

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08**

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

Session No. : 20

File name: ETWB(T)-e1.doc

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

Head: 42 Electrical and Mechanical Services Subhead:
Department

Programme: (2) Mechanical Installations Safety

Controlling Officer: Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

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

Question:

How many vehicle mechanics have been registered since the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics is launched? What is the corresponding percentage in respect of the total number of vehicle mechanics? What is the target number of vehicle mechanics registered under the scheme? Does the current number of registered vehicle mechanics meet the target?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply:

Since the launching of the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics on 4 January 2007, about 700 vehicle mechanics have submitted their applications for registration. The number of applications account for about seven percent of the total number of vehicle mechanics which is estimated to be about 10 000. The Vehicle Maintenance Technical Advisory Committee, comprising representatives from trade associations, professional institutions, training institutes, etc., has set a target of 3 000 registered vehicle mechanics for 2007. The response from the trade has been encouraging and we would endeavour to achieve the target.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **HO KWONG WAI** _____

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ **16 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)002

Head : 60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title)

Question Serial No.

0090

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

In the financial year of 2007-08, the number of non-directorate posts in the Highways Department will increase by 103 posts from an estimated 1 869 posts as at 31 March 2007 to 1 972 posts as at 31 March 2008. Please provide details about the ranks and job functions of these new posts.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The ranks and functions of the 103 new posts are as follows:

- (a) nine posts for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge project;

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No.</u>
Senior Engineer	3
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	6

- (b) 56 posts for additional maintenance requirements arising from taking over of newly completed roads, and co-ordination and control of utility openings on public roads; and

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No.</u>
Senior Engineer	1
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	10
Assistant Inspector of Works	7
Works Supervisor II	36
Clerical Assistant	2

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)002

Question Serial No.

0090

- (c) 38 posts for vegetation maintenance service for roadside slopes, management of the public lighting system and monitoring of the management, operation and maintenance contract for the Tsing Sha Control Area.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No.</u>
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	2
Landscape Architect/ Assistant Landscape Architect	5
Assistant Inspector of Works	4
Works Supervisor II	24
Assistant Clerical Officer	3
Total	103

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: WAI CHI SING

Post Title: Director of Highways

Date: 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)003

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0094

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

The target cumulative progress of the Kowloon Southern Link for 2007-08 is set at 55% only. What measures will the Administration take to ensure the timely completion of the Kowloon Southern Link for opening by 2009?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The figure of 55% completion is the target progress of the Kowloon Southern Link by the end of 2007. Construction works have been proceeding smoothly since they started in August 2005. It remains the target to complete the project by end 2009.

The project team of the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) conducts day-to-day site supervision to monitor the progress of the project. Government bureaux and departments concerned have set up various committees with the KCRC and, if necessary, with its contractors to oversee the proper implementation of the project and to resolve any site interface problems.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 15 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)004

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0095

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Please provide details about the latest progress of the West Island Line, the Northern Link and the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, including the latest alignments, construction costs, and the commencement and completion dates of the projects. Could the works schedule of these projects be implemented in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

West Island Line

The proposed West Island Line is the extension of the existing Mass Transit Railway Island Line from Sheung Wan Station to the Western District with three new stations to be provided at Sai Ying Pun, University and Kennedy Town respectively. The Government is examining the project proposal submitted by the MTR Corporation Limited in August 2006 and discussing with them on the project scope, costs and implementation programme. We plan to gazette the project proposal later this year. After the proposal is authorised, construction works can commence and will take about 4 to 5 years to complete. On this basis, the project can be commissioned in about 2013. The estimated project capital costs are about \$8 billion.

Northern Link (NOL) and the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (ERL)

The Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) is now conducting an engineering/business study and preliminary site investigation on the two projects. It is expected that the KCRC will submit its final study report to the Government in mid 2007.

In the meantime, we have been working closely with the Mainland authorities on the various planning, technical and interface issues of the ERL. The Government will make a decision on the choice of the Corridor Options in the light of the latest planning parameters and the KCRC's report. The two projects are expected to be completed in 2014-15 at the earliest.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)004

Question Serial No.

0095

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

WAI CHI SING

Post Title _____

Director of Highways

Date _____

16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)005

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

Question Serial No.

0096

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding the performance targets of the Highways Department, only 75% of the works contracts were completed in accordance with agreed programmes in 2006. This percentage is lower than the target completion percentage of 95%. Please provide the Council with the following information –

- (a) please list all the items of works contracts that have yet to be completed in accordance with agreed programmes, together with the project titles, the amount of expenditure involved, proposed completion dates and anticipated final completion dates of these projects;
- (b) please state whether the above-mentioned items of works contracts that have yet to be completed in accordance with agreed programmes would entail additional expenditure for the government. If yes, please list the project titles of such items, together with the amount of expenditure involved; and
- (c) please state whether the Administration has any measures to ensure that the planned target for works contracts to be completed in accordance with agreed programmes in 2007 will be met.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) The performance targets of the Highways Department cover four works contracts. Among these four, the works contract for the Design and Build of Fortress Hill Pedestrian Link, which amounts to \$21.6 million, was delayed. The project was scheduled to be completed in October 2006. The lifts and the escalator have been substantially completed and opened to public in mid February 2007. It is anticipated that the remaining works of the project will be substantially completed in June 2007.
- (b) The delay in the anticipated completion of the Design and Build of Fortress Hill Pedestrian Link has not imposed changes to the original contract sum.

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- (c) For the contracts scheduled for completion in 2007, the Administration will continue to allocate adequate resources for site supervision, and will closely monitor the works progress. In cases of unforeseen difficulties, early mitigation measures will be implemented in order to ensure that the contracts can be completed as scheduled.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

WAI CHI SING

Post Title _____

Director of Highways

Date _____

16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)006

Head : 60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0097

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding the expenditure of capital projects under design and construction by consultants in this programme, please advise on the following:

- (a) the reasons for the drastic decrease in the expenditure on this item over the three years from 2005 to 2007;
- (b) the project title, contract sum and contract completion date of those works contracts in progress and completed in 2005-06 and 2006-07; and
- (c) the criteria adopted by the Administration in determining whether the works contracts will be carried out by in-house staff or consultants.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) The decrease in expenditure on capital projects under design and construction by consultants in 2006 as compared with that in 2005 is mainly due to the reduction of expenditure for a number of major projects in 2006 after their substantial completion, which include the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor, Deep Bay Link, widening of Yuen Long Highway between Lam Tei and Shap Pat Heung Interchange and Castle Peak Road improvement between Area 2 and Sham Tseng, Tsuen Wan.

The decrease in the estimated expenditure on capital projects under design and construction by consultants in 2007 as compared with the actual expenditure in 2006 is mainly due to the anticipated reduction of expenditure for a number of major projects in 2007 as these projects are progressing to their final stage of construction, which include Castle Peak Road Improvement between Sham Tseng and Ka Loon Tsuen, Tsuen Wan; Improvement to Castle Peak Road between Ka Loon Tsuen and Siu Lam; Route 8 between Cheung Sha Wan and Sha Tin; and Route 8 between Tsing Yi and Cheung Sha Wan - Ngong Shuen Chau Viaduct and the associated works.

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- (b) The details of contracts in progress or completed in 2005-06 and 2006-07 are as follows :

Contracts in progress in 2005-06

Contract no.	Contract title	Contract sum (\$M)	Estimated/ actual completion date
HY/2001/18*	Sai Sha Road Widening between Kam Ying Road and Future Trunk Road T7 Junction	107.6	Apr 2005
HY/2003/11*	Design and Construction for the Approach Viaduct to the New Boundary Bridge between Lok Ma Chau and Huangang and Associated Works	140.4	Apr 2005
HY/2003/09*	Footbridge across Kai Cheung Road near proposed EMSD Headquarters	9.7	Jun 2005
HY/2003/26*	Renovation of O'Brien Road Footbridge in Wan Chai and Central Elevated Walkway	20.5	Aug 2005
HY/2003/07*	Sheung Wan Streetscape Enhancement	12.9	Oct 2005
HY/2002/21*	Shenzhen Western Corridor	2,290.0	Dec 2005
HY/2004/11*	Enhancement of Bridge Parapets	61.2	Jan 2006

* Contracts completed in 2005-06.

** Contracts completed in 2006-07.

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Contract no.	Contract title	Contract sum (\$M)	Estimated/ actual completion date
HY/2003/06*	Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy Minor Rural Improvement Works Package 5 Contract 5C	47.8	Jan 2006
HY/2003/18*	Traffic Control and Surveillance System for Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor and Deep Bay Link	82.6	Jan 2006
HY/2002/23*	Deep Bay Link (Southern Section)	1,213.0	Jan 2006
HY/2002/24*	Deep Bay Link (Northern Section)	1,716.1	Jan 2006
HY/2003/20*	Noise Barriers on Fanling Highway near Choi Yuen Estate and Fanling Centre	138.6	Feb 2006
HY/2004/05*	Reconstruction of Two Footbridges across Choi Hung Road near Shatin Pass Road and Tai Shing Street	30.4	Feb 2006
HY/2002/19*	Widening of Yuen Long Highway between Tan Kwai Tsuen and Shap Pat Heung Interchange	678.0	Mar 2006

* Contracts completed in 2005-06.

** Contracts completed in 2006-07.

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Contract no.	Contract title	Contract sum (\$M)	Estimated/ actual completion date
HY/2004/17*	Provision of lifts to the footbridge across the Toll Plaza of Cross Harbour Tunnel	4.8	Mar 2006
HY/2004/06*	Footbridge across Po Kong Village Road at Junction with Tsz Wan Shan Road	14.9	Mar 2006
HY/2004/16**	Provision of Lifts to the Footbridges near Ning Foo Street in Chai Wan, and across Nam On Street and Shau Kei Wan Road in Shau Kei Wan	12.4	Apr 2006
HY/99/18**	Castle Peak Road improvement between Sham Tseng and Ka Loon Tsuen, Tsuen Wan	762.3	May 2006
HY/2004/21**	Corrosion Protection for Island Eastern Corridor (Stage 1)	11.9	Jun 2006
HY/2004/03**	Minor Road Projects in New Territories - Second Contract	34.9	Jun 2006
HY/99/19**	Castle Peak Road Improvement between Ting Kau and Sham Tseng, Tsuen Wan	927.0	Jul 2006
HY/2005/01**	Link Bridge over Tsing Lun Road at Tuen Mun Hospital	15.5	Dec 2006

* Contracts completed in 2005-06.

** Contracts completed in 2006-07.

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ETWB(T)006

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0097

Contract no.	Contract title	Contract sum (\$M)	Estimated/ actual completion date
13/HY/2004**	Enhanced Maintenance Programme of Highway Slopes / Retaining Walls in New Territories, Phase 1	37.0	Mar 2007
HY/2004/09	Improvements to San Tin Interchange	348.0	Apr 2007
HY/2003/02	Route 8 (formerly Route 9) - Eagle's Nest Tunnel and Associated Works	1,835.9	May 2007
HY/2003/04	Design and Build of Improvement to Castle Peak Road between Ka Loon Tsuen and Siu Lam	608.1	May 2007
HY/2005/09	Provision of Lifts to Three Footbridges across Kwai Chung Road and Hing Fong Road, Castle Peak Road near Lo Tak Court, and Tsing Yi Road West near Liu To Road	18.0	May 2007
HY/2005/03	Public Transport Interchange at Sai Kung Town North	7.3	Jun 2007
HY/2004/07	Design and Build of Fortress Hill Pedestrian Link	21.5	Jun 2007

* Contracts completed in 2005-06.

** Contracts completed in 2006-07.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)006

Question Serial No.

0097

Contract no.	Contract title	Contract sum (\$M)	Estimated/ actual completion date
HY/2005/06	Castle Peak Road Improvement - West of Tsing Lung Tau	92.8	Jun 2007
HY/2005/15	Provision of Lifts to Three Footbridges across Island Eastern Corridor Slip Roads near Quarry Bay Park; Queensway near Queen's Road East and Arsenal Street; and Chatham Road North/Wuhu Street junction	21.0	Jul 2007
HY/2000/21	Route 8 - Ngong Shuen Chau Viaduct	1,551.0	Jul 2007
HY/2003/01	Route 8 (formerly Route 9) - Lai Chi Kok Viaduct	1,066.2	Jul 2007
HY/2003/27	Reconstruction of Causeway Bay Flyover and Associated Widening of Victoria Park Road	72.5	Jul 2007
HY/2001/16	Route 8 (formerly Route 9) - Nam Wan Tunnel and West Tsing Yi Viaduct	1,692.2	Sep 2007
HY/2003/29	Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy Minor Rural Improvement Works Package 5 Contract 5D	45.4	Sep 2007

* Contracts completed in 2005-06.

** Contracts completed in 2006-07.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)006

Question Serial No.

0097

Contract no.	Contract title	Contract sum (\$M)	Estimated/ actual completion date
HY/2004/08	Provision of Lift to the Footbridge at the junction of Ferry Street and Waterloo Road, Reconstruction of Hiu Kwong Street (between Hip Wo Street and Sau Lai Street) and How Ming Street (between Hoi Yuen Road and How Ming Lane)	16.7	Oct 2007
HY/2003/28	Rehabilitation of Chung Hom Kok Road	10.5	early 2008
HY/2004/02	East Tsing Yi Viaduct	1,012.0	mid 2008
HY/2003/19	Improvement to Tung Chung Road between Lung Tseng Tau and Cheung Sha	561.6	late 2008
HY/2002/26	Stonecutters Bridge	2,760.0	mid 2009
HY/2003/05	Route 8 Traffic Control and Surveillance System	255.0	mid 2009

Contracts in progress in 2006-07

- 7 -

* Contracts completed in 2005-06.

** Contracts completed in 2006-07.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)006

Question Serial No.

0097

Contract no.	Contract title	Contract sum (\$M)	Estimated/ actual completion date
HY/2004/16**	Provision of Lifts to the Footbridges near Ning Foo Street in Chai Wan, and across Nam On Street and Shau Kei Wan Road in Shau Kei Wan	12.4	Apr 2006
HY/99/18**	Castle Peak Road improvement between Sham Tseng and Ka Loon Tsuen, Tsuen Wan	762.3	May 2006
HY/2004/21**	Corrosion Protection for Island Eastern Corridor (Stage 1)	11.9	Jun 2006
HY/2004/03**	Minor Road Projects in New Territories - Second Contract	34.9	Jun 2006
HY/99/19**	Castle Peak Road Improvement between Ting Kau and Sham Tseng, Tsuen Wan	927.0	Jul 2006
HY/2005/01**	Link Bridge over Tsing Lun Road at Tuen Mun Hospital	15.5	Dec 2006
HY/2005/18**	Architectural lighting for Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor	12.6	Dec 2006

* Contracts completed in 2005-06.

** Contracts completed in 2006-07.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)006

Question Serial No.

0097

Contract no.	Contract title	Contract sum (\$M)	Estimated/ actual completion date
13/HY/2004**	Enhanced Maintenance Programme of Highway Slopes / Retaining Walls in New Territories, Phase 1	37.0	Mar 2007
01/HY/2006**	Enhancement Maintenance Programme of Highway Slopes/Retaining Walls in New Territories - Ground Investigation	8.2	Mar 2007
HY/2004/09	Improvements to San Tin Interchange	348.0	Apr 2007
HY/2003/02	Route 8 (formerly Route 9) - Eagle's Nest Tunnel and Associated Works	1,835.9	May 2007
HY/2003/04	Design and Build of Improvement to Castle Peak Road between Ka Loon Tsuen and Siu Lam	608.1	May 2007
HY/2005/09	Provision of Lifts to Three Footbridges across Kwai Chung Road and Hing Fong Road, Castle Peak Road near Lo Tak Court, and Tsing Yi Road West near Liu To Road	18.0	May 2007

* Contracts completed in 2005-06.

** Contracts completed in 2006-07.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)006

Question Serial No.

0097

Contract no.	Contract title	Contract sum (\$M)	Estimated/ actual completion date
HY/2005/03	Public Transport Interchange at Sai Kung Town North	7.3	Jun 2007
HY/2004/07	Design and Build of Fortress Hill Pedestrian Link	21.5	Jun 2007
HY/2005/06	Castle Peak Road Improvement - West of Tsing Lung Tau	92.8	Jun 2007
HY/2004/15	Walkway Cover between Elegance Garden and Wan Tau Street, Tai Po Market, Tai Po	8.4	Jun 2007
HY/2005/15	Provision of Lifts to Three Footbridges across Island Eastern Corridor Slip Roads near Quarry Bay Park; Queensway near Queen's Road East and Arsenal Street; and Chatham Road North/Wuhu Street junction	21.0	Jul 2007
HY/2000/21	Route 8 - Ngong Shuen Chau Viaduct	1,551.0	Jul 2007
HY/2003/01	Route 8 (formerly Route 9) - Lai Chi Kok Viaduct	1,066.2	Jul 2007
HY/2003/27	Reconstruction of Causeway Bay Flyover and Associated Widening of Victoria Park Road	72.5	Jul 2007

* Contracts completed in 2005-06.

** Contracts completed in 2006-07.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)006

Question Serial No.

0097

Contract no.	Contract title	Contract sum (\$M)	Estimated/ actual completion date
HY/2005/16	Construction of Access Roads at Lung Mei, Tai Po and Tsiu Keng, Sheung Shui	18.5	Aug 2007
HY/2005/13	Modification of South Western Footbridge Chai Wan Roundabout	5.9	Aug 2007
HY/2001/16	Route 8 (formerly Route 9) - Nam Wan Tunnel and West Tsing Yi Viaduct	1,692.2	Sep 2007
HY/2003/29	Rural Planning and Improvement Strategy Minor Rural Improvement Works Package 5 Contract 5D	45.4	Sep 2007
HY/2004/08	Provision of Lift to the Footbridge at the junction of Ferry Street and Waterloo Road, Reconstruction of Hiu Kwong Street (between Hip Wo Street and Sau Lai Street) and How Ming Street (between Hoi Yuen Road and How Ming Lane)	16.7	Oct 2007
HY/2005/08	Minor Road Projects in New Territories – Third Contract	22.0	Oct 2007
HY/2005/14	Provision of Lift for Elderly and Disabled at Existing Footbridge NF85 across Castle Peak Road near Shui Pin Wai	5.9	early 2008

* Contracts completed in 2005-06.

** Contracts completed in 2006-07.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)006

Question Serial No.

0097

Contract no.	Contract title	Contract sum (\$M)	Estimated/ actual completion date
	Estate, Yuen Long		
HY/2003/28	Rehabilitation of Chung Hom Kok Road	10.5	early 2008
HY/2004/02	East Tsing Yi Viaduct	1,012.0	mid 2008
HY/2006/02	Upgrading/Improvement of Roadside Slopes/Retaining Walls on Hong Kong Island (2005-08 Programme)	19.0	mid 2008
HY/2006/08	Provision of Lifts to Four Footbridges across Castle Peak Road near Mass Transit Railway Tai Wo Hau Station; Ming Kum Road near Yeung King Road; Chung Mei Road near Tsing Yi Heung Sze Wui Road and Kwai Chung Road near Wo Kwai Lane	23.2	mid 2008
HY/2006/09	Renovation of Sheung Wan Elevated Walkway, Subway across Cotton Tree Drive near Murray Building, Footbridge across Cotton Tree Drive near Fairmont Building in Central; and two Footbridges across Harbour Road east of Fleming Road in Wan Chai	20.3	mid 2008

* Contracts completed in 2005-06.

** Contracts completed in 2006-07.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)006

Question Serial No.

0097

Contract no.	Contract title	Contract sum (\$M)	Estimated/ actual completion date
HY/2003/19	Improvement to Tung Chung Road between Lung Tseng Tau and Cheung Sha	561.6	late 2008
HY/2002/26	Stonecutters Bridge	2,760.0	mid 2009
HY/2003/05	Route 8 Traffic Control and Surveillance System	255.0	mid 2009
06/HY/2006	Enhanced Maintenance Programme of Highway Slopes/Retaining Walls in New Territories, Phase 2	70.0	mid 2009

- (c) The Highways Department considers each project individually to decide whether outsourcing design and construction supervision works to consultants is necessary. Assignments will be outsourced if a project fulfils any of the following:
- (i) the necessary expertise cannot be found in-house,
 - (ii) a team of multi-disciplinary professionals is required but not available within the Government, and/or
 - (iii) in-house manpower resources are not available to carry out the work.

* Contracts completed in 2005-06.

** Contracts completed in 2006-07.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)006

Question Serial No.

0097

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: WAI CHI SING

Post Title: Director of Highways

Date: 19 March 2007

* Contracts completed in 2005-06.

