

Panel on Transport

Subcommittee on matters relating to railways

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 31 December 2004)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Railway incidents and performance of the railway systems in Hong Kong

7 January 2005

At the meeting on 20 October 2004, members agreed to follow up on the remedial actions taken by the two railway corporations to prevent recurrence of railway incidents in future, and the findings of the interim and final reports of the review conducted by Lloyd's Register Rail on the MTR system.

2. Shatin to Central Link

7 January 2005

Last discussed at the Subcommittee meetings on 7 May 2004 and 3 June 2004.

The Administration was reviewing the final scheme for the Shatin to Central Link (SCL), pending the outcome of the discussions on the possible merger of the two railway corporations.

At the meeting between Legislative Council Members and Kowloon City District Council (KCDC) members on 4 March 2004, KCDC members expressed various concerns about SCL, including the progress of the project and the scheme design of SCL in relation to Ho Man Tin and Hung Hum areas.

The Administration proposed to brief the Subcommittee on the project upon completion of the preliminary assessment of the KCRC's Final Proposal.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

3. Northern Link

April/May 2005

Last discussed at the Subcommittee meeting on 29 June 2004.

The Northern Link (NOL) will provide a new boundary rail service for the New Territories. According to the Administration, the implementation of NOL would depend on the projected demand of cross-boundary passenger traffic and the programme of the new development areas in the New Territories. KCRC has recently conducted a preliminary study on the NOL indicating that the project would bring considerable transport benefits. To enable it to better assess the transport and economic case for the project, the Administration has asked KCRC to do further work on the technical, environmental and financial aspects of the project.

At the meeting on 20 October 2004, Mr TAM Yiu-chung requested that the Administration should also brief members as to whether a decision had been made to use the West Rail alignment for the Regional Express Line (REL) to connect with NOL for providing cross boundary rail services.

The Administration advised that KCRC would submit its project proposal for NOL/REL in March 2005. The Administration would arrange to brief the Subcommittee on the details of the project proposal.

4. Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link

April/May 2005

Last discussed at the Subcommittee meeting on 29 June 2004.

The Subcommittee noted that the Administration had set up a Joint Expert Group with the Ministry of Railways to take forward the strategic planning of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (ERL), of which Regional Express Line was the Hong Kong section. The Joint Expert Group had confirmed the strategic value of the rail link, and a study was now underway to establish the technical feasibility and commercial viability of ERL.

The Administration advised that KCRC would submit its project proposal for NOL/REL in March 2005. The Administration would arrange to brief the Subcommittee on the details of the project proposal.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

5. Disneyland Resort Line (DRL)

Last discussed at the Subcommittee meetings in July 2002.

The rail link is scheduled for completion in 2005 to tie in with the opening of the Hong Kong Disneyland Theme Park.

The Administration proposed to discuss the item in Q2 2005 to tie in with MTR Corporation Limited's proposed commissioning of DRL by Q3 2005.

6. Port Rail Link

Last discussed at the Subcommittee meeting on 29 June 2004.

The proposed Port Rail Link will provide a freight rail corridor from Lo Wu to a new port rail terminal at Kwai Chung, via either East Rail or West Rail. According to the Administration, the timing for this rail line will depend on the build-up of rail freight demand. KCRC is now studying the feasibility of this rail link.

The Administration advised that it was still waiting for KCRC to revert on its proposal on the rail link.

To be confirmed