantau and Airport bus network), Long Win and New World First Bus since 2003 requiring the companies to adopt the latest commercially available environmentally-friendly technology when acquiring new buses. We plan to include similar provisions in the new bus franchises to be awarded in future. Furthermore, the adoption of environmentally-friendly measures has featured as a criterion in operator selection exercises for new bus route packages.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)070

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1529

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In connection with the installation of speed display units on public light buses (PLBs), please provide the number of PLBs which are already installed with the speed display units. Has the Administration received any complaints from passengers about the speed display units? What will be the expenditure in promoting the installation of speed display units in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

A total of 836 PLBs, representing about 19% of the total PLB fleet size of 4 350, have been installed with speed display units as at end-March 2005.

We occasionally receive complaints from passengers about the improper operation/malfunctioning of speed display units on PLBs. If the vehicle registration number is provided, we would follow up the complaint with the PLB owner concerned. Starting from 30 April 2005, the PLB owners are required to install and ensure proper operation and maintenance of the speed display units to the satisfaction of the Transport Department.

Promotional messages in 2005-06 on the installation of speed display units will mainly be broadcast through the Government announcements of public interest on the radio. The expenditure on such publicity work will not be significant in 2005-06.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

ETWB(T)071

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0223

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for TransportDirector of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

- Question :
- (a) The Area Traffic Control (ATC) system and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system for Tai Po and North Districts would be completed in 2005-06. What is the scope of works and the expenditure involved for the ATC system?
- (b) What is the scope of works and the expenditure involved for the CCTV system?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, EmilyReply :

- (a) The scope of the ATC system mainly comprises the following -
- (i) developing a computer system to provide co-ordinated control of all signalised junctions in the area;
 - (ii) upgrading 130 existing traffic signal controllers; and
 - (iii) installing a communication network to connect the controllers to the computer system.

The estimated expenditure for installing the ATC system is about \$33 million.

- (b) The scope of the CCTV system mainly comprises the following -
- (i) installing 30 cameras on high masts at strategic locations to monitor real time traffic conditions;
 - (ii) providing a control system for these cameras; and
 - (iii) installing a communication network to connect the cameras to the control system.

The estimated expenditure for installing the CCTV system is about \$25 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMANPost Title Commissioner for TransportDate 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)072

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

0226

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : (a) In view of the opening of the Ma On Shan Rail and Disneyland Resort Line, the Administration will co-ordinate the transport arrangement and monitor the provision of public transport services in 2005-06. Please specify the details of work and related expenses in co-ordinating the transport arrangement.

(b) Moreover, please specify the details of work and related expenses in monitoring the public transport services.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Wai-hing, Emily

Reply :

(a) The Ma On Shan Rail was commissioned on 21 December 2004. A public transport re-organisation plan was developed to enhance feeder services and maintain an efficient and viable public transport network through rationalisation and improved co-ordination of public transport services. The proposals in the plan are being implemented in phases, taking into account the actual change in passenger demand after the rail opening. Most of the proposals were implemented in 2004-05. The remaining work in 2005-06 will be done by existing staff. No additional resources will be required.

Preparatory work for the grand opening of the Hong Kong Disneyland (HKD) in September 2005 includes co-ordinating the provision of the following public transport services-

- (i) rail service: Disneyland Resort Line linking Sunny Bay Station with Disneyland Resort Station on Lantau Island;
- (ii) franchised bus services: three new direct bus routes and three diverted airbus services;
- (iii) taxi services: both urban and Lantau taxis will provide services to the HKD. The Transport Department (TD) is working on the necessary legislative amendments to allow New Territories taxis to serve the HKD;
- (iv) ferry service: the TD is conducting an open tender for the operation of a licensed ferry service between Central and the HKD; and
- (v) non-franchised bus services: arrangements for dedicated cross-boundary coach services and other non-franchised bus services for serving the HKD are under active discussion.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)072

Question Serial No.

0226

The TD will continue to work closely with the public transport operators and other government departments and bureaux on provision of public transport services and publicity on traffic and public transport arrangements for the HKD. A dedicated team (comprising one Chief Transport Officer, two Senior Transport Officers and two Transport Officers I) has been assigned to oversee and co-ordinate the requisite work. The total expenditure on these staff is about \$2.3 million. The resources required are absorbed through internal re-deployment.

- (b) The work on monitoring the public transport services after the opening of the Ma On Shan Rail include conducting site observations and surveys at termini and major stops of the concerned services, collecting public feedback through established channels like hotlines, district offices and District Councils, and vetting returns from the public transport operators. No additional resources will be required for 2005-06. For the opening of the HKD, the TD will arrange surveys to monitor the service level of public transport services serving the HKD. The cost of the surveys is estimated to be about \$400,000. The information gathered will be used to assess the level of public transport services provided so as to ensure that demand will be adequately met. The resources required will be absorbed through internal re-deployment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)073

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1334

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : For the indicator of this programme, “planning and design for the Transport Information System (% completed)”, the figure remains at 65% from 2003 to 2005. Please advise -

- (a) why the percentage completed has remained unchanged;
- (b) whether the Administration has allocated funds for this project between 2003 and 2005; and
- (c) whether the Administration would allocate funds for this project in 2005-06, and if so, how much?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

- (a) The Administration awarded the contract for implementation of the Transport Information System in May 2003. However, implementation of the contract was seriously delayed and little progress was made in 2004. As a result, we terminated the contract in February 2005. Progress on this item is thus held up pending award of a new contract later this year.
- (b) Yes. The Administration spent a total of \$5.0 million in 2003-04 and 2004-05.
- (c) Yes. The estimated expenditure in 2005-06 is \$22.4 million, though the actual expenditure could be much smaller in the light of the latest development.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)074

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1335

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The Department indicates that it will “develop and implement the Transport Information System” in 2005-06. Please advise -

- (a) the details of the project; and
- (b) the estimated expenditure for the project.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

- (a) The Transport Information System is a centralised data warehouse for the collection, processing and dissemination of comprehensive transport information. Our plan is to provide two main public services, namely, a Public Transport Information Service (PTIS) and an Intelligent Road Network (IRN).