** Contracts completed in 2006-07.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)007

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0098

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding road planning under this programme, please advise on the following-

- (a) Apart from the option of Tuen Mun Eastern Bypass being studied, has the Administration conducted studies on other measures, such as the construction of Route 10 Northern Section (Lam Tei to So Kwun Wat) to alleviate the traffic congestion in Tuen Mun Road? If yes, what are the details of the project and the expenditure involved?
- (b) Has the Administration reserved any provision to carry out a study on the impacts of constructing the Central Kowloon Route on the Yau Ma Tei Police Station and the heritage in the vicinity? If yes, what is the anticipated completion date of the study and the expenditure involved?
- (c) What are the timetables and the expenditures involved for the studies on the Link Options between Tuen Mun and Lantau, and the Tsing Yi-Lantau Link?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) The Northwest New Territories Traffic and Infrastructure Review (the Review), concluded that the existing road network together with the committed highways in the Northwest New Territories (NWNT) and North Lantau will be operating at manageable levels until year 2016. To accommodate the longer-term demand in the areas, possible packages of highway projects have been identified under the Review, including Tuen Mun Eastern Bypass and the northern section of the previously proposed Route 10 (from Lam Tei to So Kwun Wat).

The feasibility study of Tuen Mun Eastern Bypass was completed in late 2006 at the cost of \$4.7 million, whereas the preliminary design of Route 10 - North Lantau to Yuen Long Highway was completed in 2002. We are now carrying out the engineering feasibility studies on other infrastructure projects, including (i) Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link and Tuen Mun Western Bypass; (ii) Link Options between Tuen Mun and Lantau and (iii) Tsing Yi-Lantau Link. The estimated costs of these three feasibility studies (including site investigation work) are \$11.7 million, \$9.8 million and \$9.9 million respectively.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)007

Question Serial No.

0098

In order to improve the overall operation of Tuen Mun Road, we also plan to implement the widening works at Tsing Tin Interchange at an estimated cost of \$42.2 million; the widening works of the Tuen Mun Road Town Centre Section in 2008 at an estimated cost of \$700 million; and the reconstruction and improvement works of the expressway section of Tuen Mun Road at an estimated cost of \$3,246.4 million.

- (b) We have included provision in 2007-08 for the study, investigation and design of the Central Kowloon Route (CKR) project, which include a built heritage impact assessment to look into the possible impacts on Yau Ma Tei Police Station and other built heritages within the area.

We have submitted the funding application to the Legislative Council for the study, investigation and design. Subject to approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the study and investigation in August 2007. We will consult the public throughout the course of the study and commence the detailed design upon acceptance of an alignment scheme for completion by 2012. The estimated expenditure for the study, investigation and design of CKR is \$136 million.

- (c) The feasibility study (which includes site investigation work) for the Link Options between Tuen Mun and Lantau commenced in February 2006 and is anticipated to be completed by mid 2007 at an estimated cost of \$9.8 million.

The feasibility study (which includes site investigation work) for the Tsing Yi-Lantau Link commenced in January 2007 and is anticipated to be completed by mid 2008 at an estimated cost of \$9.9 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)008

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0321

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding the district and maintenance work of the Highways Department, please provide answer to the following question:

Under the key performance measures, the targets for repairing road surface within 24 hours and repairing traffic signs within 36 hours are both set at 70%, which are significantly lower than the target percentage set for other items. What are the main reasons for the disparity in the targets? Does it involve any financial or manpower problems?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

To further excel in performance standards after achieving 100% compliance rate for the performance targets of "repairing road surface within 48 hours" and "repairing traffic signs within 48 hours" in 2005, we introduced additional and more challenging and stringent targets of "repairing road surface within 24 hours" and "repairing traffic signs within 36 hours" in 2006. The setting of the target achievement rate of 70% has taken into account past experiences that there were cases that more time would be required to sort out temporary traffic arrangements before repairing works can be carried out. In 2006, our actual achievement rates for the two targets concerned were 88.5% and 90.8% respectively, exceeding our 70% target rate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)009

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0322

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding the district and maintenance work of the Highways Department,

What are the estimated expenditures for the two items under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08* – (a) continuing to contribute to the improvement of road cleanliness; and (b) assisting in the implementation of pedestrian schemes? How does the estimated expenditure compare with that of the preceding year?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The estimated expenditure for the respective items is follows -

	<u>2006-07</u> (revised estimate) \$ million	<u>2007-08</u> (estimate) \$ million
(a) Road Cleanliness	45.0	45.0
(b) Pedestrian Schemes	11.2	9.0

The provision for pedestrian schemes in 2007-08 is 20% below that of 2006-07 because the pedestrian schemes in Central were completed in 2006-07.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)010

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0375

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding the performance targets under the captioned programme, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

What are the reasons for the slow progress in formulating, negotiating and agreeing on the detailed implementation plans for the Shatin to Central Link in 2006-07? Please provide an update on the progress in terms of the latest alignment, the construction cost, the commencement date of construction and the anticipated completion date at this stage.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The Government is examining the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation's proposal on the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) and the proposed scheme under the merger of the two railway systems in the light of the impact brought by the various infrastructural projects being planned along the SCL alignment. The Government has not yet made any decision on the scheme for implementation.

The alignment, programme and construction cost of the SCL will depend on, among others, the progress of the Kai Tak Planning Review and the Wan Chai Development Phase II Review, in order to meet the transport needs of the community more effectively. The proposal has yet to be finalised.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)011

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0376

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding the performance targets under the captioned programme, would the Government inform this Committee of the following:

As at present, are the proposed alignment and financial arrangement set out in the latest proposal for the Shatin to Central Link submitted by the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation in September 2004 still being adopted? If not, please provide information about the changes against the original proposal and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The Government is examining the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation's proposal on Shatin to Central Link and the proposed scheme under the merger of the two railway systems. The Government has not yet made any decision on adopting which scheme for implementation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)012

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

Question Serial No.

0453

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding the indicator of "expenditure in the year on capital projects under design and construction by consultants", the expenditure reduced from \$7 billion in 2005 to \$5.2 billion in 2006, and will further be significantly reduced to an estimated \$3.2 billion in 2007. What are the main reasons for the drastic reduction?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

The decrease in the expenditure on capital projects under design and construction by consultants in 2006 as compared with that in 2005 is mainly due to the reduction of expenditure for a number of major projects in 2006 after their substantial completion, which include the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor; Deep Bay Link; Widening of Yuen Long Highway between Lam Tei and Shap Pat Heung Interchange; and Castle Peak Road Improvement between Area 2 and Sham Tseng, Tsuen Wan.

The decrease in the estimated expenditure under design and construction by consultants in 2007 as compared with that in 2006 is mainly due to the anticipated reduction of expenditure for a number of major projects in 2007 as these projects are progressing to their final stage of construction, which include Castle Peak Road Improvement between Sham Tseng and Ka Loon Tsuen, Tsuen Wan; Improvement to Castle Peak Road between Ka Loon Tsuen and Siu Lam; Route 8 between Cheung Sha Wan and Sha Tin; and Route 8 between Tsing Yi and Cheung Sha Wan - Ngong Shuen Chau Viaduct and the associated works.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)013

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0454

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding the target of “works contracts completed in accordance with agreed programmes”, please give reasons as to why only 75% of the works contracts were completed in accordance with agreed programmes in 2006.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

This performance target of the Highways Department covers four works contracts. Among them, the contract for the Design and Build of Fortress Hill Pedestrian Link was delayed. The project was originally intended for completion by October 2006. The lifts and the escalator have been substantially completed and opened to the public in mid February 2007. It is anticipated that the remaining works of the project will be substantially completed in June 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI WAI

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)014

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0455

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding the indicators of "capital projects under design and construction by in-house staff and consultants", the number of such projects has been declining year after year. Capital projects under design and construction by in-house staff and consultants will drop from 80 and 190 in 2005 to 68 and 174 in the 2007 estimate respectively. What are the reasons for the reduction?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply :

In each year, there are capital works projects to be completed and new items to be included for design and construction by in-house resources and consultants. In 2005 and 2006, the number of completed projects was more than the number of new items introduced. In addition, some projects have been shelved after reviewing their needs. As a result, the number of capital projects under design and construction by in-house resources and consultants has been reduced. Nevertheless, the total value of projects under design and construction is maintained at about \$130 billion in 2006 and 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 19 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)015

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0711

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

What is the anticipated completion date of the investigation of the possible alignment options for the North Lantau Highway Connection for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge? When will the Administration announce the investigation result and conduct public consultation?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Highways Department is actively taking forward the investigation and preliminary design study for the North Lantau Highway Connection (NLHC), which will link up the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) to the local transport network. We have conducted two rounds of public consultation and shortlisted two alignment options of the NLHC for further impact assessments, consultations and evaluation. We will finalise the alignment of the NLHC upon the completion of the HZMB feasibility study commissioned by the HZMB Advance Work Co-ordination Group set up by the three governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)016

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0712

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding the planning of the below-mentioned road works project by the Highways Department, please advise the following:

What is the anticipated completion date of the feasibility study for Link Options between Tuen Mun and Lantau? When will the Administration announce the study result and conduct public consultation?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Northwest New Territories (NWNT) Traffic and Infrastructure Review (the Review) concluded that with the existing and committed road networks, together with necessary improvement measures, such as the widening of Castle Peak Road and Yuen Long Highway, we would be able to cope with the traffic (including those to be generated from the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge) up to at least 2016. The road network would operate within manageable levels such that no new major highway infrastructure projects will be required.

To ensure that the new transport infrastructure beyond 2016 will be provided in a timely manner, we have been conducting further investigation and engineering feasibility studies on the proposed road projects as necessary, including:

- the Tuen Mun Eastern Bypass;
- the Tuen Mun Western Bypass and Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link;
- the Link Options between Tuen Mun and Lantau; and
- the Tsing Yi-Lantau Link.

Among these proposed projects, the feasibility study on the Link Options between Tuen Mun and Lantau will be completed by mid 2007.

The Administration will closely monitor the traffic situations of the existing road network and review the traffic need of the NWNT to ensure timely provision of necessary highway projects. We will consult the public when the key findings of the above feasibility studies are available.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)016

Question Serial No.

0712

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)017

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

Question Serial No.

0713

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding the planning of the below-mentioned road works project by the Highways Department, please advise the following:

When will the Administration announce the result of the completed feasibility study for traffic improvements to Tuen Mun Road town centre section and conduct public consultation accordingly? If the study is well received, when will the construction works of this project commence and complete? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The feasibility study for traffic improvements to Tuen Mun Road town centre section was completed in 2006. Tuen Mun District Council and the Legislative Council Panel on Transport supported the dual-three lane improvement scheme in November 2006. The Highways Department plans to commence the investigation and design of the project in mid 2007 at an estimated cost of about \$10 million. If the project progresses smoothly, we plan to commence the construction in mid 2008 for staged completion by 2010.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)018

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0714

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding the planning of the below-mentioned road works project by the Highways Department, please advise the following:

When will the Administration announce the result of the completed feasibility study for Tuen Mun Eastern Bypass and conduct public consultation? What is the anticipated implementation date of the Tuen Mun Eastern Bypass project?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Northwest New Territories (NWNT) Traffic and Infrastructure Review (the Review) concluded that with the existing and committed road networks, together with necessary improvement measures, such as the widening of Castle Peak Road and Yuen Long Highway, we would be able to cope with the traffic (including those to be generated from the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor and Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge) up to at least 2016. The road network would operate within manageable levels such that no new major highway infrastructure projects will be required.

To ensure that the new transport infrastructure beyond 2016 will be provided in a timely manner, we have been conducting further investigation and engineering feasibility studies on the proposed road projects as necessary, including:

- the Tuen Mun Eastern Bypass;
- the Tuen Mun Western Bypass and Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link;
- the Link Options between Tuen Mun and Lantau; and
- the Tsing Yi-Lantau Link.

Among these proposed projects, the feasibility study on “Tuen Mun Eastern Bypass” was completed in late 2006.

The Administration will closely monitor the traffic situations of the existing road network and review the traffic need of the NWNT to ensure timely provision of necessary highway projects. We will consult the public when the key findings of the above feasibility studies are available.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)018

Question Serial No.

0714

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)019

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0992

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

In 2007-08, the Administration will commence the investigation and preliminary design for traffic improvements to Tuen Mun Road town centre section. What is the anticipated completion date for the investigation and preliminary design? What is the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The investigation and design for traffic improvements to Tuen Mun Road town centre section will be completed in mid 2008. The associated estimated cost is about \$10 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)020

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0993

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

What is the progress of the reconstruction and improvement of Tuen Mun Road?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

In November 2006, the Tuen Mun District Council and the Legislative Council supported the reconstruction and improvement of the expressway section of Tuen Mun Road. The gazettal documents are being finalised, taking into account the comments received during the consultation stage, for gazetting the road scheme under the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance in the second quarter of 2007. The construction works are scheduled to commence in early 2008 for staged completion by 2012.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)021

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

0995

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

In 2007-08, the Administration will continue to contribute to improving road cleanliness. Please provide details about the specific improvement measures.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

In 2007-08, the Administration will continue to contribute to improving road cleanliness. The specific improvement measures include:

- (a) cleansing of street furniture;
- (b) clearing of exclusive road drains;
- (c) cleansing of all footbridge structures;
- (d) cleansing of all subway structures; and
- (e) sweeping and cleaning of rubbish for expressways.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **WAI CHI SING** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **16 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)022

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1274

Programme : (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

In 2007-08, the Department will create 38 posts. Please provide details about the creation of these posts and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The 38 new posts will be responsible for vegetation maintenance service for roadside slopes, management of the public lighting system and monitoring of the management, operation and maintenance contract for Tsing Sha Control Area. The ranks involved are listed below:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No.</u>
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	2
Landscape Architect/ Assistant Landscape Architect	5
Assistant Inspector of Works	4
Works Supervisor II	24
Assistant Clerical Officer	3

The staff cost in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value is \$8.9 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **WAI CHI SING** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **19 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)023

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1275

Programme : (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

In 2007-08, the Administration will continue to enhance the environment with landscaping works such as improved streetscape and more greening, etc. What are the details and the estimated expenditure for these plans?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The Administration will continue to devote resources to enhance the environment. The works include -

- (a) improvement of streetscape and greening associated with pedestrian improvement schemes;
- (b) reconstruction of footpaths with paving blocks, resurface colour dressing of cycle tracks and replacing existing railings with ornamental railings at other locations;
- (c) carrying out painting to highways structures and parapets; and
- (d) provision of greening to shotcreted slopes where practicable, etc.

The estimated total expenditure for 2007-08 is \$68 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters **WAI CHI SING** _____

Post Title **Director of Highways** _____

Date **16 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)024

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1297

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

In 2007-08, the Administration will continue to assist in the preparatory work for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge project. Please provide details in this respect.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The HZMB Advance Work Co-ordination Group (AWCG) set up by the three governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macao has already reached agreement on the alignment and landing points of the HZMB. The feasibility study for the HZMB, which covers over 20 different topical studies, has been substantially completed. Currently, the two remaining issues that require further studies are the locations of boundary crossing facilities (BCF) and financing arrangements. The AWCG has commissioned the China Highway Planning and Design Institute to conduct the relevant studies, with a view to finalising the feasibility study report and submitting it for approval by the Central People's Government (CPG) as soon as possible. Relevant follow-up work will commence after approval has been given by the CPG.

On another front, we have already commenced an investigation and preliminary design study for the North Lantau Highways Connection (NLHC), which will connect the bridge to the local transport network. We are now evaluating the possible alignment options for the NLHC, and assessing the impact of the project, including the traffic and the environment aspects. We will continue to monitor the progress of the preparatory work for the NLHC and ensure that the construction of the NLHC ties in with the progress of the HZMB project.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)024

Question Serial No.

1297

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

WAI CHI SING

Post Title _____

Director of Highways

Date _____

16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)025

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1299

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

In 2007-08, the Administration will continue to contribute to improving road cleanliness. What are the details and estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

In 2007-08, the Administration will continue to contribute to improving road cleanliness. The specific improvement measures include:

- (a) cleansing of street furniture;
- (b) clearing of exclusive road drains;
- (c) cleansing of all footbridge structures;
- (d) cleansing of all subway structures; and
- (e) sweeping and cleaning of rubbish for expressways.

The estimated expenditure in 2007-08 is \$45 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)026

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1300

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

In 2007-08, the Administration will facilitate the construction of the Tseung Kwan O South Station. What is the present progress of this project? When will the entire project be completed?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

The construction of the Tseung Kwan O South Station commenced in June 2006. The foundation works have been completed and the station superstructure is under construction. The project is progressing well and is scheduled for completion in 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters **WAI CHI SING** _____

Post Title **Director of Highways** _____

Date **15 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)027

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

Question Serial No.

1301

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

In 2007-08, the Administration will continue to undertake route protection of the recommended railway projects and other longer term proposals. Please provide details of work and the staffing arrangement.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

During 2007-08, the Administrative Route Protection Plans will be issued or updated for the following railway projects under planning:

- (1) West Island Line;
- (2) Northern Link and the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link;
- (3) Shatin to Central Link;
- (4) South Island Line;
- (5) North Hong Kong Island Line; and
- (6) Port Rail Line.

The Administrative Route Protection Plans will enable departments concerned to have early discussion and understanding of the interfacing issues arising from the railway proposals. Where there are likely conflicts, appropriate actions in line with Government's objectives and policy could be taken in a timely manner to resolve them. The above railway route protection works are undertaken by our in-house staff. No extra resources are required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 16 March 2007

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)028

Question Serial No.

1559

- (c) The two options have been shortlisted after taking into account the views and comments received in the relevant public consultation exercises as well as findings of a technical evaluation of the possible alignment options for the NLHC. The result indicates that the Sea Viaduct Option and Land Tunnel Option are the more favourable options from the engineering and environmental perspectives.
- (d) There is a need to ensure a proper interface between the progress of the NLHC study and the programme of the HZMB project. The HZMB Advance Work Co-ordination Group (AWCG) set up by the three governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao has already reached agreement on the alignment and landing points of the HZMB. The feasibility study for the HZMB, which covers over 20 different topical studies, has also been substantially completed. Currently, the two remaining issues that require further studies are the locations of boundary crossing facilities (BCF) and financing arrangements. The AWCG has commissioned the China Highway Planning and Design Institute to conduct the relevant studies, with a view to finalising the feasibility study report and submitting it for approval by the Central People's Government (CPG) as soon as possible. We will continue to monitor the progress of the preparatory work for the NLHC and ensure that the construction of the NLHC ties in with the progress of the HZMB project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)029

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1561

Programme : (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

The Highways Department has indicated that researches on new materials such as thermoplastic and acrylic anti-skid road surfacing materials are being conducted. Please provide information about:

- (a) the expenditure involved;
- (b) the merits of thermoplastic and acrylic anti-skid road surfacing materials;
- (c) the areas in which the application of these new materials is anticipated;
- (d) the areas in which the application of these new materials is unsuitable and the reasons; and
- (e) the difference between the unit costs of the road surfacing materials currently in use and the new materials.

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) The Highways Department is carrying out an in-house study on using thermoplastic and acrylic materials as new alternatives in roads resurfacing. The cost of the study is about \$2 million.
- (b) At present, standard anti-skid materials are epoxy based, which require the wearing course of the asphalt pavements to be resurfaced before carrying out anti-skid works, in order to enhance the durability of the anti-skid materials. The above aims to evaluate the performances of two types of alternative anti-skid surface dressing materials, viz thermoplastic and acrylic, which can be directly laid on typical wearing course without road resurfacing. It is anticipated that the use of these new materials can minimise the disturbance to the public and reduce the construction waste to be generated by resurfacing works. The overall cost can also be reduced.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)029

Question Serial No.

1561

- (c) and (d) The study focused on the advantages of applying the new materials on asphalt pavements. The application on concrete surfaces has not been included in our study. It is anticipated that we will apply the new materials on asphalt pavements where anti-skid works are required, such as on steep roads.
- (e) The unit costs of the new materials are about twice of that of the epoxy material currently in use. However, the additional material cost can be offset if resurfacing works can be dispensed with. The cost of the new materials may also be reduced if they are commonly used in roadworks.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)030

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1562

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

The Administration has indicated that the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) is being reviewed in the context of the impending merger of the Mass Transit Railway and Kowloon-Canton Railway systems. However, there have been some reports about the possibility that only a Shatin to Hung Hom Link would be constructed first for the SCL project. Please advise on the effect of any changes in the alignment of the SCL on the relevant estimates.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The Government is examining the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation's proposal on the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) and the proposed scheme under the merger of the two railway systems in the light of the impact brought by the various infrastructural projects being planned along the SCL alignment. The Government has not yet made any decision. The alignment, programme and construction cost of the SCL will depend on, among others, the progress of the Kai Tak Planning Review and the Wan Chai Development Phase II Review, in order to meet the transport needs of the community in a more effective manner.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)031

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1563

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding the Estimate for 2007-08, please provide information about the resources to be spent on carrying out studies to formulate plans for the further development of the railway network. Will these studies cover the interface arrangements with the railway network in the Mainland? If yes, please provide a list of these studies and the details.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

In 2007, apart from the existing in-house resources, we will also employ consultants to carry out a study to enhance and update the existing Railway Development Study (RDS) Model by adopting the updated transport parameters. The estimated cost of the study is about \$1.3 million and the study will take about one year to complete. The enhanced RDS Model will be used for railway planning and development.

Regarding studies on cross-boundary rail projects, the Government is now planning the Northern Link and the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link. The Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation is embarking on a study for implementating these projects with a view to submitting project proposals to the Government in mid 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)032

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

Question Serial No.

1564

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

The estimate for highways maintenance for 2007-08 is higher than that for 2006-07. What is the number of new highways involved in respect of the increase? Is the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor one of the new highways involved?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The higher estimated cost for highways maintenance in 2007-08 is a result of the commissioning of several new major roads, including the section of Route 9 in Tsuen Wan, the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor, Deep Bay Link, Route 8 between Tsing Yi and Sha Tin, and the section of Castle Peak Road between Tsuen Wan Area 2 and Sham Tseng.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 19 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)033

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1565

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding the indicator of "expenditure in the year on capital projects under design and construction" under the captioned programme, an estimated expenditure of \$3,200 million will be spent on capital projects under design and construction by consultants in 2007. This represents a decrease of \$1,600 million (33%) compared to the estimated expenditure of \$4,800 million in 2006. What are the reasons for the drastic decrease?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The decrease in the estimated expenditure on capital projects under design and construction in 2007 as compared with that in 2006 is mainly due to the anticipated reduction of expenditure for a number of major projects in 2007 as these projects are progressing to their final stage of construction, which include Castle Peak Road Improvement between Sham Tseng and Ka Loon Tsuen, Tsuen Wan; Improvement to Castle Peak Road between Ka Loon Tsuen and Siu Lam; Route 8 between Cheung Sha Wan and Sha Tin; and Route 8 between Tsing Yi and Cheung Sha Wan - Ngong Shuen Chau Viaduct and the associated works.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 19 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)034

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1566

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

In 2007-08, the Administration will prepare for the commencement of works for widening of Tuen Mun Road at Tsing Tin Interchange. Please inform this Committee of the details about such efforts, the latest progress and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The project involves widening of the section of Tuen Mun Road at Tsing Tin Interchange from dual two-lane to dual three-lane, and its associated works. The pre-construction works of the project, including public consultation, are currently underway. It is anticipated that the project will be gazetted under the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance in mid 2007. Design of the project is mainly carried out by in-house staff resources and there is no breakdown on the expenditure involved for the work. A consultant has been appointed to undertake the Environmental Impact Assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance at a cost of \$0.9 million. The estimated project cost is \$42.2 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)035

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1567

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

In 2007-08, the Administration will prepare for the commissioning of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor. Please inform this Committee of the details about such efforts, the latest progress and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

We are maintaining close liaison with Shenzhen to ensure the operational readiness of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor. Major activities include the integration and testing of the traffic control and surveillance system (TCSS) between the Hong Kong and the Shenzhen sections as well as the preparatory work for the commissioning in mid 2007. The estimated cost for the integration and testing work for TCSS is about HK\$1 million in 2007-08. The preparatory work for the commissioning will be carried out mainly by in-house staff resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)036

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1568

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

In 2007-08, the Administration will commence the investigation and preliminary design for traffic improvements to Tuen Mun Road town centre section. Please inform this Committee of the details about such efforts, the latest progress and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The investigation and design for improvements to Tuen Mun Road town centre section involves the pre-construction works of the widening of the section of Tuen Mun Road between Yan Oi Tong and Wong Chu Road from dual-two lane to dual-three lane, the construction of a new flyover along Tuen Mun Road southbound adjacent to Tsing Hoi Circuit, the reconstruction of four footbridges across Tuen Mun Road and the construction of associated noise barriers and enclosures. Investigation and design work is targeted to commence in mid 2007 for completion by mid 2008 at an estimated cost of about \$10 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **WAI CHI SING** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **16 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)037

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :
700 General non-recurrent

Question Serial No.

1867

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

In 2006-07, the approved estimate under General non-recurrent is \$603,000. However, the revised estimate has increased to \$1,112,000. Will the Administration please provide this Committee with the following information:

- (1) The revised estimate is almost a double of the approved estimate. What are the reasons for the significant increase?
- (2) Please provide a breakdown of the revised estimate.
- (3) The estimate for 2007-08 is \$300,000 only. This amount is significantly smaller than that of the approved and revised estimate in 2006-07. What are the reasons for such decrease?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The revised estimate for 2006-07 is higher than the approved estimate because additional studies and researches were identified and carried out during the year. A breakdown of the revised estimate is as follows:

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)037

Question Serial No.

1867

Item No.	Description	Revised estimate 2006-07 \$'000
(a) 524	Implementation of ISO 14001 Environmental Management System in Highways Department	220
(b) 911	Independent Review of the Trial Public Private Partnership Maintenance Contract	126
(c) 916	Research on Fire Protection to Tunnel Structures	266
(d) 964	Study on the Properties of Repair Mortars for Concrete Carriageway	500
	Total	1,112 =====

The estimate of \$300,000 for 2007-08 is lower than the revised estimate for 2006-07 as all the items listed above were completed in 2006-07, except item (a).

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)038

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

Question Serial No.

1868

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding the investigation and preliminary design of the Central Kowloon Route under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08* of the Highways Department, will the Administration provide this Council with information on the following questions?

- (1) As there may be some buildings of historical and conservation values located on the Central Kowloon Route, will the Administration invite other departments to participate in the investigation? If yes, please list the departments to be invited. If not, please state the reasons for not involving other departments.
- (2) When will the investigation and preliminary design be completed? Will the result be made public?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (1) We will invite bureaux and departments concerned to participate in the study, investigation and preliminary design for the Central Kowloon Route (CKR). They include Home Affairs Bureau, Home Affairs Department, Antiquities and Monuments Office of Leisure and Cultural Services Department, Environmental Protection Department, Tourism Commission, Planning Department, etc.
- (2) We have submitted the funding application to the Legislative Council for the study, investigation and design of the CKR. Subject to approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the study and investigation in August 2007. We will consult the public throughout the course of the study, and will only commence the detailed design upon acceptance of an alignment scheme. We plan to complete the detailed design work by 2012. During the course of the consultation, we will make known the study findings to the public to facilitate discussions.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)038

Question Serial No.

1868

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)039

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1869

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Whilst the target of works contracts completed in accordance with agreed programmes is 95% in 2007, the actual completion rate in 2006 is 75% only. Will the government provide this Committee with answers to the following questions?

- (1) Why did the actual figure of 2006 fall short of the target by 20%?
- (2) How many projects are involved in respect of the 20%?
- (3) With the number of works projects completed falling short of the target by 20%, is there any additional expenditure entailed for the government? If yes, please provide details about the expenditure entailed by the 20% of works contracts that have yet to be completed. If not, please state the reasons.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (1) and (2) This performance target of the Highways Department covers four works contracts. Among them, the contract for the Design and Build of Fortress Hill Pedestrian Link was delayed. The project was originally intended for completion by October 2006. The lifts and the escalator have been substantially completed and opened to the public in mid February 2007. It is anticipated that the remaining works of the project will be substantially completed in June 2007.
- (3) The delay in the completion of the above contract has not imposed changes to the original contract sum.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)040

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

Question Serial No.

1870

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

The Highways Department will create 103 permanent posts in 2007-08. Please advise on the following:

- (1) what are the job title, relevant offices and annual salary cost of these posts?
- (2) what are the reasons for creating various new posts?
- (3) among the 103 permanent posts, how many of them are to be converted from non-civil service contract positions and temporary positions?
- (4) what is the current number of serving employees holding non-civil service contract positions and temporary positions with long-term service needs? Will all of them be employed as permanent staff? When will the Department be able to employ all of them as permanent staff?

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

(1) and (2) The offices, functions, ranks and staff costs (in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value) of the 103 posts are listed below:

(a) Headquarters

54 posts will be created for co-ordination and control of utility openings on public roads, management of the public lighting system, vegetation maintenance service for roadside slopes, and monitoring of the management, operation and maintenance contract for the Tsing Sha Control Area.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)040

Question Serial No.

1870

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Staff Cost (\$)</u>
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	2	885,240
Landscape Architect/ Assistant Landscape Architect	5	2,143,050
Assistant Inspector of Works	6	1,576,800
Works Supervisor II	38	6,938,040
Assistant Clerical Officer	3	486,540

(b) Urban and New Territories Regions

40 posts will be created for management and maintenance work arising from commissioning of more roads.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Staff Cost (\$)</u>
Senior Engineer	1	929,220
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	10	4,426,200
Assistant Inspector of Works	5	1,314,000
Works Supervisor II	22	4,016,760
Clerical Assistant	2	268,080

(c) Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Project Management Office

nine posts will be created for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge project.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Staff Cost (\$)</u>
Senior Engineer	3	2,787,660
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	6	2,655,720

- (3) Out of the above 103 posts, 63 will be created to replace those non-civil service contract (NCSC) staff positions, the functions of which should more appropriately be performed by civil servants. There are no temporary jobs in the Highways Department.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)040

Question Serial No.

1870

- (4) The special review conducted jointly with the Civil Service Bureau last year established that the duties of 136 NCSC staff in the Highways Department should more appropriately be performed by civil servants. Their positions will be replaced by filling existing and anticipated vacant civil service posts and, as necessary, creating new ones. When there is open recruitment for civil service posts, NCSC staff can apply in response to the vacancy advertisement in the same manner as outside candidates in accordance with established government policy.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)041

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

2227

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding the actual and anticipated construction and demolition of temporary bridges in 2006-07 and 2007-08, please provide information about their location, construction cost, demolition cost and duration of use.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

There was no construction or removal of temporary bridges in 2006-07 and there is no scheduled construction or removal of such in 2007-08.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)042

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

Question Serial No.

2228

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Please provide figures in respect of damaged and stolen road furniture in 2006-07 as well as the incurred losses.

Asked by : Hon. LI Wah-ming, Fred

Reply :

A breakdown of road furniture damaged or stolen in 2006-07 is as follows:

Category of road furniture	Damaged ⁱ		Stolen ⁱⁱ	
	Quantity	Cost (\$)	Quantity	Cost (\$)
Traffic signs	879 nos.	435,620	25 nos.	34,085
Gully grating	5 nos.	3,810	3 nos.	1,580
U-channel grating	2 nos.	400	2 nos.	1,300
Railing/fencing	9 875 metres	4,574,100	36 metres	23,635
Total cost	-	5,013,930	-	60,600

Notes:

- (i) The cost of replacing the damaged road furniture would be recovered from the owners of vehicles involved in the traffic accidents.
- (ii) There are provisions in some of the term contracts that the contractors have to bear the cost for replacing the stolen furniture. Therefore, the loss to Government could be less than that indicated.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)043

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

2306

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding the target under the captioned programme, it is anticipated that 95% of the works contracts will be completed in accordance with agreed programmes in 2007. However, the completion rate in 2006 is only 75%. Please list out the works items which have yet to be completed in accordance with agreed programmes, the additional expenditures involved and the reasons for failing to complete these works contracts in accordance with agreed programmes.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

This performance target of the Highways Department covers four works contracts. Among them, the contract for the Design and Build of Fortress Hill Pedestrian Link was delayed. The project was originally intended for completion by October 2006. The lifts and the escalator have been substantially completed and opened to the public in mid February 2007. It is anticipated that the remaining works of the project will be substantially completed in June 2007. The delay in the anticipated completion date of this project has not imposed changes to the original contract sum.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **WAI CHI SING**

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)044

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

2307

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

In 2007-08, a total of nine posts will be created. Please provide details of the establishment and the estimated expenditures involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The ranks of the nine posts are listed below:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No.</u>
Senior Engineer	3
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	6

The staff cost in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value is \$5.4 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)045

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

2308

Programme : (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

In 2007-08, a total of 56 posts will be created. Please provide details of the establishment and the estimated expenditures involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The ranks of the 56 posts are listed below:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No.</u>
Senior Engineer	1
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	10
Assistant Inspector of Works	7
Works Supervisor II	36
Clerical Assistant	2

The staff cost in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value is \$14 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **WAI CHI SING** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **19 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)046

Head :
60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

2309

Programme : (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

In 2007-08, a total of 38 posts will be created. Please provide details of the establishment in respect of the new posts and the estimated expenditures involved.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The ranks of the 38 posts are listed below:

<u>Rank</u>	<u>No.</u>
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	2
Landscape Architect/ Assistant Landscape Architect	5
Assistant Inspector of Works	4
Works Supervisor II	24
Assistant Clerical Officer	3

The staff cost in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value is \$8.9 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **WAI CHI SING**

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways**

Date _____ **19 March 2007**

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

Head: 100 Marine Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Port Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Marine

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

Question:

Under this Programme, the Administration will co-ordinate the improvement of ferry services at the cross-boundary ferry terminal at Tuen Mun in accordance with the tenant's plan and programme in 2007-08. Please inform this Committee of the details of the improvements, their progress and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

The Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal commenced operation in November 2006. The tenant is considering further development plans, which include increasing service frequency and number of routes, as well as improving passenger comfort. The Marine Department will continue to maintain close liaison with the tenant in this regard, which will not involve any additional expenditure.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ROGER TUPPER**

Post Title _____ Director of Marine

Date _____ 16 March 2007

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

Head: 100 Marine Department

Subhead:

Programme: (2) Port Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Marine

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

Question:

It is given in the *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08* that the Administration will co-ordinate the improvement of ferry services at the cross-boundary ferry terminal at Tuen Mun in accordance with the tenant's plan and programme. What are the details of the co-ordination measures and other relevant policies and supporting facilities for the improvement of ferry services? What is the provision for such measures and facilities? What are the economic benefits for the neighbouring areas upon the improvement of ferry services at the Tuen Mun cross-boundary ferry terminal and completion of the supporting facilities?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

The Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal commenced operation in November 2006. The tenant is considering further development plans, which include increasing service frequency and number of routes, as well as improving passenger comfort. The Marine Department will continue to maintain close liaison with the tenant in this regard, which will not involve any additional expenditure.

The Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal provides alternative cross-boundary ferry services for travellers, in particular to residents in the Northwest New Territories. It helps facilitate cross-boundary traffic between Hong Kong and the neighbouring cities. The passenger flow at the Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal should also help bring about commercial opportunities for areas in the vicinity of the terminal.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ROGER TUPPER**

Post Title _____ Director of Marine

Date _____ 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)050

Question Serial No.

0072

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

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 quota arrangements for cross-boundary vehicles listed under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08*, will the Administration inform this Council:

- (1) of the current application status of quotas for cross-boundary vehicles (please provide details of the number of applications and the number of quotas issued in the past 3 years);
- (2) of the existing procedures of quota application; whether there have been any changes in light of the impending commissioning of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor; if so, of the details; if not, whether the procedures will be simplified and the approval time shortened; and
- (3) of the current distribution of quotas among various land boundary crossings of Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (1) and (2) The quota system for cross-boundary private cars is jointly administered by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government and the Guangdong (GD) authorities. Upon obtaining the approval document issued by GD, the quota holder is required to apply for a closed road permit (CRP) from the Transport Department (TD) for entering the boundary control points. The number of cross-boundary private car CRP applications received and the number of CRPs issued in the past three financial years are as follows:

Financial Year	Total number of cross-boundary private car CRP applications received by Transport Department	Total number of cross-boundary private car CRPs issued by Transport Department
2004-2005	1 533	1 448
2005-2006	1 150	1 086
2006-2007 (Up to February 2007)	1 051	996

CRPs can normally be issued within five working days, but applicants for the Lok Ma Chau CRPs will normally need to wait for about six months. The waiting time is caused by the limited number of CRPs that can be issued under the quota system and the high demand rather than the application procedure.

The commissioning of the Hong Kong–Shenzhen Western Corridor (HK-SWC) will provide additional capacity to handle cross-boundary traffic. We have reached agreement with GD to issue 1 500 new HK-SWC quotas initially. As in the case of quotas for other existing crossings, applicants should first seek approval from GD and then CRP from TD.

- (3) As at end February 2007, the numbers of cross-boundary private car quotas issued for the existing land boundary crossings are as follows:

Crossing	Total number of quotas issued
Lok Ma Chau	10 210
Sha Tau Kok	3 140
Man Kam To	605
Total	13 955

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)051

Head : Subhead (No. & title) :

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

Question Serial No.

0155

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 co-ordination of the implementation of the Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line and Kowloon Southern Link listed under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08*, will the Administration inform this Council of the latest progress of the Kowloon Southern Link; whether there was a recurrence of the earlier subsidence during construction and any other incident which might cause delay to the progress of the works; whether the project will be completed in 2009 according to schedule, based on the latest estimation; and of the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The construction of the Kowloon Southern Link (KSL), started in August 2005, has been progressing well on the whole. Works for the West Kowloon Station and the railway tunnel between Nam Cheong and West Kowloon are in full swing, so are the tunnel boring works from West Kowloon to the East Tsim Sha Tsui Station. Since the subsidence incident on 21 October 2006 following which prompt remedial action was taken, no further similar incident has occurred. We shall continue to work closely with the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation to ensure the smooth implementation of the project, which is expected to be completed in 2009. The construction costs of the project amount to about \$8 billion.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 12 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)052

Question Serial No.

0156

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

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08*, it was stated that the Administration would continue with the preparatory work for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. Will the Administration inform this Council of: (i) the expenditure and manpower involved; (ii) the latest preparatory work and the progress of the negotiations with the Mainland and Macao authorities, including financing and the anticipated project commencement date, etc; and (iii) the principles adopted by the Hong Kong side in the negotiations; and the difficulties encountered?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (i) The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau will continue to press ahead with the preparatory work for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) project in 2007-08. The relevant work is being carried out by existing staff as part of their normal duties and there is no separate breakdown for the expenditure spent on these duties.
- (ii) The HZMB Advance Work Co-ordination Group (AWCG) set up by the three governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Macao Special Administrative Region has already reached agreement on the alignment and landing points of the HZMB. The agreed alignment, known as the northern bridge-cum-tunnel alignment, will land in Northwest Lantau near San Shek Wan on the east, and in Gongbei of Zhuhai and A Pérola of Macao on the west. The feasibility study for the HZMB has also been substantially completed. It covers over 20 different topical studies, including assessments on the environment, hydrology, traffic, marine and wind speed, etc. Currently, the two remaining issues that require further studies are the locations of the boundary crossing facilities (BCF) and financing arrangements. The AWCG has

commissioned the China Highway Planning and Design Institute to conduct the relevant studies, with a view to finalising the feasibility study report and submitting it for approval by the Central People's Government (CPG) as soon as possible. Relevant follow-up work will commence after approval has been given by the CPG.

Parties concerned are also pressing ahead with the research and discussion on the financing arrangements, and will come up with a satisfactory arrangement in due course.

- (iii) The HZMB is the first ever large-scale cross boundary project which involves the Mainland and two Special Administrative Regions under the "One Country Two Systems" principle. The fact that the bridge straddles three jurisdictions, involving different legal systems, town planning and interests of the three places, also adds to the complexity of the project. The three governments attach great importance to the project given its value in promoting the economic and social development of the three places, and have adopted a proactive, pragmatic and co-operative approach in carrying out the relevant advance work, studies and discussions, which is conducive to a win-win situation and early implementation of the HZMB. A CPG-led Task Force has also been set up to coordinate important policy issues relating to the project, which will help accelerate the implementation of the HZMB project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)053

Question Serial No.

0193

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

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 2007-08, the estimate for General departmental expenses under *Operational expenses* is \$1.82 million higher than the revised estimate for 2006-07. Please provide details of the purpose(s) of the additional provision.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The increase of \$1.82 million in 2007-08 is mainly due to additional provision for the commissioning ceremony of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor and the promotion of road safety.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 13 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)054

Question Serial No.