The PTIS will be a free service on the Internet providing transport information to the public transport users and motorists for pre-trip planning. The public can have access to information on various transport modes, such as service schedules, locations of stops and routing details, by clicking the set off point and destination on a digitised map. Such service will also allow the public to search for an optimum route based on different options, such as shortest distance, least cost, or fewest number of interchanges. Motorists can search for an optimum driving route on the digitised map based on shortest distance or minimum toll to be paid.

The IRN will provide information on traffic directions, turning movements at road junctions, stopping restrictions, etc. Such information will supplement the digitised map provided under the PTIS in facilitating motorists to make pre-trip planning. Upon completion of the IRN, value-added service providers, including telecommunication companies, fleet and freight operators and logistics organisations, can make use of the information to develop other intelligent transport applications, such as car navigation, fleet management systems and personalised information services to the public.

- (b) The approved project estimate for this system is \$63.6 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)075

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

Question Serial No.

Programme :

0959

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What were the progress and outcome of the “consultancy services for additional monitoring surveys on public bus services” under item 529 in 2004-05? What are the major scope and budget of the work in 2005-06? When will the work be completed?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

The consultancy services comprise screenline surveys on franchised bus services operated by the New World First Bus Services Ltd., Citybus Ltd., Kowloon Motor Bus Co. (1933) Ltd. and Long Win Bus Co. Ltd., and overnight parking survey for Hong Kong Island. They are conducted to collect information on bus deployment and fleet utilisation of franchised bus services, and on the distribution of franchised buses parked overnight among depots, termini, short-term tenancy sites and on-street locations on Hong Kong Island. The surveys for 2004-05 will be completed by May 2005. The budget for the surveys in 2005-06 is \$250,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)076

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

Question Serial No.

Programme :

0960

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The balance for Item 560: “Travel Characteristics Survey 2002” is only \$1.009 million. What is the planned work in 2005-06? What is the estimated expenditure? When will the survey be completed? Will the report be available to the public?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply : The associated consultancy and survey contracts of the “Travel Characteristics Survey 2002” were completed in 2004. The Final Report can be found on the homepage of Transport Department. We are examining the need for follow-up work on the survey.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)077

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0961

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Please list out the details of public transport facilities, preparatory work and the development of contingency plans relating to the Hong Kong Disneyland in 2005-06. What are the related expenses and manpower arrangement?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

Preparatory work for the grand opening of the Hong Kong Disneyland (HKD) in September 2005 includes co-ordinating the provision of the following public transport services-

- (a) rail service: Disneyland Resort Line linking Sunny Bay Station with Disneyland Resort Station on Lantau Island;
- (b) franchised bus services: three new direct bus routes and three diverted airbus services;
- (c) taxi services: both urban and Lantau taxis will provide services to the HKD. The Transport Department (TD) is working on the necessary legislative amendments to allow New Territories taxis to serve the HKD;
- (d) ferry service: the TD is conducting an open tender for operation of a licensed ferry service between Central and the HKD; and
- (e) non-franchised bus services: arrangements for dedicated cross-boundary coach services and other non-franchised bus services for serving the HKD are under active discussion.

The TD will continue to work closely with the public transport operators and other government departments and bureaux on provision of public transport services, publicity on traffic and transport arrangements, and development of contingency plans. A dedicated team (comprising one Chief Transport Officer, two Senior Transport Officers and two Transport Officers I) has been assigned to oversee and co-ordinate the requisite work. The expenditure on these staff is about \$2.3 million. The resources required are absorbed through internal re-deployment.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)078

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

0379

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The estimate in 2005-06 is \$17.6 million (22%) lower than the revised estimate in 2004-05. Please provide details on the items and amounts relating to the reduction in operating expenditure. How does the Administration ensure that the management and service quality of various transport services are not affected by the reduction in allocation?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The reduction items and savings are -

- (a) cessation of the contractor management scheme for public transport interchanges (about \$15 million);
- (b) reduction in maintenance expenses after negotiation with the service provider (about \$2 million); and
- (c) combining the management and maintenance contracts for the Central Mid-levels Escalator system into one single contract with a view to obtaining a more competitive price (about \$1 million).

These savings are achieved mainly through redeployment of resources and price negotiation. The services provided by the Transport Department are not affected.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

ETWB(T)079

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

0380

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Of the financial provision of \$62.4 million, how much is spent on outsourced services and how does it compare to the expenditure on such services in 2004-05? Please provide details of these outsourced contracts, the expenditure on these contracts, contract period and number of employees involved.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : Out of the 2005-06 estimate of \$62.4 million for Programme (4), \$24.9 million (about 40%) will be spent on outsourced services. The actual amount for similar services in 2004-05 was \$33.3 million. Details of these contracts in 2005-06 are as follows -

Facilities/Services	Current contract period	Estimated expenditure in 2005-06 (\$ million)	Full-time employees under the contract
North Lantau Highway and Tsing Ma Control Area Viewpoint Carpark	19.5.2001 – 18.5.2007 (6 years)	7.7	32
Airport Express Line (AEL) transport interchanges	-	5.8	(see footnote 1)
Areas adjoining Tate's Cairn Tunnel	-	5.5	(see footnote 2)
Central Mid-levels Escalator system	10.10.2001 – 9.10.2005 (4 years)	4.4	30
Public transport interchanges	14.4.2002 – 13.4.2005 (3 years)	0.9	56 (see footnote 3)
Sale of tunnel tickets	1.5.2001 – 30.4.2005 (4 years)	0.6	(see footnote 4)
Total		24.9	

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)079

Question Serial No.