0194

Head : Subhead (No. & title) :
158 – Government Secretariat: 000 Operational expenses
Environment, Transport and
Works Bureau (Transport Branch)

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 provision for Civil Service Provident Fund contribution is reduced from \$149,000 in the 2006-07 revised estimate to \$86,000 in the draft 2007-08 estimate. Is this related to the Voluntary Retirement Scheme? If so, how many staff are involved and what are their posts? Apart from the above reason, does the reduced provision involve natural wastage, i.e., normal retirement and resignation, and how many staff are involved and what are their posts?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

We have included a smaller provision for Civil Service Provident Fund contribution in 2007-08 because of the anticipated posting out of an eligible general grade staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 12 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)055

Question Serial No.

0195

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

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 road safety, please provide details of the respective expenditure on and staffing arrangement for legislation, enforcement and education for the enhancement of road safety in the past 3 years.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

We have been using existing resources in overseeing the introduction of measures to enhance road safety by means of legislation, enforcement and education. On publicity and education, in the past three years, about \$2.3 million, \$2.9 million and \$3.6 million were allocated to the Road Safety Council to conduct campaigns and publicity activities. On the other hand, enforcement of road traffic legislation and implementation of measures on road safety education are mainly carried out by the Hong Kong Police Force and the Transport Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)056

Question Serial No.

0196

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

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 view of the public's growing concern over road safety, does the Administration have any plan to increase expenditure to strengthen related work? If so, please provide the details.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Environment, Transport and Works Bureau (Transport Branch) oversees the introduction of measures to enhance road safety through legislation, enforcement and education. We have not made additional provision in the 2007-08 estimate but would work closely with the Police and the Transport Department to improve road safety. The two departments carry out enforcement of road traffic legislation, implementation of road safety measures and promotion of road safety education using resources allocated to them.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)057

Question Serial No.

0337

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

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 overseeing the planning and design of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) listed under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08*, will the Administration inform this Council:

- (1) of the implementation programme of the SCL;
- (2) as there were reports that the SCL would be changed to a Shatin to Hung Hom Link with the plan for the stations on Hong Kong Island shelved, whether the Administration has any such plan; if so, whether the public will be consulted; and
- (3) given the SCL was originally planned for completion between 2008 and 2011 and its construction has been deferred time and again in light of the proposed merger of the Mass Transit Railway and the Kowloon-Canton Railway systems, whether the original timetable will still be adhered to?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Government is examining the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation's proposal on the proposed Shatin to Central Link (SCL) and the proposed SCL scheme under the merger of the two railway systems, in the light of the impact brought by the various infrastructure projects being planned along the SCL alignment. The Government has not yet reached any final decision on this project, including its implementation programme and other technical aspects. We will continue to stay in touch with the Legislative Council, the District Councils concerned and the local communities on this project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)058

Question Serial No.

0338

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

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 working jointly with the Mainland authorities on the development of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (ERL) listed under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08*, will the Administration inform this Council:

- (1) when the final decision will be made as to whether the Dedicated Corridor Option or the Shared Corridor Option will be adopted; and of the timetable for the project at the present stage; and
- (2) whether the Administration has conducted any relevant studies in response to proposals that a station be built at Chau Tau to facilitate early commissioning of the Hong Kong section in tandem with the Mainland section; if so, of the results?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (1) The Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) is now proceeding with the further planning work of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou – Shenzhen – Hong Kong Express Rail Link (ERL) by conducting an engineering/business study and preliminary site investigation. It is expected that the KCRC will submit its final study report to the Government by mid 2007. Meanwhile, we have reviewed the latest planning parameters for the ERL with the Mainland authorities including the Ministry of Railways and the Mainland's railway corporations. The Government will decide whether the Hong Kong section should adopt the Dedicated Corridor Option or Shared Corridor Option in the light of the latest planning parameters and the KCRC's report. It is expected that the ERL will be completed by 2014-15 at the earliest.

- (2) At present, we do not have any plan to establish a station at Chau Tau for the Hong Kong section of the ERL, as an important function of the ERL is to provide an intercity high-speed rail link. On the other hand, the proposed Northern Link will include a station at Chau Tau where passengers from the Northwest New Territories can change to the Lok Ma Chau Spur Line for cross-boundary journeys.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)059

Question Serial No.

0339

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

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08*, it was stated that the Administration would continue with the preparatory work for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB). Will the Administration inform this Council:

1. of the latest progress of the discussion on the financing arrangements of the HZMB;
2. when the implementation programme of the bridge will be finalised; and
3. what are the other ancillary facilities, in addition to the North Lantau Highway Connection, on the Hong Kong side to tie in with the construction of the HZMB?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

1. The HZMB Advance Work Co-ordination Group (AWCG) set up by the three governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Macao Special Administrative Region has commissioned the China Highway Planning and Design Institute (HPDI) to conduct a study on the financing arrangements for the HZMB project. Parties concerned are pressing ahead with the research and discussion on the financing arrangements, and will come up with a satisfactory arrangement in due course.

2. The AWCG has already reached agreement on the alignment and landing points of the HZMB. The feasibility study for the HZMB has also been substantially completed. Apart from the issue of financing arrangements mentioned above, the other remaining issue that requires further study is the the locations for BCFs. The AWCG has commissioned the HPDI to conduct the relevant studies, with a view to finalising the feasibility study report and submitting it for approval by the Central People's Government (CPG) as soon as possible. Relevant follow-up work will commence after approval has been given by the CPG.

3. With regard to ancillary facilities, the most direct way to connect the east landing point of the HZMB near San Shek Wan to the local road network is to construct the North Lantau Highway Connection (NLHC), which will link the landing point to the existing North Lantau Highway. We are now evaluating the possible alignment options for the NLHC and assessing the impact of the project, including the traffic and environment aspects. In addition, the Administration has completed the Northwest New Territories (NWNT) Traffic and Infrastructure Review and a long-term strategy has been drawn up for the development of highway infrastructure in NWNT. After taking into account the latest planning parameters, it is considered that the existing road network in NWNT will be able to cope with the traffic demand up to 2016, including that arising from the HZMB. Having said that, we have shortlisted a series of possible highway development packages and briefed the Legislative Council on these packages. Investigation and feasibility studies on major road projects under these packages are being carried out in preparation for long-term planning to enable us to implement the required projects in a timely manner. Regarding the arrangements for BCFs, as stated in para. 2 above, the AWCG has already commissioned the HPDI to conduct a study on the locations and layout of BCFs under the mode of "separate locations of BCFs". We will continue to follow up closely with respect to the progress of the studies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOSHUA LAW _____

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

Date _____ 19 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)060

Question Serial No.

0459

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

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 Shatin to Central Link, West Island Line, Northern Link and South Island Line, please provide the respective project costs and details of the work involved in 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG Kwok-hung

Reply :

Shatin to Central Link (SCL)

We are examining the proposals submitted by the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation and the MTR Corporation Limited and reviewing the SCL scheme in light of the latest development of the Kai Tak Planning Review and Wan Chai Development Phase II Review. The estimated project cost is about \$30-35 billion.

West Island Line (WIL)

We are examining the project proposal submitted by the MTR Corporation Limited in August 2006 and negotiating with them on the project scope, cost and implementation programme. We plan to gazette the project proposal later this year. The estimated project cost is about \$8 billion.

South Island Line (SIL)

We are examining the economic and transport benefits, and financial implications of the proposed SIL. We are conducting a study on the impact of the SIL on other public transport modes. With due regard to the views of the public, and in the light of the results of the above study, we will consider the way forward for the proposed SIL. The estimated project cost is about \$10 billion.

Northern Link (NOL)

The Kowloon-Canton Railway corporation (KCRC) is now conducting an engineering/business study and preliminary site investigation on the NOL. The KCRC intends to submit its study report to the Government in mid 2007. The estimated project cost is about \$6 billion.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)061

Question Serial No.

0640

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

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 latest progress of the feasibility study of the South Island Line (SIL)? What is the provision in 2007-08 for this task? Please provide details of the anticipated commencement and completion dates, the expenditure involved and financial arrangements of the SIL.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

We are proceeding with the preliminary planning of the proposed South Island Line (SIL) with existing resources. We are also conducting a study on the impact of the SIL on other public transport modes. We will continue to stay in touch with the Legislative Council, the Southern District Council and the local communities in mapping out the way forward on this project. The estimated project cost is about \$10 billion. The financial arrangements have yet to be determined.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)062

Question Serial No.

0641

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

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 provision in 2007-08 for the planning, design and feasibility study for the following railway projects:

- (a) Shatin to Central Link;
- (b) West Island Line; and
- (c) South Island Line?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah

Reply :

The proposed Shatin to Central Link, West Island Line and South Island Line are still at the preliminary planning stage. We have been overseeing the planning and implementation of the above rail projects with existing resources. There is no breakdown on the expenditure involved for this particular duty.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)063

Question Serial No.

0642

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

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 preparation for the commissioning of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor, what are the staffing arrangement and expenditure involved in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah

Reply :

The preparation for the commissioning of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor is being carried out by the Environment, Transport and Works Bureau using its existing in-house resources. It mainly involves officers overseeing policy areas on the implementation of road projects, coordination of cross-boundary traffic and transport arrangements as well as coordination of public transport services. There is no breakdown on the expenditure involved in this particular duty.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)064

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

Question Serial No.

0643

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question :

Under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08*, it was stated that the Administration would oversee the planning and design of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL). Will the Administration inform this Council of: (i) the expenditure and manpower involved; (ii) the latest work on the planning and design of the SCL; (iii) the progress of the discussion with the MTR Corporation, including financing and the difficulties encountered; and (iv) the anticipated project commencement and completion dates?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

The Government is examining the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation's proposal on the proposed Shatin to Central Link (SCL) and the proposed SCL scheme under the merger of the two railway systems, in the light of the impact brought by the various infrastructure projects being planned along the SCL alignment. The Government has not yet reached any final decision on this project, including its implementation programme and other technical aspects. We will continue to stay in touch with the Legislative Council, the District Councils concerned and the local communities on this project. We have been overseeing the planning of this project with existing resources as part of our normal duties. There is no breakdown on the expenditure involved for this particular duty.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)065

Question Serial No.

0644

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

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 working jointly with the Mainland authorities on the development of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link listed under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08*, will the Administration inform this Council of: (i) the expenditure and manpower involved; (ii) whether an independent consultant has been commissioned to conduct research and the expenditure involved; (iii) the latest progress of the work undertaken with the Mainland authorities; and (iv) the anticipated financing arrangements?

Asked by : Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply :

- (i) We have been using existing in-house resources in overseeing the further planning of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (ERL) by the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC). There is no breakdown on the expenditure involved in 2007-08 for this particular duty.
- (ii) The Government has not appointed any independent consultant to carry out the task in (i) above. The KCRC has been working with its consultant in its planning work for the Hong Kong section of the ERL.
- (iii) We have completed a joint review of the Mainland's planning parameters with the Ministry of Railways, the Guangdong and Shenzhen authorities and Mainland's railway corporation. We have also reached agreement with the Mainland authorities on the latest patronage forecast for the ERL.

- (iv) The KCRC is currently conducting an engineering and business study and preliminary site investigation of the Hong Kong section of the ERL, and is expected to submit the final study in mid 2007. In the light of the result of the final study and the latest planning parameters, the Government will consider the way forward for the project including the financing arrangement.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)066

Question Serial No.

1353

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

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 the Administration conducted any review on the function and staffing of the Hong Kong Railway Inspectorate Section following the spate of railway incidents in recent years? If so, what are the results? Have any monitoring measures been put in place to deal with the train component problems? Please provide the manpower and expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

Our policy is to ensure the safe and efficient operations of our railways. The Hong Kong Railway Inspectorate (HKRI) was established to monitor railway safety. Railway corporations are required to establish, operate and maintain a safety management system including the maintenance aspect to minimize safety risks as far as reasonably practicable and taking into account best practices in the railway industry. HKRI monitors the performance of the corporations through scrutinizing reports submitted by the corporations and regular inspections. HKRI also regularly meets with the corporations to ensure that safety standards are met and continually improved in the light of experience and knowledge gained.

As a number of railway projects under planning will be implemented in the foreseeable future, we will review the establishment of HKRI with relevant departments to ensure that the support to HKRI is adequate to meet the future developments of railway operations in Hong Kong. Additional resources that may be required can only be ascertained after the completion of the review.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)067

Question Serial No.

1684

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

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 Item 011 – “Management of a ticketing system for taxi access to Lok Ma Chau Control Point during the extended hours”, will the Administration inform this Council the reason why the provision has decreased from \$853,000 in the 2006-07 approved estimate to \$636,000 in the 2006-07 revised estimate?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The contract under this item expired in January 2006 and a new tendering exercise was conducted. A new contract was awarded at a lower contract price and the estimated expenditure in 2006-07 is \$636,000.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)068

Question Serial No.

1685

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

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 Item 011 – “Management of a ticketing system for taxi access to Lok Ma Chau Control Point during the extended hours”, will the Administration inform this Council whether this will be made a recurrent item? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

It is estimated that the approved commitment will be adequate for meeting expenditure up to 2008-09. A review will be carried out nearer the time before deciding on whether the ticketing system will be made a recurrent item.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)069

Question Serial No.

1686

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

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 Item 011 – “Management of a ticketing system for taxi access to Lok Ma Chau Control Point during the extended hours”, will the Administration inform this Council for how long this non-recurrent item will be maintained and whether the approved commitment is adequate to meet future expenses?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

It is estimated that the approved commitment will be adequate for meeting expenditure up to 2008-09. A review will be carried out nearer the time before deciding on whether the ticketing system will be made a recurrent item.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)070

Question Serial No.

2134

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

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question :

If the merger of the Mass Transit Railway and the Kowloon-Canton Railway systems proceed as proposed, has any provision been set aside by the Administration for the consultation on the Shatin to Central Link, West Island Line and South Island Line? If so, what are the details of the work plan and the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The proposed railway projects of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL), West Island Line (WIL) and South Island Line are still at the preliminary planning stage. The Administration is examining the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation's proposal on the SCL and the proposed scheme under the merger of the two railway systems in the light of the impact brought by the various infrastructure projects being planned along the SCL alignment. For the WIL, the Administration is examining the project proposal submitted by the MTR Corporation Limited in August 2006. We plan to gazette the project proposal later this year.

We have been staying in touch with the District Councils concerned and the local communities on these projects. We have also been keeping the Legislative Council in the picture. The Administration has been making use of existing resources in overseeing the planning and implementation of these railway projects including the consultation work. There is no breakdown on the expenditure involved for these duties.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)071

Question Serial No.

2135

Head : Subhead (No. & title) :

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

Programme : Transport

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

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

Question :

Since the community attaches great importance to cross-boundary transport infrastructures, will the Administration consider allocating more resources to expedite the related studies? If so, please provide the estimated expenditure and details of the work involved.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

To support closer links between Hong Kong and the Mainland, and to improve the transport network between the two places, the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has made sustained efforts to enhance existing cross-boundary transport infrastructure, and has also embarked on a series of cross-boundary transport infrastructural projects and studies, such as the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor (HK-SWC), Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line (LMC), Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (ERL) and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB).

The HK-SWC, our fourth vehicular boundary crossing, is expected to come into operation in mid 2007 to tie in with the commissioning of the boundary crossing facilities (BCF) at Shekou. Also, the LMC is expected to come into operation in the first half of 2007.

As regards the ERL, the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) has been commissioned to conduct a study on the corridor options of the Hong Kong section and is expected to submit the relevant report in mid 2007. We will follow up closely on the progress of the study and, taking into account its findings and the latest planning parameters provided by the Mainland, we will select a corridor option which is both cost-effective and most convenient to the travelling public.

As for the HZMB, the Advance Work Co-ordination Group (AWCG) set up by the three governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and

Macao Special Administrative Region has already reached agreement on the alignment and landing points of the HZMB. The agreed alignment, known as the northern bridge-cum-tunnel alignment, will land in Northwest Lantau near San Shek Wan on the east, and in Gongbei of Zhuhai and A Pérola of Macao on the west. The feasibility study for the HZMB has also been substantially completed. Currently, the two remaining issues that require further studies are the locations of BCF and financing arrangements. The AWCG has commissioned the China Highway Planning and Design Institute to conduct the relevant studies, with a view to finalising the feasibility study report and submitting it for approval by the Central People's Government (CPG) as soon as possible. Relevant follow-up work will commence after approval has been given by the CPG.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)072

Question Serial No.

2310

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

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 overseeing the planning and design of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) in 2007-08, will the Administration inform this Council of the plans for the origin and destination of the SCL and whether the rail link will be completed in phases? How will these plans affect the estimated expenditure for the planning and design of the SCL in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The Government is examining the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation's proposal on the proposed Shatin to Central Link (SCL) and the proposed SCL scheme under the merger of the two railway systems, in the light of the impact brought by the various infrastructure projects being planned along the SCL alignment. The Government has not yet reached any final decision on this project, including its implementation programme and other technical aspects. We have been overseeing the planning of the SCL project with existing resources as part of our normal duties. There is no breakdown on the expenditure involved for this particular duty.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)073

Question Serial No.

2311

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

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 assessment of the viability of the South Island Line in 2007-08, please advise on the estimated expenditure, staffing and the anticipated progress of the assessment.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The proposed South Island Line is still at the preliminary planning stage. We have been overseeing the planning of this project with existing resources. There is no breakdown on the expenditure and staffing for this particular duty. We will continue to stay in touch with the Legislative Council, the Southern District Council and the local communities on this project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)075

Question Serial No.

2556

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

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 understood that the Administration will implement a ticketing system, similar to that at the Lok Ma Chau Control Point, at the Shenzhen Bay Port Hong Kong Port Area to manage taxi access to the port area. Has the Administration reserved any provision in the 2007-08 estimate for this purpose? If so, what is the estimated annual expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

Cross-boundary passengers at Shenzhen Bay Port may choose to take cross-boundary coaches as well as franchised buses, green minibuses or taxis at the public transport interchange (PTI) of the Hong Kong Port Area (HKPA). To ensure the smooth taxi operation at the PTI, we will provide adequate facilities to facilitate pick-up/drop-off of passengers and stacking of taxis. There will be 5 taxi drop-off spaces, 6 taxi pick-up stands and 70 taxi waiting spaces. We believe that these facilities will be adequate to cope with the anticipated traffic flow.

The Transport Department will monitor the traffic situation at the control point through the closed circuit televisions installed at the PTI. If the number of taxis entering the PTI increases, we will disseminate the information through various channels and alert taxi drivers of the traffic situation through the fully variable message signs displayed along the major roads leading to the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)076

Question Serial No.

2559

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

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 are the details of working jointly with franchised bus companies on the development of environment friendly buses along busy corridors listed under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08*?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The Administration has all along encouraged the franchised bus companies to deploy environment friendly buses along busy corridors to reduce vehicle emissions thereat. Since 2002, the franchised bus companies have deployed buses meeting Euro II or above emission standard to run along Yee Wo Street, Hennessy Road, Queensway, Des Voeux Road Central and Nathan Road. As at end 2006, about 86% of the buses running along these five busy corridors were of Euro II or above emission standard. The Government will continue to work with the franchised bus companies to deploy more environment friendly buses to these busy corridors as far as practicable, taking into account their current bus fleet composition and their operational situation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)077

Question Serial No.

2560

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

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 *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2007-08*, the Administration will assess the viability of the South Island Line. What is the present progress of the assessment and when will the result be announced? What is the financial provision in 2007-08 for the study of this railway project?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The proposed South Island Line is still at the preliminary planning stage. We have been overseeing the planning of this project with existing resources. There is no breakdown on the expenditure and staffing for this particular duty. We will continue to stay in touch with the Legislative Council, the Southern District Council and the local communities on this project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)078

Question Serial No.

2561

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

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 *Matters Requiring Special Attention* in 2007-08, the Administration will continue with the preparatory work for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB). Please provide details of the plan in 2007-08 for taking forward the preparatory work for the HZMB and the anticipated commencement date of the project.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The HZMB Advance Work Co-ordination Group (AWCG) set up by the three governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Macao Special Administrative Region has already reached agreement on the alignment and landing points of the HZMB. The feasibility study for the HZMB, which covers over 20 different topical studies, has been substantially completed. Currently, the two remaining issues that require further examination are the locations of boundary crossing facilities and financing arrangements. The AWCG has commissioned the China Highway Planning and Design Institute to conduct the relevant studies, with a view to finalising the feasibility study report and submitting it for approval by the Central People's Government (CPG) as soon as possible. Relevant follow-up work will commence after approval has been given by the CPG.

On another front, we have already commenced an investigation and preliminary design study for the North Lantau Highways Connection (NLHC), which will connect the bridge to the local transport network. We are now evaluating the possible alignment options for the NLHC, and assessing the impact of the project, including the traffic and environment aspects. We will continue to monitor the progress of the preparatory work for the NLHC and ensure that the construction of the NLHC ties in with the progress of the HZMB project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters JOSHUA LAW

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

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)079

Question Serial No.

0091

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 rationalisation and improvement of bus services, please list out by the 18 districts the locations of the bus stops affected, the number of bus routes, implementation timetable and the estimated expenditure in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The rationalisation and improvement of bus services including rationalisation of bus stops are on-going measures implemented as and when necessary, taking into account passenger demand, road traffic conditions and other operational considerations such as the need to enhance bus network coverage and efficiency. The rationalisation and bus service improvement proposals for 2007 will involve about 60 and 80 routes respectively. The Transport Department consults the 18 District Councils annually on the major rationalisation and improvement proposals put forward by the franchised bus companies in their Bus Route Development Programmes. Since the Transport Department will take into account the District Councils' views before finalising the rationalisation and improvement programme, the locations of bus stops and the number of routes to be rationalised or improved in 2007 will be determined after completion of the District Council consultation.

The implementation of bus rationalisation and improvement measures will be funded by the bus companies concerned.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)079

Question Serial No.

0091

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)080

Question Serial No.

0092

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

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The provision for 2007-08 is substantially higher than the 2006-07 revised estimate by \$75.4 million (85.9%), which is mainly due to the creation of nine posts, outsourcing of the management, operation and maintenance (MOM) of the Tsing Sha Control Area (TSCA), and capital expenditure on the procurement of specialised vehicles. Please inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) a breakdown of the expenditure on the above items;
- (b) the type, purpose and number of specialised vehicles planned to be procured; and
- (c) the annual expenditure on the MOM activities and the procurement of specialised vehicles from 2004-05 to 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) About \$1.0 million will be incurred in 2007-08 for the creation of nine posts. The cash flow requirement in 2007-08 for the procurement of specialised vehicles for the Tsing Sha Control Area (TSCA) will be about \$26.0 million. The remainder of the increased provision will be mainly for the outsourcing of the MOM of the TSCA.
- (b) Specialised vehicles planned to be procured for the TSCA include 15 recovery vehicles, three tunnel wall cleansing vehicles and three water tankers.
- (c) The TSCA is scheduled to be opened by phases starting from late 2007 and thus no expenditure was incurred in relation to the MOM work in the years prior to 2007-08. Procurement of specialised vehicles for the TSCA started in 2006-07 with a cash flow requirement of about \$5.5 million in the year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

15 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)081

Question Serial No.

0093

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

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Of the 56 recommendations put forward by the Task Force on Emergency Transport Co-ordination:

- (a) please list out the recommendations which have not been implemented or have been partially implemented. Please provide reasons, the timetable for implementation and the estimated expenditure in 2007-08; and
- (b) does the Government have any measures to comply with the Task Force's recommendation of enhancing the dissemination of information, for instance, requiring public transport modes to provide radio receivers on-board? If yes, what are the implementation timetable and estimated expenditure in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

(a) The Transport Department has implemented all the immediate and short term measures recommended by the Task Force on Emergency Transport Co-ordination. Actions are being taken to implement recommendations that are of medium to long term nature, which include:

- (i) conducting a feasibility study on deploying advanced technology in incident management. The study is to start in March 2007 for completion in early 2008. The estimated expenditure in 2007-08 is about \$5.6 million; and
- (ii) installing about 400 closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs) to enhance the coverage of the CCTV system along major routes for completion in 2010. The estimated expenditure in 2007-08 is about \$2.5 million.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)081

Question Serial No.

0093

(b) To ensure timely dissemination of traffic information to the public, the Transport Department has taken the following actions:

- (i) requesting radio and television stations to increase the frequency of traffic information broadcasts;
- (ii) disseminating emergency traffic information and provision of CCTV images on mobile phones;
- (iii) updating the Traffic Speed Map on the Transport Department's website to show the journey time and speed along major approach roads to the three road harbour crossings;
- (iv) co-operating with the railway companies to disseminate emergency news and major traffic and transport incidents via their public announcement systems or display panels in their station premises or on-board of trains;
- (v) co-operating with the bus companies to disseminate emergency traffic and transport information through display panels at bus termini;
- (vi) maintaining the Interactive Voice Response System to provide real-time traffic information in case of major planned events that will create a major traffic and transport impact, and updating the Integrated Call Centre constantly to ensure that its responses to public enquiries on emergency transport incidents are timely and useful through the Government hotline; and
- (vii) informing large organizations of special traffic news by email.

We have not made additional provision in the 2007-08 estimate but would make use of the existing resources to take forward the actions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)082

Question Serial No.

0099

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : For the item relating to regulation of franchised bus services, what is the detailed plan for the installation of electronic black boxes on franchised buses, the implementation timetable and the required expenses? Will the measure be extended to all franchised buses in Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

Electronic black boxes are required as a standard equipment on new buses to be purchased by all franchised bus companies.

The Long Win Bus Company Limited has installed electronic black boxes in all its buses except nine single-deck buses which are due for replacement in 2007-08. The New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited, Citybus Limited (Hong Kong Island and cross-harbour network) and The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited will complete the retrofitting of electronic black boxes on their existing fleets by end 2007. The New World First Bus Services Limited and Citybus Limited (Lantau and Airport network) will commence the retrofitting of electronic black boxes in 2008 for completion tentatively by end 2009.

The installation of electronic black boxes will be funded by the relevant franchised bus companies. No government expenditure will be incurred.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)082

Question Serial No.

0099

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)083

Question Serial No.

0100

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the Transport Information System and the Electronic Road Pricing transport model under this programme, please provide :

- (a) the reasons why the Transport Information System has not yet been implemented and the expenditure in each of the past three years on studies and planning preparatory work of the System;
- (b) Government's implementation programme and expenditure for the Transport Information System; and
- (c) the expenditure in each of the past three years spent on studying the Electronic Road Pricing transport model and the charging scenarios; and the anticipated timing for the implementation of Electronic Road Pricing scheme and the associated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) The Administration awarded a contract for the development of the Transport Information System in May 2003. The contract was scheduled for completion in December 2004. However, the Transport Department experienced difficulties with the contractor, which resulted in serious delay in implementation. The contract was eventually terminated in February 2005 and a new contract was awarded in August 2006. The expenditure incurred on the project in the past three years was as follows :

2004-05	\$2.1 million (actual)
2005-06	\$1.8 million (actual)
2006-07	\$5.1 million (estimate)

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)083

Question Serial No.

0100

- (b) A new contract for the development of the proposed Transport Information System was awarded in August 2006. The estimated expenditure in 2007-08 is \$37.4 million. The contract period is 18 months and the project is scheduled for completion in February 2008.
- (c) The Transport Department commissioned the “Congestion Charging Transport Model – Feasibility Study” in February 2006. The expenditure of the Study since its commencement is :

2005-06	\$0.1 million (actual)
2006-07	\$3.6 million (estimate)

At this stage, we have no concrete plan to implement any congestion charging. We will first update the model developed in the previous study in 1997 and assess the impact of different congestion charging scenarios in relieving traffic congestion.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)084

Question Serial No.

0101

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 : With respect to the on-going pedestrian schemes mentioned in the Programme, please provide details of the schemes, their target completion dates and the costs involved. (please group the schemes under the 18 districts).

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

Details of the pedestrian schemes are as follows -

District	Location	Target Completion Date	Project Estimate \$million	Estimated Expenditure in 2007-08 \$million
Wan Chai	Lockhart Road, East Point Road and Great George Street	Early 2009	4.3	0.9
	Yiu Wah Street	Mid 2008		
Yau Tsim Mong	Pilkem Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	Mid 2007	10.0	4.7
	Bowring Street (between Nathan Road and Parkes Street)	End 2007		
	Woosung Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	Mid 2008		
	Parkes Street (between Jordan Road and Saigon Street)	End 2009		
	Ning Po Street (between Nathan Road and Shanghai Street)	End 2007		
	Shanghai Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	End 2007		

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)084

Question Serial No.

0101

District	Location	Target Completion Date	Project Estimate \$million	Estimated Expenditure in 2007-08 \$million
	Minden Avenue	Mid 2007		
	Kimberley Road (between Nathan Road and Carnarvon Road)	End 2008		
	Ashley Road (to the north of Peking Road)	Early 2008		
	Peking Road (between Nathan Road and Kowloon Park Drive)	Mid 2007		
Sham Shui Po	Fuk Wa Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	End 2007	11.8	3.4
	Pei Ho Street (between Yu Chau Street and Un Chau Street)	Mid 2007		
	Fuk Wing Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	Mid 2009		
	Kweilin Street (between Yu Chau Street and Un Chow Street)	End 2008		
	Yu Chau Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	Mid 2008		
	Nam Cheong Street (between Un Chau Street and Yu Chau Street)	Early 2009		

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)085

Question Serial No.

0102

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 : Will the Administration develop footbridge network to improve pedestrian environment on Hong Kong Island North? If affirmative, what are the implementation programme and estimated cost? If not, why not?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The Administration has planned to provide four north-south elevated pedestrian links under the Wan Chai Development Phase II project to enhance pedestrian access to the waterfront. They are located at strategic locations, near the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, the Wan Chai North public transport interchange and the Victoria Park. The implementation programme and cost estimates of these pedestrian links will be determined after approval of the relevant Outline Zoning Plan.

The Administration is also considering the construction of an east-west footbridge along Gloucester Road and Harcourt Road to connect the footbridge network in Wan Chai with the future Central Government Complex. The proposed footbridge will link the existing footbridge at O'Brien Road to the east with that at Tim Mei Avenue to the west. Its implementation programme and cost estimates will be determined after the feasibility study is completed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)086

Question Serial No.

0239

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Has the Transport Department planned to deploy advanced technologies or measures in 2007-08 in order to enhance the capability of the Department in incident management? If affirmative, please provide the details, cost and implementation programme of the advanced technologies and measures concerned. How are these advanced technologies and measures expected to enhance the capability of the Department in incident management, and what extent of enhancement is expected?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

In 2007-08, the Transport Department will continue to deploy advanced technologies to enhance its capability in incident management. The following measures are in the pipeline for implementation:

- (a) enhancement of existing mobile closed-circuit television (CCTV) service. This will strengthen the Transport Department's incident monitoring capability by providing more cameras with better image quality. The annual cost of this service is \$3.6 million;
- (b) provision of temporary CCTV service at 12 locations. This will provide round-the-clock CCTV images at locations not covered by the existing CCTV system. The annual cost of the service is \$2.5 million; and
- (c) dissemination of traffic news in co-operation with mobile phone companies on their 3G/WAP service, together with the introduction of CCTV images on mobile phone service in early 2007. This will allow users of mobile 3G/WAP service to have access to traffic news and information through their mobile phones. The cost of this initiative to the Transport Department is minimal.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)086

Question Serial No.

0239

Furthermore, the Transport Department commissioned a feasibility study in March 2007 to investigate and develop a total solution for deploying advanced technologies to enhance the incident management capability. The study is scheduled to be completed in March 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)087

Question Serial No.

0240

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What is the progress of the upgrade of VALID III to VALID IV which will be a web-based system? Would the system upgrade be completed within 2007-08? How many posts will be deleted after the completion of system upgrade? Please give details of the rank of these posts.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

About 80% of the VALID IV project has already been completed and the whole project will be substantially completed within 2007-08. The number of posts earmarked for deletion is 32, including three Clerical Officer posts, 19 Assistant Clerical Officer posts and ten Clerical Assistant posts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)088

Question Serial No.

0241

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the Transport Department's support to the implementation of the incentive schemes for the early replacement pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new ones complying with the prevailing statutory emission standard and purchase of environment friendly cars in 2006-07,

- (i) has the Administration addressed the effectiveness of the schemes in 2006-07?
- (ii) what is the number of replaced pre-Euro and Euro I vehicles and number of environment friendly cars purchased?
- (iii) would the Administration further encourage the replacement of vehicles and purchase of environment friendly cars ? If yes, please provide details. If not, why not?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (i) The incentive schemes will be launched in 2007-08. According to the information provided by the Environment Protection Department, compared with their Euro IV counterparts, pre-Euro vehicles emit 30 times more respirable suspended particulates (RSP) and two times more nitrogen oxides (NOx), whereas Euro I vehicles emit 15 times more RSP and 1.5 times more NOx. If all pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles are replaced by Euro IV models, the vehicular emissions of RSP and NOx will be reduced by 74% and 38% respectively. Environment friendly petrol private cars emit 50% less hydrocarbons (HCs) and NOx and consume 40% less fuel than conventional Euro IV petrol private cars. Owing to their higher fuel efficiency, they also emit 40% less carbon dioxide (CO₂), a key greenhouse gas contributing to global warming. If 15% of the petrol private car fleet (numbering about 360 000 at present) are replaced by them, the vehicular emissions of CO₂, HCs and NOx will be reduced by 1%, 5% and 1% respectively.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)088

Question Serial No.

0241

- (ii) There are about 74 000 pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles as well as 390 000 private cars registered with the Transport Department. The two incentive schemes in question are only scheduled to commence on 1 April of 2007. Since there are many factors affecting whether a vehicle owner will replace his vehicle, we are unable to predict the number of vehicles that will be replaced under the two schemes.
- (iii) The Administration has no plan at this stage to introduce further incentives for the replacement of old vehicles and the use of environment friendly petrol private cars.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)089

Question Serial No.

0242

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 : What are the Administration's proposals in providing support in planning and implementing traffic and transport arrangements, and traffic surveillance to facilitate the delivery of the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events and the Test Event in Hong Kong? Please provide the cost involved, timing and number of staff to be deployed and the impact of the proposed arrangements on the general traffic.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The Home Affairs Bureau is conducting a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) study on the proposed traffic and transport arrangements for the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events (the Events) to be held in August 2008. The Transport Department will further consider the recommendations of the TIA and assist in their implementation, which should include the following traffic and transport arrangements:

- (a) to provide transport services for the spectators at selected interchange points (usually near railway stations) to/from the two competition venues (i.e. the Core Venue at Sha Tin and the Cross-Country Venue at Beas River, Sheung Shui);
- (b) to enhance smooth traffic and pedestrian flows, through implementing efficient transport management measures such as minor road improvements, provision of car parks and loading/unloading/waiting areas; and
- (c) to monitor closely the traffic and transport arrangements.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)089

Question Serial No.

0242

The additional traffic management measures for the Events will not involve substantial civil works. We have not made additional provision in the 2007-08 estimate for the purpose but would make use of the existing resources to take forward the relevant measures.

The Test Event in August 2007 is of a much smaller scale. We do not anticipate any significant traffic and transport impact on the community.

The Transport Department will deploy one Chief Transport Officer and one Senior Engineer to support the planning and implementation of the traffic and transport plans in relation to the Events. The total notional annual mid-point salary value of the two posts is \$1.9 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **19 March 2007**

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)090

Question Serial No.

0257

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

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In connection with the management of transport services, the provision for 2007-08 is \$163.2 million, which is \$75.4 million (85.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2006-07. The increase is mainly due to the creation of nine posts, outsourcing of the management, operation and maintenance (MOM) of the Tsing Sha Control Area (TSCA), and procurement of specialised vehicles. Please provide the following information-

- (a) the ranks, employment terms and expenditure of the new posts to be created;
- (b) the number of contracts to be awarded for the outsourcing the MOM of the TSCA, the fee for each of the contracts, the duration of the contracts and the timetable for tender invitations; and
- (c) the number of specialised vehicles to be procured, the related expenditure, the purpose and the estimated annual maintenance and repair expenditure for each vehicle.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (a) The posts to be created are all permanent civil service posts including one Senior Transport Officer, one Transport Officer I, four Transport Officer II, one Transport Controller I, one Transport Controller II and one Clerical Assistant. The expenditure for the year 2007-08 is about \$1.0 million.
- (b) There would be one MOM contract for the TSCA. The current plan is to invite tenders for the MOM contract in the second quarter of 2007. Details of the contract terms, including contract duration, are still being worked out. The MOM contract fee will be subject to the result of the tendering exercise.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)090

Question Serial No.

0257

- (c) A total of 21 specialised vehicles, including 15 recovery vehicles, three tunnel wall cleansing vehicles and three water tankers, will be procured for the TSCA. The cash flow requirement in 2007-08 for the procurement of specialized vehicles for the TSCA will be about \$26.0 million. The MOM contractor of TSCA will be responsible for the maintenance and repair of the specialised vehicles.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 15 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)091

Question Serial No.

0345

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the development and implementation of the Transport Information System –

- (1) what is the latest progress on the Transport Information System which is being developed by the Government?
- (2) what are the expenses incurred by the Administration and staff involved in the various studies in association with the Transport Information System in 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (1) The contract for developing the Transport Information System was awarded in August 2006. System analysis and design have been completed, and data conversion and system implementation are in progress. The project is scheduled for completion in February 2008.
- (2) The expenditure of the project in 2006-07 is expected to be \$5.1 million. The team managing the contract and co-ordinating with potential users of the system consists of four professionals and five technical staff.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **19 March 2007**

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)092

Question Serial No.

0346

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the installation of electronic black boxes on franchised buses in 2006-07, please provide the following information :

- (1) how many electronic black boxes were installed by each franchised bus company and what was the expenditure? What is the estimated number of electronic black boxes which will be installed by each franchised bus company in 2007-08 and what will be the expenditure?
- (2) will there be a policy to require all franchised buses to be installed with electronic black boxes? If yes, what is the progress?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (1) The number of franchised buses installed with electronic black boxes as at end 2006 is as follows:

The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited (KMB):	3 146
Citybus Limited (Hong Kong Island and cross-harbour network) (CTB Franchise 1):	129
Citybus Limited (Lantau and Airport network) (CTB Franchise 2):	2
New World First Bus Services Limited (NWFB):	34
Long Win Bus Company Limited (LW):	144
New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited (NLB):	50

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)092

Question Serial No.

0346

The KMB, CTB (Franchise 1) and NLB have plans to install electronic black boxes in 859, 616 and 33 buses respectively in 2007-08.

The installation of electronic black boxes is funded by the relevant franchised bus companies. No government expenditure will be incurred.

- (2) Electronic black boxes are required as a standard equipment on new buses to be purchased by all franchised bus companies. The LW has installed in all its buses with electronic black boxes except nine single-deck buses which are due for replacement in 2007-08. The NLB, CTB (Franchise 1) and The KMB will complete the retrofitting of electronic black boxes on their existing fleets by end 2007. The NWFB and CTB (Franchise 2) will commence the retrofitting of electronic black boxes in 2008 for completion tentatively by end 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)093

Question Serial No.

0415

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the indicator on “new or extension of licences for ferry services granted”, the actual number has dropped by 12, from 101 in 2005 to 89 in 2006. Please advise:

- (a) the reason for the decrease in the ferry service licences;
- (b) the affected licensed ferry services; and
- (c) whether re-tender exercises were carried out for the licensed ferry services which had ceased operation.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (a) Due to the different validity period and hence the date of expiry of ferry service licences, the indicator only reflects those licences that were newly granted or extended in 2006. The total number of licensed ferry services in operation in 2005 and 2006 are 106 and 104 respectively. Two licensed ferry services ceased operation in 2006 because of low passenger demand.
- (b) The two licensed ferry services that ceased operation in 2006 were services for leisure purposes which were run only during weekends and public holidays. They were “Kowloon Point – Mui Wo – Cheung Chau – Kowloon Point” and “North Point – Kwun Tong – Po Toi”.
- (c) A re-tendering exercise for replacement services for the two terminated ferry routes has not been conducted because of low passenger demand and the availability of alternative ferry services.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)093

Question Serial No.

0415

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

ALAN WONG

Commissioner for Transport

19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)094

Question Serial No.

0425

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In respect of encouraging franchised bus companies to retrofit their buses with emission reduction devices, please advise the number of devices expected to be installed by the franchised bus companies in 2007-08 and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

As at end 2006, about 2 970 franchised buses have been retrofitted with emission reduction devices (ERDs). All franchised buses of pre-Euro and Euro I emission standards have been retrofitted with ERDs. The Transport Department (TD) has been encouraging the franchised bus companies to continue to retrofit their buses of Euro II and Euro III emission standards with ERDs with a view to further reducing roadside emission.

Franchised bus companies are now examining the technical feasibility of installing ERDs on buses of Euro II and Euro III emission standards. Subject to technical feasibility, the franchised bus companies tentatively plan to retrofit ERDs on about 850 buses in 2007-08. TD will continue to discuss with the franchised bus companies on the programme of retrofitting ERDs on the remaining buses.