0380

Footnotes

1. Share of management fees with the MTR Corporation Limited in accordance with the Agreements for Management of AEL Transport Interchanges.
2. Share of management and maintenance fees with the Tate's Cairn Tunnel Co. Ltd. in accordance with the Supplemental Agreement to the Tate's Cairn Tunnel Project Agreement.
3. The management contracts will cease upon their expiry on 13 April 2005. The management and cleansing duties of public transport interchanges will then be assumed by relevant government departments.
4. The sale of tunnel tickets is handled by the car park contractors and the contract fees are paid for the printing of tickets. No additional staff is employed for the purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)080

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

1780

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Please provide details about the management contracts for government car parks and the New Kowloon Bay Vehicle Examination Centre which will expire in 2005-06 : the number of contracts, the contract expiry dates, the number of staff involved, their posts, working hours and salaries as stated in their contracts.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply : There are three separate management contracts for the 13 multi-storey car parks and the Sheung Shui Park-and-Ride car park, all of which will expire on 30 April 2005. Under these existing contracts, a total of 182 full time staff are employed, including 42 supervisory staff and 140 car park attendants/minor maintenance staff. The contracts have specified the number of working hours of the staff. In brief, the majority (95%) of staff are required to work on shifts of eight hours per shift including meal break. There are no specific requirements on staff salary level under the existing contracts.

Under the new car park contracts which will start on 1 May 2005, a total of 153 posts are retained, including 36 supervisory posts and 117 frontline posts. The in-coming contractors are required to make first offer of employment to existing contractors' staff. There is also a requirement under the new management contracts that the monthly wages offered to car park attendants and cleaners should not be less than the average monthly wage for the relevant occupation as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time tenders were invited.

For the management contract of the New Kowloon Bay Vehicle Examination Centre, the current contract will expire on 30 November 2005. Under the existing contract, about 65 staff are employed. The existing contract has not stipulated the working hours and salary level of staff. Details of the new contract are still under planning.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)081

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1770

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the item to “develop and implement the Transport Information System”, please advise -

- (a) the plans that the Administration will pursue in 2005-06 to accomplish the above, details of the plans and the associated expenditure; and
- (b) whether the Administration will set up a steering committee on the development of the Transport Information System, inviting representatives from relevant industries to join, to formulate plans to enhance the efficiency of the Transport Information System and to map out the direction for developing intelligent transport systems in Hong Kong. If so, what is the timing and the associated expenditure? If not, why not?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

- (a) The Transport Information System (TIS) is a centralised data warehouse for the collection, processing and dissemination of comprehensive transport information. The Administration awarded the contract for implementation of the TIS in May 2003. However, implementation of the contract was seriously delayed and little progress was made in 2004. As a result, we terminated the contract in February 2005. Progress on this item is thus held up pending award of a new contract later this year. The estimated expenditure in 2005-06 is \$22.4 million, though the actual expenditure could be much smaller in the light of the latest development.
- (b) We have been in close contact with relevant service providers as well as academics who are involved in the development and marketing of intelligent transport systems, with a view to enhancing and making most efficient use of the TIS. We will maintain such dialogue with them.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

ETWB(T)082

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1812

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the non-recurrent items under planning and development, please provide a list of the items, the work plan and the estimated expenditure in 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : In 2005-06, there are five non-recurrent items under Programme (1) “Planning and Development”. The work plan and estimated expenditure are as follows -

Description	Work plan for 2005-06	2005-06 estimate \$M
1. Consultancy for Base District Traffic Models (BDTMs)	BDTMs are used to project at the district level future traffic flow on roads and to evaluate changes of traffic conditions arising from new developments, traffic management schemes and the like. The models were last updated based on 2002 planning parameters. The proposed consultancy is for updating them based on 2004 planning parameters.	0.720
2. Survey and demand analysis on Intelligent Transport Systems in Hong Kong	The survey and demand analysis will focus on the latest development of intelligent transport systems and opportunities for private/public sector collaboration.	0.750
3. Travel Characteristics Survey 2002	Detailed travel characteristics and information throughout Hong Kong have been collected in this project, which will be used to update the strategic transport models used by the Transport Department for transport planning purpose. It will form a traffic and transport database for use in future territorial and sub-regional transport studies. The scope of follow-up work is being examined.	0.800
4. Surveys on ferry services	General monitoring surveys on the performance of some outlying islands ferry services will be conducted.	0.192

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)082

Question Serial No.

1812

Description	Work plan for 2005-06	2005-06 estimate \$M
5. Restructuring and enhancement of the Third Comprehensive Transport Study Model	The key tasks are to award the consultancy, finalise the work plan, collect traffic data and calibrate the transport model developed in the Third Comprehensive Transport Study.	2.000
Total		<u>4.462</u>

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 12 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)083

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1813

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What are the locations of the bus-bus interchanges to be implemented in 2005?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

A total of 25 bus-bus interchange schemes have been proposed for implementation in 2005 at the following 20 locations-

Hong Kong Island

1. Gloucester Road, Wan Chai

Kowloon

2. Lung Cheung Road, Wong Tai Sin
3. Kwun Tong Road, Kwun Tong
4. Prince Edward Road East, Wong Tai Sin
5. Choi Hung Estate Bus Terminus
6. Ma Tau Chung Road, To Kwa Wan
7. Ma Tau Wai Road, To Kwa Wan

New Territories

8. Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan
9. Tai Wo Bus Terminus, Tai Po
10. Luen Wo Hui, Fanling
11. Sheung Shui Landmark North
12. Pak Wo Road, Fanling
13. Sheung Shui Bus Terminus
14. Bayview Garden Bus Terminus, Tsuen Wan
15. Tai Ho Road, Tsuen Wan
16. Cheong Wing Road, Kwai Chung
17. New Town Plaza Bus Terminus, Sha Tin
18. Hung Mui Kuk Road, Sha Tin
19. Yuen Wo Road, Sha Tin
20. Tai Chung Kiu Road, Sha Tin

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)083

Question Serial No.