The breakdown of number of ERDs to be installed in 2007-08 by franchised bus companies is –

- (1) The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited – about 650;
- (2) Citybus Limited (Franchise for Hong Kong Island and cross-harbour bus services) – about 75;
- (3) Citybus Limited (Franchise for Airport and North Lantau bus services) – about 35;
- (4) New World First Bus Services Limited – about 70; and
- (5) Long Win Bus Company Limited – about 15.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)094

Question Serial No.

0425

The New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited has completed the installation of ERDs on its whole fleet except for buses retrofitting on which is technically infeasible.

The retrofitting of ERDs will be funded by the relevant franchised bus companies concerned. No government expenditure will be incurred.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)095

Question Serial No.

0426

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In respect of encouraging franchised bus companies to retrofit their buses with emission reduction devices, please advise the details of repair, maintenance and serviceable life of such devices.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

According to information provided by the suppliers, the emission reduction devices require cleaning about once a year and the serviceable life of such devices is about five years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)096

Question Serial No.

0427

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In respect of encouraging franchised bus companies to retrofit their buses with emission reduction devices, please advise the estimated effect in reducing environmental pollution.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

At present, all franchised buses of pre-Euro and Euro I emission standards have been retrofitted with emission reduction devices (ERDs). The Transport Department has been encouraging the franchised bus companies to continue to retrofit their buses of Euro II and Euro III emission standards with ERDs with a view to further reducing roadside emission. According to the Environmental Protection Department, the ERDs to be installed on the franchised buses of Euro II and Euro III emission standards can reduce particulate matters, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxides by about 80% to 90% as compared with those without the devices.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 16 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)097

Question Serial No.

0428

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In respect of encouraging franchised bus companies to retrofit their buses with emission reduction devices, please advise whether the Administration has conducted regular monitoring on these installations. If positive, what is the current status? If not, why not?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Transport Department (TD) regularly monitors the retrofitting of emission reduction devices (ERDs) on franchised buses. In particular, these devices are inspected during the annual vehicle examination as well as spot checks to ensure their proper functioning.

All franchised buses of pre-Euro and Euro I emission standards have been retrofitted. As at end 2006, about 2 970 franchised buses have been retrofitted with ERDs. TD has been encouraging the franchised bus companies to continue to retrofit their buses of Euro II and Euro III emission standards with ERDs with a view to further reducing roadside emission. Franchised bus companies are now examining the technical feasibility of installing ERDs on buses of Euro II and Euro III emission standards. Subject to technical feasibility, the franchised bus companies tentatively plan to retrofit ERDs on about 850 buses in 2007-08.

TD will continue to discuss with the franchised bus companies on the programme of retrofitting ERDs on the remaining buses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **19 March 2007**

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)098

Question Serial No.

0491

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What is the expenditure for the improvement measures to reduce emission by franchised buses? To tie in with the “Action Blue Sky”, the Administration should increase the number of bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes so as to reduce the number of bus trips and bus emission. However, the Indicator on “schemes of bus-bus interchange introduced” shows that the numbers of BBI schemes to be introduced in 2007 will decrease to 20. What are the reasons for the reduction?

Asked by : Hon. LEUNG LAU Yau-fun, Sophie

Reply :

The franchised bus companies have been taking a number of initiatives to reduce vehicle emissions. These include deployment of environment friendly buses on busy corridors, installation of emission reduction devices, rationalization of bus routes and stops as well as introduction of bus-bus- interchange schemes to reduce bus trips. The measures are funded by the franchised bus companies concerned. No government expenditure is involved.

As at end 2006, a total of 216 BBI schemes involving about 400 bus routes were in operation.

The planning and implementation of BBI schemes is an on-going exercise. In formulating these schemes, the Administration will take into account suggestions from the public, and factors such as the operational and financial implications, scope to improve bus network coverage and efficiency, and the compatibility of the Octopus software. Owing to variations of these factors, the number of BBI schemes planned for and introduced in each year may differ. The Administration will continue to encourage franchised bus companies to introduce more such schemes to enhance bus network efficiency and to reduce traffic congestion and roadside emission.

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Question Serial No.

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Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)099

Question Serial No.

0965

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

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The estimated provision for the management of transport services in 2007-08 is \$75.4 million (85.9%) higher than the revised 2006-07 estimate. Out of the increased provision, how much is to be spent on the outsourcing of the management of the Tsing Sha Control Area?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The contract fee for outsourcing the management, operation and maintenance of the Tsing Sha Control Area will be subject to the outcome of the tendering exercise to be conducted in 2007-08. In the estimates, about 60% of the increased provision is earmarked for this purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **16 March 2007**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)100

Question Serial No.

1074

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : It is stated that for the 2007-08 financial year, the process re-engineering of licensing services will be conducted to improve efficiency while maintaining the number of vehicle licence transactions as in 2006-07. How much resources will be allocated for the re-engineering process?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The business process re-engineering of licensing services aims to streamline the renewal mechanism for driving and vehicle licences, and to improve the efficiency in processing the applications. We are still studying the various proposals and will decide whether additional resources would be required when more details are known.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **19 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)101

Question Serial No.

1190

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 : Please provide details of the plan to implement pedestrian schemes in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

Details of the pedestrian schemes to be implemented in 2007-08 are as follows:

District	Location	Target Completion Date	Project Estimate \$million	Estimated Expenditure in 2007-08 \$million
Wan Chai	Lockhart Road, East Point Road and Great George Street	Early 2009	4.3	0.9
	Yiu Wah Street	Mid 2008		
Yau Tsim Mong	Pilkem Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	Mid 2007	10.0	4.7
	Bowring Street (between Nathan Road and Parkes Street)	End 2007		
	Woosung Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	Mid 2008		
	Parkes Street (between Jordan Road and Saigon Street)	End 2009		
	Ning Po Street (between Nathan Road and Shanghai Street)	End 2007		
	Shanghai Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	End 2007		

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1190

District	Location	Target Completion Date	Project Estimate \$million	Estimated Expenditure in 2007-08 \$million
	Minden Avenue	Mid 2007		
	Kimberley Road (between Nathan Road and Carnarvon Road)	End 2008		
	Ashley Road (to the north of Peking Road)	Early 2008		
	Peking Road (between Nathan Road and Kowloon Park Drive)	Mid 2007		
Sham Shui Po	Fuk Wa Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	End 2007	11.8	3.4
	Pei Ho Street (between Yu Chau Street and Un Chau Street)	Mid 2007		
	Fuk Wing Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	Mid 2009		
	Kweilin Street (between Yu Chau Street and Un Chow Street)	End 2008		
	Yu Chau Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	Mid 2008		
	Nam Cheong Street (between Un Chau Street and Yu Chau Street)	Early 2009		

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)102

Question Serial No.

1191

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 : Apart from the pedestrian schemes, are there any plans in 2007-08 to provide covers to selected pedestrian walkways to improve the environment for pedestrians? If so, please provide details.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

Apart from the pedestrian schemes, we plan to commence works in 2007-08 for the provision of covers to the following pedestrian walkways :

- (1) staircase connecting Yuet Wah Street and Kwun Tong Road; and
- (2) walkway connecting the footbridge from the Sheung Shui Railway Station to near Yuk Po Court.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **19 March 2007** _____

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)103

Question Serial No.

1192

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 : The Administration plans to introduce eight new green minibus service routes in 2007. What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

The eight new green minibus routes planned to be introduced in 2007 are:

- (1) Kwai Chung (Lai Kong Street) – Sham Shui Po (Po On Road) (Circular);
- (2) Siu Hang Tsuen – Tuen Mun Town Centre (Circular);
- (3) Tin Shui Wai North (Grandeur Terrace) – Pok Oi Hospital;
- (4) Yuen Long East (Yuen Ching Road) – On Shun Street (Circular);
- (5) Kwai Chung Estate – North-East Kwai Chung (Circular);
- (6) Tin Shui Wai North (Tin Yan Estate) – Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor Crossing Public Transport Interchange;
- (7) Tai Lam Chung to Tuen Mun Ferry Pier; and
- (8) Fo Tan to Wong Tai Sin MTR Station (Circular)

Applications for operation of the first six new routes will be invited in the second quarter of 2007. These six routes are expected to come into service in the third quarter of the year. As regards the remaining two routes, the “Tai Lam Chung to Tuen Mun Ferry Pier” service will be introduced as a supplementary service of an existing GMB route later this year having regard to the views expressed by the District Council concerned, while the passenger demand for and the viability of the circular service plying between Fo Tan and Wong Tai Sin MTR Station are being assessed.

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Question Serial No.

1192

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)104

Question Serial No.

1209

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

603 - Plant, vehicles and equipment

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The 2006-07 approved estimate is \$16.615 million and the revised estimate is \$5.457 million. Would the Administration please explain:

1. why is the 2006-07 revised estimate about three times lower than the approved estimate?
2. why is the 2007-08 estimate about five times higher than the 2006-07 revised estimate? What are the details of the expenditure items?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

1. The 2006-07 revised estimate is lower than the approved estimate mainly due to the revised delivery schedule of the heavy recovery vehicles for the Tsing Sha Control Area.
2. Due to the reason mentioned in (1) above, higher expenditure will be incurred for the procurement of specialized vehicles in 2007-08, which accounts for more than 90% of the 2007-08 estimate.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)105

Question Serial No.

1210

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : There will be a net creation of six posts in 2007-08. Please provide :

- (1) the details and justifications for the posts to be deleted; and
- (2) the number, rank, salary and reasons for the posts to be created.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

The net creation of six posts in 2007-08 is the result of creation of 13 posts offset by deletion of seven posts, with details as follows :

(a) Creation of 13 posts

- (i) one Senior Transport Officer and one Systems Manager to deal with e-applications under the new One-Stop Portal;
- (ii) three Senior Transport Officers, one Transport Officer I, one Transport Officer II, one Clerical Officer and two Clerical Assistants to deal with additional work for the implementation of the Probationary Driving Licence Scheme and increasing workload resulting from the tightened control on non-franchised bus applications, and to improve the efficiency in taking enforcement actions against unauthorised bus services; and
- (iii) one Transport Officer I, one Senior Transport Inspector and one Clerical Assistant to carry out prosecution work relating to the Tsing Sha Control Area; and

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(b) Deletion of seven posts

- (i) lapse of five time-limited posts (one Chief Executive Officer, one Senior Executive Officer, one Executive Officer I and two Computer Operators I); and
- (ii) two vacant posts as a result of natural wastage are no longer required (one Vehicle Tester and one Driving Examiner I).

The staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary, for the 13 posts to be created at (a) is \$5.7 million, partly offset by \$3.2 million for the deletion of seven posts at (b).

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

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INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)106

Question Serial No.

1211

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : There will be a net creation of five posts in 2007-08. Please provide :
(1) the details and justifications for the posts to be deleted; and
(2) the number, rank, salary and reasons for the posts to be created.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

One time-limited Chief Transport Officer post will lapse upon expiry of its life span in 2007-08, with annual savings of \$0.9 million, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary. Six posts are proposed to be created in 2007-08, namely, two Principal Transport Officer, one Chief Transport Officer, one Senior Transport Officer, one Transport Officer I and one Transport Officer II posts. They are mainly deployed on work relating to the paratransit and railway functions. The staff cost for the six posts is \$4.7 million, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)107

Question Serial No.

1212

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

- Question :
- (1) Regarding the indicator on “scheme of bus-bus interchange involved”, the actual number of schemes introduced in 2005 and 2006 was 43 and 27 respectively, but that of 2007 is 20. What are the reasons for the continued decrease? Has the Administration conducted any review of the implementation of bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes in the past three years? If yes, what are the results?
 - (2) The Administration will achieve the installation of electronic black boxes on franchised buses in 2006-07. What is the implementation timetable?
 - (3) The Administration will continue to develop and implement the Transport Information System in 2007-08. What are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

- (1) As at end 2006, a total of 216 BBI schemes involving about 400 bus routes were in operation.

The planning and implementation of BBI schemes is an on-going exercise. In formulating BBI schemes, the Administration will take into account suggestions from the public, and factors such as the operational and financial implications, scope to improve bus network coverage and efficiency, and the compatibility of the Octopus software. Owing to variations of these factors, the number of BBI schemes planned for and introduced in each year may differ. As an on-going exercise, BBI schemes in operation will be reviewed and adjusted where appropriate in the light of the prevailing circumstances. The Administration will continue to encourage franchised bus companies to introduce more BBI schemes to enhance bus network efficiency and to reduce traffic congestion and roadside emission.

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Question Serial No.

1212

- (2) Electronic black boxes are required as a standard equipment on new buses to be purchased by all franchised bus companies. The Long Win Bus Company Limited has installed in all its buses with electronic black boxes except nine single-deck buses which are due for replacement in 2007-08. The New Lantau Bus Company (1973) Limited, Citybus Limited (Hong Kong Island and cross-harbour network) and The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited will complete the retrofitting of electronic black boxes on their existing fleets by end 2007. The New World First Bus Services Limited and Citybus Limited (Lantau and Airport network) will commence the retrofitting of electronic black boxes in 2008 for completion tentatively by end 2009.
- (3) The contract for developing the Transport Information System was awarded in August 2006. System analysis and design have been completed, and data conversion and system implementation are in progress. The project is scheduled for completion in February 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)108

Question Serial No.

1213

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Will the administration strengthen the staff force in 2007-08 to handle the upsurge in application for renewal of ten-year driving licences? If yes, what are the details and estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

A total of two Senior Clerical Officers, six Assistant Clerical Officers and six temporary staff will be provided to handle the upsurge of applications for renewal of driving licences. The total estimated staff cost in terms of notional annual mid-point salary in 2007-08 is \$2.3 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)109

Question Serial No.

1214

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In 2007-08, the Administration will continue to conduct process re-engineering of the licensing services. What is the progress and when will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

At present, applicants are required to provide their identity documents and driving licences for renewal of driving licences. For online renewal, applicants also have to possess valid digital certificates. As a part of the process re-engineering of licensing service, the Transport Department plans to introduce legislative amendments to dispense with the requirement to produce existing driving licences for renewal and to introduce alternative authentication means to replace digital certificates to streamline the mechanism for online renewal.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 16 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)110

Question Serial No.

1215

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 : The Administration will continue to implement schemes to improve the environment for pedestrians in 2007-08. What are the details and the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply :

Details and estimated expenditure of the schemes to improve the environment for pedestrians are as follows:

District	Location	Target Completion Date	Project Estimate \$million	Estimated Expenditure in 2007-08 \$million
Wan Chai	Lockhart Road, East Point Road and Great George Street	Early 2009	4.3	0.9
	Yiu Wah Street	Mid 2008		
Yau Tsim Mong	Pilkem Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	Mid 2007	10.0	4.7
	Bowring Street (between Nathan Road and Parkes Street)	End 2007		
	Woosung Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	Mid 2008		
	Parkes Street (between Jordan Road and Saigon Street)	End 2009		
	Ning Po Street (between Nathan Road and Shanghai Street)	End 2007		
	Shanghai Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	End 2007		

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Question Serial No

1215

District	Location	Target Completion Date	Project Estimate \$million	Estimated Expenditure in 2007-08 \$million
	Minden Avenue	Mid 2007		
	Kimberley Road (between Nathan Road and Carnarvon Road)	End 2008		
	Ashley Road (to the north of Peking Road)	Early 2008		
	Peking Road (between Nathan Road and Kowloon Park Drive)	Mid 2007		
Sham Shui Po	Fuk Wa Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	End 2007	11.8	3.4
	Pei Ho Street (between Yu Chau Street and Un Chau Street)	Mid 2007		
	Fuk Wing Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	Mid 2009		
	Kweilin Street (between Yu Chau Street and Un Chow Street)	End 2008		
	Yu Chau Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	Mid 2008		
	Nam Cheong Street (between Un Chau Street and Yu Chau Street)	Early 2009		

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Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)111

Question Serial No.

1345

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The Transport Department indicates that in 2007-08, the Department will continue to update the previous Electronic Road Pricing (ERP) transport model and carry out tests for various charging scenarios.

- (a) What is the expenditure involved?
- (b) What are the details of the ERP transport model and the differences between the models?
- (c) What are the details of the various charging scenarios?
- (d) Will there be any field tests on the roads? Will relevant parties of the transport sector or the public be invited to participate in such tests?
- (e) When will the tests be completed?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) The estimated expenditure in 2007-08 for updating the above transport model and carrying out model tests is \$2.6 million;
- (b) the ERP transport model developed in the previous feasibility study was calibrated for the 1996 traffic situation. It requires updating because of the substantial changes in economic, land use and transport infrastructure developments as well as travellers' behaviour and characteristics since then. The updated model will take into account all these changes;
- (c) various charging scenarios refer to different combinations of charge areas, periods and levels. Details of these are being developed and examined in the study;
- (d) the current study does not include any field tests on the roads; and
- (e) the current study will be completed in August 2007.

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ETWB(T)111

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Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)112

Question Serial No.

1346

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In 2007-08, there will be an upsurge in application for renewal of ten-year driving licences:

- (a) At present, how many renewal applications can be processed daily?
- (b) will additional staff be deployed to handle the upsurge?
- (c) will there be a surge in expenditure because of the additional deployment of staff?
- (d) will there be other additional measures to deal with the upsurge?
- (e) will there be further enhancement on the electronic procedure to handle licence renewal, for instance, online renewal of licenses ?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) At present, about 20 driving licence renewal applications are processed per day;
- (b) additional staff (including two Senior Clerical Officers, six Assistant Clerical Officers, and six temporary staff) will be provided to handle the upsurge of applications for renewal of driving licences;
- (c) the total estimated staff cost in terms of notional annual mid-point salary for additional staff in 2007-08 is \$2.3 million;

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- (d) the Department has introduced a number of measures to cope with the upsurge, which include:
- (i) issuing reminder letters cum application forms to licence holders before expiry of their licences to remind them of the licence renewal and to facilitate their submission of applications by post or drop box;
 - (ii) providing new drop-boxes in specified post offices covering 18 districts in Hong Kong, in addition to the existing drop-boxes in the Transport Department's licensing offices;
 - (iii) launching an on-line appointment booking system to enable applicants to make advance booking for using counter services at the licensing offices;
 - (iv) introducing a quota system in licensing offices for walk-in applicants to control the flow of applications; and
 - (v) launching wide publicity to encourage licence holders to renew their licences by post, using drop-box, or through electronic service via the Internet; and
- (e) at present, applicants who possess valid digital certificates may renew their driving licences online. The Department is planning to introduce alternative authentication means to replace digital certificates to streamline the mechanism for online renewal.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)113

Question Serial No.

1348

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 : The Administration plans to introduce eight new green minibus service routes in 2007.

- (a) Has the introduction of the new green minibus service routes been confirmed? What are the terminating points of the new routes?
- (b) When will they be tendered? What is the expenditure incurred?
- (c) When will the new routes be expected to come into service?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

(a) The eight new green minibus routes planned to be introduced in 2007 are:

- (1) Kwai Chung (Lai Kong Street) – Sham Shui Po (Po On Road) (Circular);
- (2) Siu Hang Tsuen – Tuen Mun Town Centre (Circular);
- (3) Tin Shui Wai North (Grandeur Terrace) – Pok Oi Hospital;
- (4) Yuen Long East (Yuen Ching Road) – On Shun Street (Circular);
- (5) Kwai Chung Estate – North-East Kwai Chung (Circular);
- (6) Tin Shui Wai North (Tin Yan Estate) – Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor Crossing Public Transport Interchange;
- (7) Tai Lam Chung to Tuen Mun Ferry Pier; and
- (8) Fo Tan to Wong Tai Sin MTR Station (Circular).

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- (b)&(c) Application for operation of the first six new routes will be invited in the second quarter of 2007. These six routes are expected to come into service in the third quarter of 2007. As regards the remaining two routes, the “Tai Lam Chung to Tuen Mun Ferry Pier” service will be introduced as a supplementary service of an existing GMB route later this year having regard to the views expressed by the District Council concerned, while the passenger demand for and the viability of the circular service plying between Fo Tan and Wong Tai Sin MTR Station are being assessed.

As the relevant work will be performed by existing staff, no additional expenditure will be incurred for the tender exercises.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **19 March 2007** _____

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)114

Question Serial No.

1349

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 : The Transport Department estimates that the average vehicular speeds in 2007 for Urban area and the New Territories are 24 km/h and 41 km/h respectively. These are the same as the respective speeds in 2005 and 2006. Please advise :

- (a) what is the reason for not being able to raise the average vehicular speed?
- (b) does it mean that there is no improvement on the traffic congestion situation in Hong Kong? If so, what is the reason and what are the proposed improvement measures?
- (c) would study be carried out to improve the average vehicular speed? If so, what is the estimated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

(a) and (b)

We estimated that the average vehicular speed in 2007 would be similar to that in 2005 and 2006, as the increase in traffic resulting from the projected economic growth and population increase in 2007 will balance out the improvement brought by new infrastructure and other traffic management measures. We will closely monitor the traffic conditions and implement improvement measures as and when necessary.

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(c)

We will continue to examine different road improvement schemes and traffic management measures, as well as carry out traffic impact assessments for new development proposals with existing resources, so as to improve traffic situation as and when necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)115

Question Serial No.

1350

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 : The Transport Department has indicated that it will continue to implement schemes to improve the environment for pedestrians.

- (a) Will there be any new pedestrianised areas? If yes, what are the locations?
- (b) Will there be any change to the operational hours of the existing pedestrianised areas? If yes, what are the details?
- (c) What is the expenditure involved in the schemes to improve the environment for pedestrians?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) We have no plans for designating new pedestrianised areas in 2007-08, but are studying the feasibility of pedestrianising Humphreys Avenue, Minden Avenue, Hau Fook Street and Bowring Street in the Yau Tsim Mong district.
- (b) We have no plan at the moment to vary the operational hours of the existing pedestrianised areas.
- (c) The details and estimated expenditure of the schemes to improve the environment for pedestrians are as follows:

District	Location	Project Estimate \$million	Estimated Expenditure in 2007-08 \$million
Wan Chai	Lockhart Road, East Point Road and Great George Street Yiu Wah Street	4.3	0.9

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District	Location	Project Estimate \$million	Estimated Expenditure in 2007-08 \$million
Yau Tsim Mong	Pilkem Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street) Bowring Street (between Nathan Road and Parkes Street) Woosung Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street) Parkes Street (between Jordan Road and Saigon Street) Ning Po Street (between Nathan Road and Shanghai Street) Shanghai Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street) Minden Avenue Kimberley Road (between Nathan Road and Carnarvon Road) Ashley Road (to the north of Peking Road) Peking Road (between Nathan Road and Kowloon Park Drive)	10.0	4.7

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District	Location	Project Estimate \$million	Estimated Expenditure in 2007-08 \$million
Sham Shui Po	Fuk Wa Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street) Pei Ho Street (between Yu Chau Street and Un Chau Street) Fuk Wing Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street) Kweilin Street (between Yu Chau Street and Un Chau Street) Yu Chau Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street) Nam Cheong Street (between Un Chau Street and Yu Chau Street)	11.8	3.4

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)116

Question Serial No.

1351

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

603 Plant, vehicles and equipment

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In respect of Item 486 on procurement of specialised vehicles for Route 8 Control Area:

- (a) what are the types of specialised vehicles to be procured?
- (b) are there any specialised vehicles introduced for use in Hong Kong for the first time? If yes, provide the details of such specialised vehicles.
- (c) the balance as at end 2006-07 is \$48.203 million. What is the reason for such a great balance?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) Specialised vehicles to be procured for the Tsing Sha Control Area (TSCA) (previously known as Route 8 Control Area) include 15 recovery vehicles, three tunnel wall cleansing vehicles and three water tankers;
- (b) similar specialised vehicles are currently used in Tsing Ma Control Area and other road tunnels in Hong Kong; and
- (c) payments for the specialised vehicles are made by installments to the suppliers in accordance with the vehicle construction and delivery programme. The specialised vehicles will be delivered in batches from 2007 to 2009 to tie in with the phased commissioning of the TSCA. The remaining balance of \$48.2 million is for settling the outstanding payments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)117

Question Serial No.

1352

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : There will be a net creation of 21 non-directorate posts and two directorate posts in 2007-08. Please list out in detail the post titles, ranks, duties and annual emoluments for these posts, and explain which areas of services will be improved upon creation of these posts.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The net creation of 23 posts in 2007-08 is the result of creation of 33 posts offset by deletion of ten posts. The post-holders will take up duties and responsibilities contributing to the operation and delivery of services under the following programmes:

(a) Creation of 33 posts

- (i) Programme (1) Planning and Development: six posts - two Principal Transport Officers (D1), one Chief Transport Officer, one Senior Transport Officer, one Transport Officer I and one Transport Officer II;
- (ii) Programme (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers: 13 posts - one Systems Manager, four Senior Transport Officers, two Transport Officers I, one Transport Officer II, one Senior Transport Inspector, one Clerical Officer and three Clerical Assistants;
- (iii) Programme (3) District Traffic and Transport Services: five posts - one Senior Engineer, one Chief Transport Officer, one Senior Transport Officer and two Transport Officers I; and
- (iv) Programme (4) Management of Transport Services: nine posts - one Senior Transport Officer, one Transport Officer I, four Transport Officers II, one Transport Controller I, one Transport Controller II and one Clerical Assistant; and

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1352

(b) Deletion of ten posts

- (i) Programme (1) Planning and Development: lapse of one time-limited post – one Chief Transport Officer;
- (ii) Programme (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers: seven posts – lapse of five time-limited posts (one Chief Executive Officer, one Senior Executive Officer, one Executive Officer I and two Computer Operators I) and deletion of two vacant posts (one Vehicle Tester and one Driving Examiner I); and
- (iii) Programme (3) District Traffic and Transport Services: lapse of two time-limited posts - one Senior Engineer and one Chief Transport Officer.

The staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary, for the 33 posts to be created at (a) is \$16.8 million, partly offset by \$6 million for the deletion of ten posts at (b).

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)118

Question Serial No.

1354

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The Administration will achieve the installation of electronic black boxes on franchised buses in 2007-08. Please inform this Committee of the details of such work, progress and expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

Electronic black boxes are required as a standard equipment on new buses to be purchased by all franchised bus companies.

The Long Win Bus Company Limited has installed electronic black boxes in all its buses except nine single-deck buses which are due for replacement in 2007-08. The New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited, Citybus Limited (Hong Kong Island and cross-harbour network) and The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited will complete the retrofitting of electronic black boxes on their existing fleets by end 2007. The New World First Bus Services Limited and Citybus Limited (Lantau and Airport network) will commence the retrofitting of electronic black boxes in 2008 for completion tentatively by end 2009.

The installation of electronic black boxes will be funded by the relevant franchised bus companies. No government expenditure will be incurred.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)119

Question Serial No.

1355

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In 2007-08, the Administration will continue to encourage the franchised bus companies to retrofit their buses with emission reduction devices and deploy environment friendly buses at busy corridors and monitor progress of the retrofitting works. Please inform this Committee of the details of such work, the progress and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

As at end 2006, about 2 970 franchised buses have been retrofitted with emission reduction devices (ERDs). All franchised buses of pre-Euro and Euro I emission standards have been retrofitted with ERDs. The Transport Department (TD) has been encouraging the franchised bus companies to continue to retrofit their buses of Euro II and Euro III emission standards with ERDs with a view to further reducing roadside emission.

Franchised bus companies are now examining the technical feasibility of installing ERDs on buses of Euro II and Euro III emission standards. Subject to technical feasibility, the franchised bus companies tentatively plan to retrofit ERDs on about 850 buses in 2007-08. TD will continue to discuss with the franchised bus companies on the programme of retrofitting ERDs on the remaining buses.

Since 2002, the franchised bus companies have deployed buses meeting Euro II emission standards or above to run along Yee Wo Street, Hennessy Road, Queensway, Des Voeux Road Central and Nathan Road. As at end 2006, about 86% of franchised buses running along these five busy corridors were of Euro II or above emission standard. The Government will continue to work with the franchised bus companies to deploy more environmental friendly buses at these busy corridors.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)119

Question Serial No.

1355

The retrofitting of ERDs and deployment of environmental friendly buses at busy corridors will be funded by the relevant franchised bus companies concerned. No government expenditure will be incurred.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)120

Question Serial No.

1356

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

Programme : (1) Planning & Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Under this programme, the Administration will process tenders for ferry service licences and application for extension of ferry franchise in 2007-08. Please inform this Committee of the details of such work, progress and expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

A total of 12 existing licences for operating outlying island and inner harbour ferry services will expire in the coming two years. Public tender exercises will be conducted in 2007-08 to select suitable operators to continue to operate the services concerned upon expiry of the current licences. Consultation with relevant district councils and area committees on the tender requirements will be held before commencement of the open tenders.

The current 10-year franchise granted to The “Star” Ferry Company Limited (SF) for operating two cross harbour services (viz. “Tsim Sha Tsui – Central” and “Tsim Sha Tsui – Wan Chai”) will expire on 31 March 2008. The application from the SF for continued provision of the two ferry services under a franchise is being processed with a view to making a recommendation for the Chief Executive in Council’s decision.

As the relevant work in respect of the aforesaid tender exercises for licensed ferry services and the grant of ferry franchise will be performed by existing staff, no additional expenditure will be incurred.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)121

Question Serial No.

1357

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 : Under Programme (3) District Traffic and Transport Services, the Administration will continue the construction of the Area Traffic Control (ATC) and Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) systems for the Tuen Mun and Yuen Long districts in 2007-08. Please inform this Committee of the details, progress and the associated expenditure of such work.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The implementation of the above ATC and CCTV systems commenced in March 2006. System design has been completed and equipment testing is being conducted. The project is scheduled for completion in late 2008.

The estimated expenditure for the project in 2007-08 is \$44 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **19 March 2007**

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)122

Question Serial No.

1358

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 : Under this programme, the Administration will facilitate the smooth operation of cross-boundary traffic and transport services and facilities at the land boundary control points (including the Spur Line and Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor) in 2007-08. Please inform this Committee of the details of such measures, progress and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

We will continue to monitor the cross-boundary traffic demand and the related transport services, facilities and infrastructure. In 2007-08, we will:

- (a) monitor and regularly review the service and operation of the Lok Ma Chau-Huanggang Cross-boundary Shuttle Bus as well as other cross-boundary coaches using the various land boundary control points;
- (b) plan and provide public transport interchanges (PTIs) at Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor (HK-SWC) and the Lok Ma Chau terminus of the Spur Line (Spur Line), and ensure the timely provision of public transport services;
- (c) improve the traffic and transport facilities on roads leading to the Spur Line PTI, including improvement of alternative access to Spur Line terminal area via Mai Po, modification to Yuen Long West Rail Station PTI to accommodate franchised bus services from Yuen Long to Spur Line PTI and HK-SWC PTI and provision of a taxi holding area near Castle Peak Road for taxis operating at the Spur Line PTI;
- (d) facilitate smooth operation of a franchised bus service from Tuen Mun to HK-SWC PTI by lengthening the bus bay on northbound Tuen Mun Heung Sze Wui Road; and
- (e) assist in the review of the quota arrangements for cross-boundary vehicles upon the commissioning of the HK-SWC.

Reply Serial No.

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Question Serial No.

1358

The estimated construction costs of the PTI at the Lok Ma Chau terminus and improvement works on roads leading to the Spur Line PTI are \$93.1 million and \$3.1 million respectively. The construction cost of the PTI at HK-SWC has been subsumed under the overall project costs of the relevant development. The monitoring work is carried out using internal resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)123

Question Serial No.

1629

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the Electronic Road Pricing transport model, please advise on the current progress of the study.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Transport Department commissioned the consultancy study “Congestion Charging Transport Model – Feasibility Study” in February 2006 to update the Electronic Road Pricing transport model developed in the previous feasibility study. Various charging scenarios are being developed and tested with the updated transport model. The Study is scheduled for completion in August 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **19 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)124

Question Serial No.

1630

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the Electronic Road Pricing transport model, does the Government have any implementation plan? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

At this stage, we have no concrete plan to implement electronic road pricing. Our current task is to conduct a consultancy study on the congestion charging transport model to update the model developed in the previous study and to test various charging scenarios. We will consult the public before making any decision.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **16 March 2007** _____

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)125

Question Serial No.

1631

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the Electronic Road Pricing transport model, what is the current progress of the transport model tests and what are the results?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

Various charging scenarios are being developed and tested with the updated transport model. The results will be available when the current study is completed in August 2007 according to the latest schedule.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG** _____

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **19 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)126

Question Serial No.

1632

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the Electronic Road Pricing transport model, will the Administration carry out public consultation? If yes, what is the estimated timetable?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

Our current task is to conduct the feasibility study on congestion charging transport model. At this stage, we have no concrete plan to implement electronic road pricing. We will consult the public before making any decision.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)127

Question Serial No.

1633

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The Transport Department will implement the installation of electronic black boxes on franchised buses in 2007–08. What is the expenditure involved, implementation timetable, and subsequent maintenance details including whether there will be regular maintenance and whether the bus companies will contract out the maintenance work?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

Electronic black boxes are required as a standard equipment on new buses to be purchased by all franchised bus companies.

The Long Win Bus Company Limited has installed electronic black boxes in all its buses except nine single-deck buses which are due for replacement in 2007-08. The New Lantau Bus Company (1973) Limited, Citybus Limited (Hong Kong Island and cross-harbour network) and The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited will complete the retrofitting of electronic black boxes on their existing fleets by end 2007. The New World First Bus Services Limited and Citybus Limited (Lantau and Airport network) will commence the retrofitting of electronic black boxes in 2008 for completion tentatively by end 2009.

The installation of electronic black boxes will be funded by the relevant franchised bus companies. No government expenditure will be incurred.

The bus companies will regularly monitor the performance of the electronic black boxes and the suppliers will provide maintenance for the equipment. The maintenance cost will be funded by the bus companies concerned.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)128

Question Serial No.

1634

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The Transport Department will continue to develop and implement the Transport Information System in 2007-08. What are the details of the project including the scope, expenditure, implementation timetable and additional staff that may be required?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The Transport Information System (TIS) is a centralized data warehouse for the collection, processing and dissemination of comprehensive transport information. The two key services of the TIS are -

- (a) providing traffic and transport information to value-added service providers in the private sector for developing intelligent transport applications such as car navigation, fleet management systems and personalized information services to the public; and
- (b) providing traffic and transport information on the Internet to the public for pre-trip planning.

The contract for developing the TIS was awarded in August 2006. System analysis and design have been completed, and data conversion and system implementation are in progress. The project is scheduled for completion in February 2008. The total project cost is \$63.6 million. No additional staff is required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **19 March 2007**

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)129

Question Serial No.

1635

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the implementation of Electronic Road Pricing, -

- (a) the Transport Department will continue to update the previous Electronic Road Pricing transport model and carry out tests on various charging scenarios in 2007-08. Please advise on the progress of the update and details of the tests on various charging scenarios, including the details of the scenarios, locations and durations of field tests and the estimated expenditure;
- (b) will the Administration establish a plan and details for implementing Electronic Road Pricing after completion of the above tests? If not, why not; and
- (c) when is the estimated earliest date of implementing Electronic Road Pricing in Hong Kong?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

- (a) The Transport Department commissioned the “Congestion Charging Transport Model – Feasibility Study” in February 2006. Various charging scenarios, including different combinations of charge areas, charge periods, and charge levels are being developed under the Study for testing with the updated transport model. No field tests will be carried out under the Study. The Study will be completed in August 2007. The estimated expenditure in 2007-08 is \$2.6 million;

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)129

Question Serial No.

1635

(b)&(c) Our current task is to conduct the feasibility study on congestion charging transport model. At this stage, we have no concrete plan to implement congestion charging. We will consult the public before making any decision.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)130

Question Serial No.

1825

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

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The provision for 2007-08 is 85.9% higher than the 2006-07 revised estimate.
Would the Government inform this Committee of :

- (1) the total expenditure which concerns the Tsing Sha Control Area, with breakdown by items; and
- (2) the total expenditure which concerns the Tsing Ma Control Area, with breakdown by items.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (1) The management fee for outsourcing the management, operation and maintenance of the Tsing Sha Control Area will be subject to the outcome of the tender exercise to be conducted in 2007-08. In the 2007-08 estimates, about 60% of the increased provision is earmarked for this purpose.
- (2) The increase in the provision for 2007-08 is not related to the Tsing Ma Control Area.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)131

Question Serial No.

1956

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : There will be an increase of two directorate posts and 21 non-directorate posts in 2007-08. Would the Government please advise this Council :
(1) the post titles and annual emoluments for the new posts, and
(2) the reasons for the creation of the new posts.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The net creation of 23 posts in 2007-08 is the result of creation of 33 posts offset by deletion of ten posts. The post-holders will take up duties and responsibilities contributing to the operation and delivery of services under the following programmes :

(a) Creation of 33 posts

- (i) Programme (1) Planning and Development: six posts - two Principal Transport Officers (D1), one Chief Transport Officer, one Senior Transport Officer, one Transport Officer I and one Transport Officer II;
- (ii) Programme (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers: 13 posts - one Systems Manager, four Senior Transport Officers, two Transport Officers I, one Transport Officer II, one Senior Transport Inspector, one Clerical Officer and three Clerical Assistants;
- (iii) Programme (3) District Traffic and Transport Services: five posts - one Senior Engineer, one Chief Transport Officer, one Senior Transport Officer and two Transport Officers I; and
- (iv) Programme (4) Management of Transport Services: nine posts - one Senior Transport Officer, one Transport Officer I, four Transport Officers II, one Transport Controller I, one Transport Controller II and one Clerical Assistant; and

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(b) Deletion of ten posts

- (i) Programme (1) Planning and Development: lapse of one time-limited post - one Chief Transport Officer;
- (ii) Programme (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers: seven posts – lapse of five time-limited posts (one Chief Executive Officer, one Senior Executive Officer, one Executive Officer I and two Computer Operators I) and deletion of two vacant posts (one Vehicle Tester and one Driving Examiner I); and
- (iii) Programme (3) District Traffic and Transport Services: lapse of two time-limited posts - one Senior Engineer and one Chief Transport Officer.

The staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary, for the 33 posts to be created at (a) is \$16.8 million, partly offset by \$6 million for the deletion of ten posts at (b).

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)132

Question Serial No.

2213

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In 2007-08, the Transport Department will provide support for the implementation of incentive schemes for the early replacement of pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new ones complying with the prevailing statutory emission standard and purchase of environment friendly cars. What are the staff and expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply :

The new schemes will be implemented on 1 April 2007. The Department's computer system will be enhanced to support the processing of applications for grants and first registration concessions arising from the two incentive schemes. The estimated cash flow requirement for the enhancement of the computer system in 2007-08 is around \$9 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)133

Question Serial No.

2214

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : There will be a net creation of six posts in 2007-08. Please advise the duties of the new posts and the expenditure incurred.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Ting-kwong

Reply :

The net creation of six posts in 2007-08 is the result of creation of 13 posts offset by deletion of seven posts, with details as follows :

(a) Creation of 13 posts

- (i) one Senior Transport Officer and one Systems Manager to deal with e-applications under the new One-Stop Portal;
- (ii) three Senior Transport Officers, one Transport Officer I, one Transport Officer II, one Clerical Officer and two Clerical Assistants to deal with additional work for the implementation of the Probationary Driving Licence Scheme and increasing workload resulting from the tightened control on non-franchised bus applications, and to improve the efficiency in taking enforcement actions against unauthorised bus services; and
- (iii) one Transport Officer I, one Senior Transport Inspector and one Clerical Assistant to carry out prosecution work relating to the Tsing Sha Control Area; and

(b) Deletion of seven posts

- (i) lapse of five time-limited posts (one Chief Executive Officer, one Senior Executive Officer, one Executive Officer I and two Computer Operators I); and
- (ii) two vacant posts as a result of natural wastage are no longer required (one Vehicle Tester and one Driving Examiner I).

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The staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary, for the 13 posts to be created at (a) is \$5.7 million, partly offset by \$3.2 million for the deletion of seven posts at (b).

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **19 March 2007**

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)134

Question Serial No.

2261

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 : With respect to the pedestrian schemes, please inform this Council of:

- (1) the details and effectiveness of the schemes implemented in the past three years;
- (2) the expenditures involved; and
- (3) the details and estimated expenditures of schemes to be implemented in 2007-08 and 2008-09.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

(1) & (2) Details and expenditures of the pedestrian schemes implemented in the past three years are as follows :

District	Location	Year of Completion	Project Expenditure \$ million
Central & Western	Theatre Lane	2004	2.5
	Elgin Street, Peel Street and Staunton Street	2006	
Wan Chai	Johnston Road (between Burrow Street & Fleming Road)	2004	1.0
	Johnston Road (between Ship Street and Amoy Street)	2005	
	Johnston Road (between Landale Street and Thomson Road)	2006	
	Johnston Road (between Triangle Street and Wan Chai Road)	2006	

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District	Location	Year of Completion	Project Expenditure \$ million
Yau Tsim Mong	Nanking Street (between Parkes Street and Shanghai Street)	2005	4.3
	Nanking Street (between Nathan Road and Parkes Street)	2006	
	Temple Street (between Kansu Street and Nanking Street)	2006	
Sham Shui Po	Apliu Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	2004	1.2
Yuen Long	Yuen Long New Street	2005	1.3

The above schemes have significantly improved the overall pedestrian environment through reduction of non-essential traffic and vehicle/pedestrian conflicts, enhancement of streetscape and improvement in roadside air quality. The schemes are generally welcomed by the respective District Councils, shop operators and the general public.