1813

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)084

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1814

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Which public transport interchanges have been planned for upgrading of their ventilation plants and physical environment in 2005-06? What is the associated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : Plans have been made to upgrade the following four public transport interchanges in 2005-06. The associated expenditure is also indicated below-

- (a) South Horizons (ventilation system) - \$2.0 million
- (b) Lok Fu (physical environment) - \$3.8 million
- (c) Admiralty (East) (physical environment) - \$2.3 million
- (d) Tsuen Wan MTR Station (physical environment) - \$5.0 million

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)085

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

1815

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What are the plans for developing and implementing the Transport Information System in 2005-06? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The Transport Information System (TIS) is a centralised data warehouse for the collection, processing and dissemination of comprehensive transport information. The Administration awarded the contract for implementation of the TIS in May 2003. However, implementation of the contract was seriously delayed and little progress was made in 2004. As a result, we terminated the contract in February 2005. Progress on this item is thus held up pending award of a new contract later this year. The estimated expenditure in 2005-06 is \$22.4 million, though the actual expenditure could be much smaller in the light of the latest development.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)086

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

Question Serial No.

Programme :

1816

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What is the scope of Item 570: “Restructuring and enhancement of the Third Comprehensive Transport Study Model”? What are the key tasks in 2005-06? What is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply : Under the item, a consultancy study will be carried out to restructure and recalibrate the transport model developed in the Third Comprehensive Transport Study (the CTS-3 model) using the latest modelling methodology, travel characteristic data, and computer software. The objective of the study is to update and enhance the simulation and forecasting capabilities of the CTS-3 model to enable optimum planning of new transport infrastructure. The key tasks in 2005-06 are to award the consultancy, finalise the work plan, collect traffic data, and calibrate the transport model. The study will take two years to complete at an estimated cost of \$5 million. The estimated expenditure for 2005-06 is \$2 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)087

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

Question Serial No.

Programme :

1817

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What work will be carried out in 2005-06 in the Consultancy studies for pedestrianisation schemes under item 557? Where are the pedestrian schemes planned? What is the forecast expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

An area improvement study for Tsim Sha Tsui jointly commissioned by the Planning Department and Transport Department is funded under item 557. The study started in January 2004 and a preliminary round of public consultation was completed in January 2005. Public views collected are being considered. In 2005-06, we will task the consultant to formulate detailed area improvement proposals, carry out further public consultation and prepare an implementation timetable. Some of the proposals will include, for example, footpath widening and pedestrian schemes to improve the pedestrian environment in the area. The study is currently scheduled for completion by the end of 2005.

The forecast expenditure in 2005-06 under item 557 is \$700,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 8 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)088

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1835

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : There were two new green minibus service routes introduced in 2004 instead of the original plan of seven routes. What is the reason for such a discrepancy? What are the districts to be served by the eight new green minibus service routes to be introduced in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

Of the seven new green minibus service routes planned to be introduced in 2004, three were not tendered out due to local objections or adverse comments from residents on the proposed routeings. Among the four routes which were tendered out, two were introduced in October and November 2004 respectively. As regards the other two routes, granting of the operating rights were delayed due to an appeal from an unsuccessful applicant. The appeal had been settled and those two new routes were introduced in February 2005 and are counted among the eight new green minibus routes to be introduced in 2005. The terminal points of these two new routes are -

Parc Palais (Yaumati) – Jordan MTR Station; and
Sham Shui Po Reclamation Area (Site 10) – Mei Foo MTR Station.

The terminal points of the six other routes planned to be introduced in 2005 are -

Wyler Garden (Kowloon City) – Lok Fu MTR Station;
Kowloon City (Kowloon City Road) – Kowloon Hospital (circular);
Tung Lo Wan Hill (Tai Wai) - Tai Wai KCR Station (circular);
Yoho Town (Yuen Long) – Sun Yuen Long Centre (circular);
Kwai Chung (Lai Kong Street) – Sham Shui Po (Shun Ning Road) (circular); and
Agean Coast (Tuen Mun) – Tsuen Wan MTR Station.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)089

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1836

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the prevention of red light jumping and promotion of road safety, please explain why there is no increase in the numbers of junctions installed with red light cameras and locations installed with speed enforcement camera systems in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

The contracts for the installation of red light cameras and speed enforcement cameras were completed in end 2003 and mid 2004 respectively and the systems are now in full operation. To further enhance road safety, we are now actively considering the expansion of both systems.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)090

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1837

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What are the detailed plans and timetable (including consultation and implementation timetable) in respect of co-ordinating transport arrangements on Lantau Island?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Yiu-chung

Reply :

Transport Department (TD) will co-ordinate traffic arrangements and implement public transport proposals in connection with the new tourist attractions and transport facilities in Lantau including the Hong Kong Disneyland, Tung Chung Cable Car Project between Tung Chung and Ngong Ping and the Sky City Development in Chek Lap Kok.

Preparatory work for the opening of Hong Kong Disneyland (HKD) on 12 September 2005 includes co-ordinating the provision of the following public transport services-

- (a) rail service: Disneyland Resort Line linking Sunny Bay Station with Disneyland Resort Station on Lantau Island;
- (b) franchised bus services: three new direct bus routes and three diverted airbus services;
- (c) taxi services: both urban and Lantau taxis will provide services to HKD. TD is working on the necessary legislative amendments to allow New Territories taxis to serve HKD;
- (d) ferry service: TD is conducting an open tender for operation of a licensed ferry service between Central and HKD; and
- (e) non-franchised bus services: arrangements for dedicated cross-boundary coach services and other non-franchised bus services for serving HKD are under active discussion.

TD will continue to work closely with the public transport operators and other government departments and bureaux for provision of public transport services and the associated traffic and contingency arrangements for HKD.

The Tung Chung Cable Car Project and the Sky City Development are both scheduled to be completed by early 2006. TD is discussing with the relevant operators on the formulation of transport plans and the associated traffic and transport arrangements.

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)091

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

0227

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The Administration has explained that the reduction of \$17.6 million (22%) in 2005-06 is due to reduction in operating expenditure. Please provide details on the reduction items and reduced fund involved.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The reduction items and savings are -

- (a) cessation of the contractor management scheme for public transport interchanges (about \$15 million);
- (b) reduction in maintenance expenses after negotiation with the service provider (about \$2 million); and
- (c) combining the management and maintenance contracts for the Central Mid-levels Escalator system into one single contract with a view to obtaining a more competitive price (about \$1 million).

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)090

Question Serial No.

1837

Consultation with concerned District Councils on franchised bus proposals for HKD has started in March 2005. For the other two projects, the Administration will arrange consultation as soon as concrete transport plans are available.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)092

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

0228

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : There is an increasing number of incidents handled by the Transport Incident Management Section. Please compare the estimated expenditure and staff establishment of the Section in 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The estimated expenditure and staff establishment for the Transport Incident Management Section in 2004-05 and 2005-06 are as follows-

	2004-05	2005-06
Recurrent expenses	\$6.2 million	\$7.1 million
Staff establishment	15	17

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)093

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

0229

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

- Question :
- (a) What is the monitoring standard for the outsourced services in Tunnels and Tsing Ma Section and Transport Facilities Management Section? How would the Administration deal with contractors with unsatisfactory performance?
 - (b) Would the Administration also monitor the employment terms of the contractors' staff? What action would be taken by the Administration if the contractor exploits its staff?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The Transport Department and other relevant works departments such as the Highways Department and Electrical and Mechanical Services Department regularly monitor the contractors' performance with reference to the standards and performance requirements stipulated in the contracts, as well as the number of public complaints received.

In respect of staff's salary and other fringe benefits, all contractors are required to enter into written contracts with their employees and to observe the regulations under the Employment Ordinance. For unskilled labour such as cleansing staff and attendants, the contractors are required to pay monthly wages not less than the average monthly wages for the relevant industry/occupation, as published in the latest Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics at the time tenders are invited, and to keep proper records of payment which must be made available to the Transport Department for checking on demand.

Any contractor who fails to meet the contractual requirements will be required to take immediate remedial actions to make good the deficiencies detected. Warning letters will be issued for serious defaults, and all performance records will be taken into account in assessing applications for future Transport Department service contracts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 6 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)094

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

0230

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : How much savings have been achieved by outsourcing the services of the department? What is the amount of expenditure for the Tunnels and Tsing Ma Section and Transport Facilities Management Section in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : The savings from the outsourcing of the management of transport services mainly come from the savings in staff resources. However, we have no realistic basis to calculate the amount of resource savings as we have contracted out the management services of the various facilities progressively since 1984. As an indicator, the total number of management and operation staff being employed by the contractors for the six government tunnels, Tsing Ma Control Area, 13 multi-storey and Sheung Shui Park-and-Ride carparks, on-street parking meters, Central Mid-levels Escalator System, Austin Road Cross Boundary Coach Terminus and New Kowloon Bay Vehicle Examination Centre is about 1 260.

The estimated expenditure for the Tunnels and Tsing Ma Section and Transport Facilities Management Section in 2005-06 are \$37 million and \$19 million respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

ETWB(T)095

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0231

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for TransportDirector of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question : In the light of the close ties between the Mainland and Hong Kong, would the Administration advise what improvements are planned for cross-boundary public transport services and the operation of the boundary control points? What are the resource implications?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hingReply :

The Transport Department has been taking the following actions to improve and plan for cross-boundary public transport services and operation of the boundary control points -

- (a) in conjunction with the Mainland authorities, monitor and regularly review the service level and operation of cross-boundary coaches via Lok Ma Chau, Man Kam To, Sha Tau Kok and the future Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor road crossings;
- (b) closely monitor the demand and service level of the Lok Ma Chau-Huanggang Cross-boundary Shuttle Bus, which provides a 24-hour service between San Tin Public Transport Interchange and Huanggang Control Point via Lok Ma Chau Control Point;
- (c) sites have been reserved for public transport interchanges for the provision of public transport services at the new road crossing of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor and at the new railway crossing of the Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line; and
- (d) monitor the construction of four additional southbound car kiosks at Lok Ma Chau Control Point scheduled for completion in July 2005 at an estimated project cost of \$14.2 million. Upon completion, the vehicle clearance capacity of the control point will increase.

The annual expenditure for staff involved for monitoring and planning of the public transport services, operation of the control points and related traffic matters is about \$5 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMANPost Title Commissioner for TransportDate 12 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)096

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0232

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : On the planning and provision of off-street terminal facilities for cross-boundary coaches, what are the plans and their resource implications?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

We have plans to provide terminal facilities for cross-boundary coaches at the public transport interchanges (PTIs) at Kowloon Tong (Suffolk Road), Sai Wan Ho, Tsuen Wan MTR Station and Kwun Tong (Millennium City 5) in around 2005-06.

The PTIs at Kowloon Tong and Sai Wan Ho are being constructed at the respective estimated cost of \$42.4 million and \$30.1 million. Apart from serving cross-boundary coaches, they will include facilities for franchised buses and green minibuses, which will use the major part of the PTIs.

The provision of terminal facilities for cross-boundary coaches at Tsuen Wan will involve only minor modifications to the existing PTI, and no substantial expenditure will be involved. The terminal facilities for cross-boundary coaches at Kwun Tong will be provided and maintained by the private developer, and so no public funds will be involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
 INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)097

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

0596

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The Administration indicates that action would be taken to enhance road safety. In this respect, please provide the following information-

- (a) Why will the cumulative numbers of junctions installed with red light cameras and locations equipped with speed enforcement cameras in 2005 not increase when compared to those in 2004?
- (b) Regarding the cumulative number of closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras for traffic surveillance, why did it increase by 32 in 2004 but will only increase by 5 in 2005?
- (c) What are the Administration's plans and works in 2005 for enhancing road safety? Please list out the scope and expenditure.
- (d) Regarding district traffic and transport services, the provision for 2005-06 is 7% lower than that for 2004-05, mainly due to reduced operating expenses. How will the Administration achieve the savings?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The contracts for the installation of red light cameras and speed enforcement cameras were completed in end 2003 and mid 2004 respectively, and the systems are now in full operation. To further enhance road safety, we are now actively considering the expansion of both systems.
- (b) Most CCTV cameras are provided to support area traffic control (ATC) systems. The ATC system for Tai Po and North District, comprising 30 CCTV cameras, was completed in 2004. The five cameras to be installed in 2005 would be located at Tung Chung Road and Penny's Bay.
- (c) The Administration will continue to adopt a multi-pronged approach for enhancing road safety. Apart from providing a safe and efficient infrastructure and traffic management system, we have also been developing road safety legislation, carrying out enforcement actions, applying new technologies and putting in place focused publicity and education programmes.