- (3) Details and estimated expenditures of pedestrian schemes to be implemented in 2007-08 and 2008-09 are as follows :

District	Location	Target Completion Date	Project Estimate \$ million	Estimated Expenditure in 2007-08 \$ million	Estimated Expenditure in 2008-09 \$ million
Wan Chai	Lockhart Road, East Point Road and Great George Street	Early 2009	4.3	0.9	2.6
	Yiu Wah Street	Mid 2008			

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District	Location	Target Completion Date	Project Estimate \$ million	Estimated Expenditure in 2007-08 \$ million	Estimated Expenditure in 2008-09 \$ million
Yau Tsim Mong	Pilkem Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	Mid 2007	13.1	4.7	4.6
	Bowring Street (between Nathan Road and Parkes Street)	End 2007			
	Woosung Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	Mid 2008			
	Parkes Street (between Jordan Road and Saigon Street)	End 2009			
	Ning Po Street (between Nathan Road and Shanghai Street)	End 2007			
	Shanghai Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	End 2007			
	Minden Avenue	Mid 2007			
	Kimberley Road (between Nathan Road and Carnarvon Road)	End 2008			
	Ashley Road (to the north of Peking Road)	Early 2008			
	Peking Road (between Nathan Road and Kowloon Park Drive)	Mid 2007			
	Pak Hoi Street	End 2009			
Prat Avenue (between Hart Avenue and Chatham Road South)	Early 2009				

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District	Location	Target Completion Date	Project Estimate \$ million	Estimated Expenditure in 2007-08 \$ million	Estimated Expenditure in 2008-09 \$ million
Sham Shui Po	Fuk Wa Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	End 2007	11.8	3.4	3.5
	Pei Ho Street (between Yu Chau Street and Un Chau Street)	Mid 2007			
	Fuk Wing Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	Mid 2009			
	Kweilin Street (between Yu Chau Street and Un Chow Street)	End 2008			
	Yu Chau Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	Mid 2008			
	Nam Cheong Street (between Un Chau Street and Yu Chau Street)	Early 2009			

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)135

Question Serial No.

2262

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 measures for enhancing road safety, please inform me of:

- (1) the details of the measures implemented in the past three years and their results;
- (2) the costs involved in the above measures; and
- (3) the measures planned for 2007-08 and 2008-09 and their estimated cost.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (1) The Transport Department (TD) has implemented the following key measures to enhance road safety in the past three years -
 - (i) analysing accident trends and accident blackspots to help formulate strategy and measures to enhance road safety;
 - (ii) implementing traffic management measures, such as providing/improving pedestrian crossing facilities, railings, traffic signals, traffic signs and markings;
 - (iii) developing the Road Safety Vision and Symbol;
 - (iv) organising seminars and publicity activities for the transport trades;
 - (v) adding a total of 80 red light cameras and 80 camera housings at the total cost of \$66.24 million; and
 - (vi) adding eight speed enforcement cameras and 75 camera housings at the total cost of \$25.16 million.

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2262

TD has also worked closely with other departments and the Road Safety Council in implementing the following initiatives -

- (i) extending seat belt legislation to the rear passenger seats of public light buses;
- (ii) updating the standards for protective helmets and seat belt requirements;
- (iii) raising the penalties on failure to comply with traffic signals;
- (iv) launching publicity campaigns on “Road Safety Vision and Symbol”, “SmartDriving”, “Red Light Jumping”, etc.;
- (v) launching new TV and/or radio APIs on road safety messages; and
- (vi) preparing and distributing pamphlets and bulletins on road safety messages.

With the continuous efforts of all parties and participation of the community to enhance road safety, the number of persons killed or seriously injured in traffic accidents has been steadily declining from 3 840 in 1997 to 2 652 in 2006. The number of persons killed in traffic accidents in 2006 was 144, which was the lowest since 1957.

- (2) Except for the red light camera and speed enforcement camera projects which cost \$91.4 million, the above measures form an integral part of TD’s day-to-day efforts to improve road safety, traffic flow and transport operation. There is no breakdown on the expenditure of the work involved.
- (3) The following key measures are planned for 2007-08 and 2008-09 -
 - (a) TD will continue to implement traffic management schemes, carry out accident and blacksite investigations and liaise with the transport trades to further enhance safety of their operations. We will also consider further expansion of the red light and speed enforcement camera systems.

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- (b) TD will also assist in the examination and introduction of the following major legislative proposals -
- (i) to extend the Probationary Driving Licence Scheme to novice drivers of private cars and light goods vehicles;
 - (ii) to require the use of safer seats on school transport vehicles;
 - (iii) to require the installation of speed display device on public light buses and to make misuse and malfunctioning of the device an offence;
 - (iv) to require the installation of vehicle reversing device on goods vehicles;
 - (v) to raise penalties on drink driving offences and introduce random breath testing;
 - (vi) to raise penalties on the offence of causing death by dangerous driving; and
 - (vii) to require repeated traffic offenders and offenders of serious traffic offences to attend driving improvement courses.
- (c) TD will continue to work with relevant parties in the launching of road safety publicity campaigns and activities to raise public awareness of road safety.

The above work will continue to be carried out by TD's existing resources. The capital cost for expanding the red light and speed enforcement camera systems will be worked out when the scope is finalised.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)136

Question Serial No.

2263

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What is the reason for the significant increase in provision for Civil Service Provident Fund contribution from \$0.5 million in 2006-07 to \$1.263 million in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The increase in provision is to cater for making Civil Service Provident Fund contribution for more staff when they become eligible during 2007-08, i.e., as civil servants appointed on or after 1 June 2000 on new entry terms progress onto permanent terms upon completion of probation and/or agreement.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG** _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 19 March 2007 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)137

Question Serial No.

2264

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :
000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What is the reason for the significant increase in provision for contract maintenance from \$52.252 million in 2006-07 to \$103.792 million in 2007-08?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The increase is mainly due to the outsourcing of the management, operation and maintenance of the Tsing Sha Control Area.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **19 March 2007**

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)138

Question Serial No.

2265

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : What are the details of the public transport forward planning programmes processed by the Administration in 2005-06 and 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

In 2005-06 and 2006-07, the Administration processed forward planning programmes (FPPs) submitted on an annual basis by the following companies which provide franchised bus or ferry services :

- (a) Citybus Limited for its Hong Kong Island and Cross-Harbour bus network;
- (b) Citybus Limited for its Airport and Lantau Island bus network;
- (c) The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited;
- (d) Long Win Bus Company Limited;
- (e) New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited;
- (f) New World First Bus Services Limited; and
- (g) The “Star” Ferry Company Limited.

The FPPs contain proposals on route development or other service changes; bus or vessel fleet requirements; programme for maintenance, servicing, scrapping and purchase of vehicles or vessels; provision of depots or pier facilities; and a forecast of the financial implication of the overall programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **19 March 2007**

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)139

Question Serial No.

2266

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Regarding the development plans of bus services, what are the details of work in 2007-08 in further enhancing the provision of section fares by franchised bus companies to reduce travel expense of passengers?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

Fares of franchised bus services are set in accordance with the scales of fares of the respective bus companies which are basically distance-based. Currently, section fares are already provided on over 70% of the franchised bus routes. Those routes without section fares are mostly short haul routes, race course routes or leisure routes. The Administration will continue to discuss with the franchised bus companies to explore the feasibility of introducing section fares on more routes, taking account of their operational and financial circumstances, with a view to reducing the travel expenses of the passengers.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)140

Question Serial No.

2268

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The Transport Department will continue to develop and implement the Transport Information System (TIS) in 2007-08. Please inform this Committee of –

- (1) how much staff and resources would be deployed by the Administration to monitor the progress of the TIS project to ensure that it would be completed on schedule?
- (2) what are the new measures that would be taken by the Administration to ensure that the system would be completed smoothly?

Asked by : Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply :

- (1) The Transport Department (TD) has set up a team comprising four professionals and five technical staff to manage the Transport Information System (TIS) contract and co-ordinate with potential users of the new system. The estimated total staff cost in terms of notional annual mid-point salary is about \$3.9 million.
- (2) To ensure that the TIS contract would be completed smoothly, the team will continue to closely monitor and manage the project, including the schedule of key tasks, associated resource requirements, division of responsibilities, collaboration among concerned parties and other related issues. TD and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer have been conducting regular meetings with the contractor to ensure mutual understanding of the requirements and timely resolution of problems. TD will continue to keep close liaison with all stakeholders to ensure satisfactory completion of the new contract in a timely manner.

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ETWB(T)140

Question Serial No.

2268

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

ALAN WONG

Commissioner for Transport

19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)141

Question Serial No.

2290

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : The Transport Department will achieve the installation of electronic black boxes on franchised buses in 2007–08. What is the implementation timetable?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

Electronic black boxes are required as a standard equipment on new buses to be purchased by all franchised bus companies. The Long Win Company Limited has installed electronic black boxes in all its buses except nine single-deck buses which are due for replacement in 2007-08. The New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited, Citybus Limited (Hong Kong Island and cross-harbour network) and The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited will complete the retrofitting of electronic black boxes on their existing fleets by end 2007. The New World First Bus Services Limited and Citybus Limited (Lantau and Airport network) will commence the retrofitting of electronic black boxes in 2008 for completion tentatively by end 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **19 March 2007**

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)142

Question Serial No.

2291

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In 2007-08, the Transport Department will continue to study the feasibility of harnessing advanced technologies to enhance the capability of the Department in incident management. Please provide the details of the advanced technologies already employed to enhance the capability of the Department in incident management. Has a concrete timetable been formulated for the associated work? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The following advanced technologies have been employed to enhance the Transport Department's incident management capability:

- (i) implementing a digitised incident map system to collate and display information from different sources for assessment of the severity and spread of congestion during an incident;
- (ii) employing third-generation (3G) mobile phones to transmit images of roads or incident sites back to the Emergency Transport Co-ordination Centre;
- (iii) employing mobile closed-circuit television (CCTV) to enhance the monitoring of site situation;
- (iv) implementing the Journey Time Indication System (JTIS) to provide the estimated journey time to motorists for travelling from Hong Kong Island to Kowloon via the three road-harbour crossings;
- (v) uploading Traffic Speed Maps on the Internet to show the journey time and average vehicular speed along major approach roads to the three cross-harbour tunnels on Hong Kong Island, and the traffic conditions of major roads in Kowloon and New Territories (South);

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Question Serial No.

2291

- (vi) introducing a real-time incident management communication system to allow the Transport Department and other departments to obtain an overview of the incidents and to appreciate the wider implications of their actions;
- (vii) expanding the coverage of area traffic control systems to enhance management and control of traffic signals;
- (viii) enhancing the Transport Department's homepage to provide more effective means of information dissemination. Real-time traffic information is now available in formats compatible with mobile phones and personal digital assistants to facilitate members of the public to obtain the latest traffic information;
- (ix) establishing an Interactive Voice Response System, which can be activated to provide real-time traffic information through telephone response in case of major planned traffic and transport events; and
- (x) co-operating with mobile phone companies to provide CCTV images and traffic news to 3G mobile phone users.

Moreover, the following measures are in the pipeline for implementation:

- (i) upgrading the mobile CCTV service with more camera sets and adopting the 3.5G technology – Upgrade is in hand to provide more cameras and higher image quality;
- (ii) provision of temporary CCTV service at 12 locations. This will provide round the-clock CCTV images at locations not covered by the existing CCTV system;
- (iii) expansion of the CCTV traffic camera system to improve the coverage along major routes for completion in late 2010; and
- (iv) expansion of JTIS to Kowloon. This will provide journey time information for motorists to make informed route choices based on latest traffic information at major approach roads to the road-harbour crossings in Kowloon.

In addition, the Transport Department commissioned a feasibility study in March 2007 to investigate and develop a total solution for deploying advanced technologies to enhance incident management capabilities. The study is scheduled for completion in March 2008.

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ETWB(T)142

Question Serial No.

2291

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)143

Question Serial No.

2292

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In 2006, there were 51 inquiries conducted on unauthorised operation by vehicles governed under the Passenger Service Licence System. Please provide a summary of each case and the inquiry results.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The 51 inquiries in 2006 were all related to unauthorised non-franchised bus. Out of these, 16 cases were completed and substantiated. Sanctions were imposed on nine passenger service licence (PSL) holders, ranging from temporary suspension of the PSL of six buses for three or four months to cancellation of the PSL of three buses. Sanctions of the other seven PSL holders are being considered and will be imposed soon. The remaining 35 cases are at different stages of inquiry.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)144

Question Serial No.

2293

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 : The Administration originally planned to introduce five new green minibus (GMB) service routes in 2006 but actually no route was introduced. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

Among the five GMB routes proposed for introduction in 2006, three of them will soon commence operation later this year having regard to the latest population intake situation and the views of the District Councils concerned. As regards the remaining two routes, one will be tendered in due course for introduction in late 2007; while the passenger demand for and viability of the other one are being reviewed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)145

Question Serial No.

2294

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

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : In 2007-08, the Transport Department will continue to take forward the recommendations of the Task Force on Emergency Transport Co-ordination. What are the recommendations implemented and not implemented; and the timetable for implementation of those recommendations not yet completed?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

The Transport Department has implemented all the immediate and short term measures recommended by the Task Force. These include development and refinement of contingency measures, systematic management of incidents, measures to facilitate traffic diversion and incident recovery, enhancement in communication and coordination within and between departments, better set-up of the Emergency Transport Co-ordination Centre to enhance coordination, and better dissemination of information to the public through improved work arrangement and technology. Actions are being taken on the remaining recommendations, which are of medium to long term nature, including:

- (i) conducting a feasibility study on deploying advanced technology in incident management. The study was commissioned in March 2007 for completion in early 2008; and
- (ii) installing about 400 closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs) to enhance the coverage of the CCTV system along major routes by 2010.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **19 March 2007**

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)146

Question Serial No.

2542

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

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : Referring to the tasks undertaken by the Infrastructure Management Planning Section, please advise this Committee :

- (1) the major highway, bridge and tunnel projects to be constructed in the territory and across the boundary in the next five years.
- (2) the cost involved for these projects.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (1) The major highway, bridge and tunnel projects under planning, construction of which may commence in the next five years, are as follows:

Project

- (i) Central – Wan Chai Bypass & Island Eastern Corridor Link
- (ii) Gascoigne Road Flyover Widening
- (iii) Central Kowloon Route
- (iv) Tseung Kwan O – Lam Tin Tunnel (formerly known as Western Coast Road)
- (v) Tsuen Wan Road Upgrading
- (vi) Reconstruction and Improvement to Tuen Mun Road
- (vii) Traffic improvements to Tuen Mun Road Town Centre Section
- (viii) Widening of Tuen Mun Road at Tsing Tin Interchange
- (ix) Trunk Road T4 in Sha Tin

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2542

Project

- (x) Widening of Tolo/Fanling Highway between Island House Interchange and Fanling
- (xi) Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macao Bridge (HZMB) (Hong Kong Section)
- (xii) HZMB – North Lantau Highway Connection

- (2) The total estimated construction cost of the projects listed (i) to (x) above is in the region of \$50 billion. The costs of the two projects listed (xi) and (xii) above can only be determined upon the approval of the HZMB feasibility study report by the Central People's Government and the finalisation of the relevant alignment option respectively.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 19 March 2007

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)147

Question Serial No.

2639

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

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

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

Question : There will be a net creation of nine posts in 2007-08. Would the Government please give details on :

- (1) the number of posts to be created and deleted, the reasons and the salary of the new posts; and
- (2) the criteria for the creation of new posts.

Asked by : Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply :

It is expected that there will be a creation of nine posts in 2007-08, with details as follows :

- (i) one Senior Transport Officer and four Transport Officers II to enhance the operational efficiency of the Emergency Transport Co-ordination Centre, and to cope with increased workload resulting from the management of traffic and transport incidents and the dissemination of timely information on incidents and special traffic arrangements to the public; and
- (ii) one Transport Officer I, one Transport Controller I, one Transport Controller II and one Clerical Assistant to monitor the operation of the Tsing Sha Control Area.

The nine posts are required for the operation and delivery of services under Programme (4) Management of Transport Services. The staff cost is \$3 million, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary. No posts will be deleted in 2007-08.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **19 March 2007**

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)148

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund
Head 706-Highways

Subhead (No. & title) :

Question Serial No.

1521

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

The estimated expenditure for Head 706 - Highways in 2007-08 is \$3,414,593,000. This represents a decrease of \$1,729,871,000 (33.6%) compared to the revised estimate of \$5,144,464,000 in 2006-07. Will the Administration please inform this Committee of the reasons for the drastic decrease in expenditure under this Head.

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The decrease in the estimated expenditure under Head 706 in 2007-08 as compared with that in 2006-07 is mainly due to the anticipated reduction of expenditure in 2007-08 for a number of major projects as these projects are progressing to their final stage of construction, which include Castle Peak Road Improvement between Sham Tseng and Ka Loon Tsuen, Tsuen Wan; Improvement to Castle Peak Road between Ka Loon Tsuen and Siu Lam; Route 8 between Cheung Sha Wan and Sha Tin; and Route 8 between Tsing Yi and Cheung Sha Wan - Ngong Shuen Chau Viaduct and the associated works.

Signature _____

Name in block letters **WAI CHI SING** _____

Post Title **Director of Highways** _____

Date **19 March 2007** _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)149

Head : Subhead (No. & title) :
Capital Works Reserve Fund 6553TH
Head 706-Highways

Question Serial No.

1525

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

What is the progress of the following project? How will the provision for 2007-08 be spent? What is the anticipated completion date of the project? Is it different from the anticipated completion date proposed at the time when the project was approved?

- (1) 6553TH: Castle Peak Road improvement between Sham Tseng and Ka Loon Tsuen, Tsuen Wan

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The improvement works for the 3.7-kilometre (km) long section of Castle Peak Road between Sham Tseng and Ka Loon Tsuen, except for a 400-metre (m) road section to the west of Tsing Lung Tau, was substantially completed in May 2006. The improved dual two-lane carriageway has been opened to traffic. The project was delayed by about 11 months against the forecast completion date of June 2005 at the time of funding approval.

The remaining 400-m road section to the west of Tsing Lung Tau, is anticipated to be substantially completed in June 2007. A provision of \$40 million has been made in 2007-08 mainly for payment of improvement works for the remaining 400-m road section and the associated resident site staff cost.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 19 March 2007 _____

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

Head: Capital Works Reserve Fund
Head 707 - New Towns and Urban Area
Development

Subhead :
7771TH, 7780TH

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

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

Question :

What is the progress of the following projects? How will the provision for 2007-08 be used? When will the projects be completed? Is there any deviation from their expected dates of completion when these projects were approved?

- (1) 7771TH: Tsuen Wan Road upgrading – site investigation and preliminary design
- (2) 7780TH: Retrofitting of noise barriers on Cheung Pei Shan Road, Tsuen Wan

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

- (1) 7771TH : Tsuen Wan Road upgrading – site investigation and preliminary design

The study is now progressing with the traffic and environmental impact assessment. It is anticipated that the study will be completed in the second half of 2007. The provision of \$2.7 million in 2007-08 has been earmarked for the consultancy fee and the cost of site investigation. Funding approval for this study was obtained in March 2002. The anticipated completion date has been deferred as the overall programme has been under review in response to certain changes in the planning parameters.

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)150

Question Serial No.

2708

(2) 7780TH : Retrofitting of noise barriers on Cheung Pei Shan Road, Tsuen Wan

The progress of this project commenced in September 2005 is on schedule. About 25% of the project work has been completed to date. At the time of Finance Committee's approval, we anticipated the completion date to be March 2008. However, due to additional utility diversion works, we expect to complete the works in mid 2008. The provision of \$40 million in 2007-08 will be used for payment of the construction of noise barriers, semi-noise enclosures, associated works and resident site staff cost.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ADRIAN NG** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Civil Engineering and Development (Acting)** _____

Date _____ **16 March 2007** _____