For safe transport infrastructure and traffic management systems, the Transport Department will spend about \$55 million in 2005-06 to carry out routine investigation and implement improvement measures at accident blackspots, and implement traffic engineering improvement works such as construction of signalized junctions and pedestrian crossing facilities.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)097

Question Serial No.

0596

- (d) The savings are mainly attributable to reduced maintenance expenses for traffic signal equipment and discount on rental of video links for transmitting CCTV images. These savings are achieved mainly through price negotiation with the service providers without compromising the efficiency or reliability of the relevant services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

ETWB(T)098

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

0753

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding public bus services highlighted in the Programme, will the Government provide the following information on why the number of bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes to be implemented will reduce from 32 schemes in 2004 to 25 schemes in 2005. Please provide details of the planned BBI schemes and resources required.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The Government encourages franchised bus companies to provide BBI schemes to improve bus network efficiency, traffic and the environment in busy corridors. In formulating BBI schemes, bus companies take into account factors such as the operational and financial implications, scope of a scheme to improve network coverage and efficiency, suggestions from the public, and compatibility of the Octopus software. Owing to variations of these factors, the number of BBI schemes planned for each year may differ.

The 25 BBI schemes proposed for implementation in 2005 involve 77 routes serving the New Territories, Kowloon, Hong Kong Island and the Airport with fare discounts ranging from \$1.0 to \$3.5. They will be implemented by the relevant bus companies at their own costs with no additional resources required on the part of the Government. The locations of the proposed BBI schemes are -

Hong Kong Island

1. Gloucester Road, Wanchai

Kowloon

2. Lung Cheung Road, Wong Tai Sin
3. Kwun Tong Road, Kwun Tong
4. Prince Edward Road East, Wong Tai Sin
5. Choi Hung Estate Bus Terminus
6. Ma Tau Chung Road, To Kwa Wan
7. Ma Tau Wai Road, To Kwa Wan

New Territories

8. Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan
9. Tai Wo Bus Terminus, Tai Po
10. Luen Wo Hui, Fanling
11. Sheung Shui Landmark North
12. Pak Wo Road, Fanling
13. Sheung Shui Bus Terminus
14. Bayview Garden Bus Terminus, Tsuen Wan

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)098

Question Serial No.

0753

15. Tai Ho Road, Tsuen Wan
16. Cheong Wing Road, Kwai Chung
17. New Town Plaza Bus Terminus, Sha Tin
18. Hung Mui Kuk Road, Sha Tin
19. Yuen Wo Road, Sha Tin
20. Tai Chung Kiu Road, Sha Tin

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)099

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

0754

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding public bus services highlighted in the Programme, will the Government please provide the information on the number of buses which are still not yet retrofitted with emission reduction devices for each franchised bus company at present. How many environmentally-friendly buses are there? How will the Government encourage the bus companies to retrofit emission reduction devices in the coming year? What would be the resources required?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : As at end February 2005, there were 5 943 licensed franchised buses of which 3 064 were retrofitted with emission reduction devices. The remaining 2 879 buses not retrofitted with emission reduction devices were all buses meeting Euro II or above emission standard. Breakdown of these 2 879 buses by companies is shown below-

- (a) Kowloon Motor Bus – 1 890
- (b) Citybus – 517
- (c) New World First Bus – 318
- (d) New Lantao Bus – 18
- (e) Long Win – 136

In the coming year, the Government will continue to encourage franchised bus companies to retrofit emission reduction devices on their buses where it is technically feasible and financially viable for them to do so. To promote the use of environmentally friendly buses, a provision has been added to the franchises of Citybus Limited (North Lantau and Airport bus network), Long Win and New World First Bus since 2003 requiring the companies to adopt the latest commercially available environmentally-friendly technology when acquiring new buses. We plan to include similar provisions in new bus franchises to be awarded in future. Furthermore, the adoption of environmentally-friendly measures has featured as a criterion in operator selection exercises for new bus route packages. There are no additional resources requirements on the government as the retrofitting of emission reduction devices is carried out by the franchised bus companies at their own costs.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)100

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1187

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Are there any overhead traffic light signals in Hong Kong? If yes, what is the total number? If no, will additional overhead traffic light signal be installed in this year? What is the estimated cost for installation?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply : There are overhead traffic light signals at 8 locations in Hong Kong. We are planning to install such signals at another 28 locations. The estimated installation cost for each set of signals is approximately \$200,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 8 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)101

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1447

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

- Question :
- (a) How many pedestrian flashing green countdown displays (PFGCD) have been installed at signalised pedestrian crossings to-date? How effective does the Administration consider these displays to be?
 - (b) Will the Administration continue to expand the provision of the PFGCD at more locations? If so, what is the estimated expenditure, and what is the target number to be provided? If not, what is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The PFGCD have been installed at signalised pedestrian crossings at 15 locations on a trial basis. While improvement to pedestrians' behaviour is observed at some crossings after the installation of the PFGCD, there is no discernible difference in such behaviour at other crossings. There is thus no conclusive evidence regarding the effects of PFGCD. However, our questionnaire survey has revealed that the PFGCD is generally favoured by pedestrians.
- (b) We will examine whether the trial should be expanded to cover more crossings so that we can further assess the effectiveness of the PFGCD and gauge public opinion on their usefulness.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 8 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

ETWB(T)102

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1448

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : (a) What is the current progress of the pedestrian schemes? When will all the schemes be completed? What is the expenditure required for this year?

(b) What is the latest progress of the planning of further pedestrian schemes in Wan Chai and Tsim Sha Tsui? Will the Administration submit the timetable of the schemes this year?

(c) What is the budget for the Pedestrian Facilities Division in this financial year? Is there any increase or decrease in the expenditure this year as compared to that of last year? What is the reason?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

(a) We have to-date implemented pedestrian schemes in over 30 streets and completed footpath widening work in over 20 streets. These pedestrian schemes are distributed in various districts such as Central, Wan Chai, Causeway Bay, North Point, the Peak and Stanley on Hong Kong Island; Tsim Sha Tsui, Jordan, Mong Kok and Sham Shui Po in Kowloon; and Yuen Long and Sheung Shui in the New Territories. We shall continue our effort to improve the pedestrian environment, and more pedestrian schemes will be identified and implemented as and when opportunities arise. The forecast capital expenditure in 2005-06 is about \$7.0 million.

(b) Wan Chai
 We are carrying out planning work for full-time pedestrian schemes in Ship Street, Tai Yuen Street, Stone Nullah Lane and Triangle Street, and part-time pedestrian schemes in Spring Garden Lane and Tai Wo Street. These pedestrian schemes will be implemented progressively from 2006-07 onwards, to tie in with the programme of Urban Renewal Authority's redevelopment projects in the area.

Tsim Sha Tsui

Planning Department and Transport Department are undertaking an area improvement study for Tsim Sha Tsui. The study started in January 2004 and is currently scheduled for completion by the end of 2005. Detailed proposals are being formulated taking into account views collected in the public consultation exercise held from November 2004 to January 2005. Some of the proposals will include, for example, footpath widening and pedestrian schemes to improve the pedestrian environment. The study will include an implementation timetable for the proposals.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)102

Question Serial No.

1448

- (c) The estimated expenditure for the Pedestrian Facilities Division in 2005-06 is \$6.2 million, which is about \$0.2 million less than that in 2004-05. The reduction is due to adjustments in staff salary costs and general departmental expenses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION****ETWB(T)103**Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

0376

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for TransportDirector of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and WorksQuestion : Please provide the timetables of implementing new bus-bus interchange schemes in conjunction with franchised bus operators and the locations to be targeted.Asked by : Hon. YOUNG HowardReply :

A total of 25 bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes are proposed for implementation in 2005. The Transport Department and relevant bus companies will finalise the schemes and their detailed implementation timetable taking account of the outcome of District Council consultation and operational arrangements. The 25 BBI schemes are proposed to be implemented at the following 20 locations -

Hong Kong Island

1. Gloucester Road, Wanchai

Kowloon

2. Lung Cheung Road, Wong Tai Sin
3. Kwun Tong Road, Kwun Tong
4. Prince Edward Road East, Wong Tai Sin
5. Choi Hung Estate Bus Terminus
6. Ma Tau Chung Road, To Kwa Wan
7. Ma Tau Wai Road, To Kwa Wan

New Territories

8. Castle Peak Road, Tsuen Wan
9. Tai Wo Bus Terminus, Tai Po
10. Luen Wo Hui, Fanling
11. Sheung Shui Landmark North
12. Pak Wo Road, Fanling
13. Sheung Shui Bus Terminus
14. Bayview Garden Bus Terminus, Tsuen Wan
15. Tai Ho Road, Tsuen Wan
16. Cheong Wing Road, Kwai Chung
17. New Town Plaza Bus Terminus, Sha Tin
18. Hung Mui Kuk Road, Sha Tin
19. Yuen Wo Road, Sha Tin
20. Tai Chung Kiu Road, Sha Tin

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)103

Question Serial No.

0376

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)104

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

0377

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Under Matters Requiring Attention in 2005-06, it is stated that the department will conduct an assessment on the impact of Ngong Ping Cable Car on bus services in Lantau. What are the details of the assessment to be conducted and how much provision will be allocated?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply : The Transport Department has commissioned a contractor to undertake a survey at \$0.3 million to facilitate assessment of the likely impact of the Tung Chung Cable Car on franchised buses serving South Lantau. The survey comprises checks at selected screenlines and on-board buses to ascertain the current passenger travel pattern and utilisation of the franchised bus services on weekdays and holidays, as well as interviews with bus passengers and other visitors at selected locations on Lantau to gauge their preference of transport mode after the opening of the Tung Chung Cable Car. The Transport Department will conduct the subsequent impact assessment based on the findings of the survey.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 8 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)105

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

0378

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : With regard to “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2005-06”, please provide details and target date of completion in achieving the installation of speed display units on all public light buses. Will any public funds be used for the exercise and if yes, how much?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

Starting from 30 April 2005, all public light bus (PLB) owners applying for new or renewal of vehicle licences will be required to install an approved type of speed display unit on their PLBs. At present, 836 PLBs are already installed with speed display units. It is expected that the whole fleet of 4 350 PLBs will have speed display units installed by end-April 2006.

As speed display units are provided by PLB owners, no public funds are involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 8 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)106

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1482

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Concerning the planning of road safety remedial measures under performance indicators, there will be a reduction of 13 sites in coverage. What are they and what accounts for this reduction? Will there be a corresponding reduction in the resource allocation?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply : There is no reduction in the resource allocation because the estimated numbers of sites for 2004 and 2005 are both 80. In 2004, we had actually planned road safety remedial measures for 93 sites, as we considered that action on those sites could not be delayed. The additional resources incurred for the additional sites were savings re-deployed from other expenditure items.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)107

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1483

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What are the progresses of implementing pedestrian schemes in Central, Wan Chai, Jordan, Sham Shui Po, Causeway Bay, Tsim Sha Tsui, the Peak, Stanley, North Point, Mongkok, Yuen Long and Sheung Shui? How much provision will be allocated to each project in 2005-06?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The progress of implementing pedestrian schemes in various districts is as follows-

Central

We have implemented pedestrian schemes in Theatre Lane, Chiu Lung Street, Lan Kwai Fong, Wo On Lane and a section of D'Aguilar Street. We have widened the footpath of a section of Queen's Road Central. Further footpath widening works in Elgin Street, Peel Street and Staunton Street are in progress. The estimated expenditure in 2005-06 is about \$2.7 million.

Wan Chai

We have implemented a pedestrian scheme in a section of Tai Yuen Street. Footpath widening works in various sections of Johnston Road and Jaffe Road are in progress. The estimated expenditure in 2005-06 is about \$1.2 million.

Jordan

We have implemented pedestrian schemes in several sections of Temple Street and Nanking Street. Streetscape enhancement and footpath widening works in Nanking Street and Pilkem Street are in progress. The estimated expenditure in 2005-06 is about \$1.0 million.

Sham Shui Po

We have implemented pedestrian schemes in several sections of Apliu Street, Fuk Wa Street, Kweilin Street and Pei Ho Street. Streetscape enhancement and footpath widening works in Apliu Street and Fuk Wa Street are in progress. The estimated expenditure in 2005-06 is about \$1.6 million.

Causeway Bay

We have implemented pedestrian schemes in Jardine's Crescent, East Point Road and sections of Russell Street, Paterson Street, Lockhart Road and Great George Street. We have widened the footpaths of a number of streets such as Kai Chiu Road, Pak Sha Road, Lan Fong Road and Yun Ping Road. We plan to start streetscape enhancement works in East Point Road and Lockhart Road in 2005-06. The estimated expenditure in 2005-06 is about \$0.5 million.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)107

Question Serial No.

1483

Tsim Sha Tsui

We have widened the footpaths of a number of roads such as Canton Road, Haiphong Road, Peking Road, Hankow Road, Lock Road and Ashley Road. We have commissioned together with the Planning Department an area improvement study for Tsim Sha Tsui. The study will identify opportunities and formulate proposals for pedestrian schemes and further footpath widening works to improve the pedestrian environment in the area. The study started in January 2004 and is currently scheduled for completion by the end of 2005.

The Peak

We have implemented a pedestrian scheme in Findlay Road.

Stanley

We have implemented pedestrian schemes in Stanley Main Street, Stanley Market Street and Stanley New Street.

North Point

We have implemented a pedestrian scheme in a section of Marble Road.

Mongkok

We have implemented pedestrian schemes in several sections of Sai Yeung Choi Street South, Tung Choi Street, Nelson Street and Soy Street. We have also widened the footpaths of sections of Fa Yuen Street and Shan Tung Street.

Yuen Long

We have implemented a pedestrian scheme in Yuen Long New Street.

Sheung Shui

We have implemented pedestrian schemes in San Hong Street and San Kung Street.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)108

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

Question Serial No.

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

1484

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What are the details of planning and providing off-street terminal facilities for cross-boundary coaches? What are the resources involved?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

We have plans to provide terminal facilities for cross-boundary coaches at the public transport interchanges (PTIs) at Kowloon Tong (Suffolk Road), Sai Wan Ho, Tsuen Wan MTR Station and Kwun Tong (Millennium City 5) in around 2005-06.

The PTIs at Kowloon Tong and Sai Wan Ho are being constructed at the respective estimated cost of \$42.4 million and \$30.1 million. Apart from serving cross-boundary coaches, they include facilities for franchised buses and green minibuses, which will use the major part of the PTIs.

The provision of terminal facilities for cross-boundary coaches at Tsuen Wan will involve only minor modifications to the existing PTI, and no substantial expenditure will be involved. The terminal facilities for cross-boundary coaches at Kwun Tong will be provided and maintained by the private developer, and so no public funds will be involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 11 April 2005

Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

ETWB(T)109

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

Question Serial No.

1486

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Concerning the Subhead 000 Operational expenses, the estimate of job-related allowances in 2005-06 is \$36,000 (163%) higher than the revised estimate in 2004-05. Please account for this estimated increase.

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply : In the Transport Department, the job-related allowances cover typhoon allowance and rainstorm black warning allowance where payments fluctuate from year to year depending on the frequency and duration of typhoons and rainstorm black warnings. The payments for these allowances in 2004-05 were exceptionally low. The 2005-06 estimate is maintained at \$58,000, i.e. the same level as the 2004-05 original estimate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROBERT FOOTMAN

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 9 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)110

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund Subhead (No. & title) :
Head 706 - Highways 6100TX

Question Serial No.

1594

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : Regarding the block allocation for 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 District and Wong Tai Sin District.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The following ten projects under Subhead 6100TX are/will be implemented in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts in 2005-06 -

- (a) replacement of street name plates in Kwun Tong and Wong Tai Sin districts;
- (b) resurfacing of Kwun Tong Road east bound between Tung Yan Street and Tsui Ping Road;
- (c) resurfacing of Lei Yue Mun Road west bound between Ko Chiu Road and Kai Tin Road roundabout;
- (d) resurfacing of Tseung Kwan O Road;
- (e) resurfacing of Lung Cheung Road section east bound between Lung Cheung Mall and Tai Hom Road;
- (f) resurfacing of Lung Cheung Road west bound between Po Kong Village Road and Luen Yee Road;
- (g) reconstruction of footpath at Choi Hung Road between Prince Edward Road East and Shatin Pass Road;
- (h) resurfacing of Kwun Tong Road east bound between Ngau Tau Kok Fifth Street and Block 8 of Ngau Tau Kok Estate;
- (i) resurfacing of Kwun Tong Road east bound from Lung Cheung Road flyover to Wai Yip Street; and
- (j) reconstruction of footway around Hammer Hill Road Park.

Signature _____

Name in block letters MAK CHAI KWONG

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 6 April 2005

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2005-06
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)111

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund
Head 706 - Highways

Subhead (No. & title) :
6152TB

Question Serial No.

1595

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question : What is the progress of 6152TB "Footbridge across Po Kong Village Road at the junction with Tsz Wan Shan Road"? How was the provision spent in 2004-05 and how will the provision be spent in 2005-06? What is the anticipated completion date? Is it different from the anticipated completion date when the project was approved?

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply : The progress of the project is satisfactory. The piling works and the associated pile loading tests were completed in March 2005. The construction of the pile cap and precast concrete deck is in progress.

The provision of \$5.5 million in 2004-05 was mainly used for the piling works whereas the provision of \$8.91 million in 2005-06 will be used for the rest of the substructure and the superstructure works including the pile caps, precast concrete deck, columns and lifts.

The anticipated completion date of the project is February 2006, which is the same as in the proposed programme at the time when the project was approved.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **6 April 2005** _____