

**Replies to initial written questions raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09**

**Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing
Session No. : 14**

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department Subhead:

Programme: (5) Air Services

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Administration will monitor the noise and flight tracks of aircraft operating to and from the Hong Kong International Airport in 2008, and implement the noise abatement programme. Please provide the details of the related tasks and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

In 2008-09, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) will continue to monitor aircraft noise and flight routes round the clock through the Aircraft Noise and Flight Track Monitoring System (the System). The System comprises 16 noise monitors installed near the landing and take-off paths at the Hong Kong International Airport. CAD will also continue to implement the noise abatement programme through design of flight paths, landing and take-off procedures, and prohibition of aircraft which cannot meet international standards to minimise the nuisance caused by aircraft noise.

The estimated annual staff cost involved is about \$2.3 million. The recurrent repair and maintenance cost of the System is about \$1.6 million per year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **NORMAN LO** _____

Post Title _____ Director-General of Civil Aviation _____

Date _____ 19.3.2008 _____

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Air Traffic Management

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Budget emphasizes that as an international and regional aviation hub, Hong Kong has to improve its competitiveness. However, the enhancement of our runway capacity has been slow and it will only be increased from 54 movements/hour to 58 movements/hour in 2009, and then to 68 movements/hour not until 2015. The Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport, our neighbouring competitor, has decided to commence the construction of a third runway next year. By 2010, its runway capacity will reach 106 movements/hour during peak hours while Shenzhen's will be 63 movements/hour. Will the Administration consider allocating additional resources to expedite the slow enhancement of the runway capacity at the Hong Kong International Airport so that it will be increased to 68 movements/hour by 2011 instead of 2015? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Jinghan, Albert

Reply:

Following the Government's pledge in May 2007 that it would increase the runway capacity at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) to 58 movements per hour in 2009, the 2008-09 Budget mentions that with the support of the Airport Authority (AA) and the industry, we are confident that the capacity of the existing runways can be gradually increased to 68 aircraft movements per hour by 2015. In other words, we need not wait until 2015 to increase the runway capacity beyond 58 movements per hour.

The operating environment of the HKIA is unique, with high terrains together with a complicated and restrictive airspace surrounding the airport. Despite these constraints, we aim to further increase the runway capacity to 62 movements per hour by 2011 and to 68 movements per hour by 2015. We have worked out this timeline after taking into account the time required to introduce a wide range of improvement measures, the need for all concerned parties to be properly trained and get used to the new procedures, the need for the Civil Aviation Department to conduct detailed assessments to confirm the safety of the new measures, and the 12-month period, i.e. 6 months before and 6 months after the commissioning of the new Air Traffic Control Centre (expected to be in end 2012), during which the operational procedures should remain unchanged to ensure safe air traffic

operations throughout the transition. There is no room for compressing the timeline without compromising aviation safety.

We also stand ready to consider if the target runway capacity of 68 movements per hour can be further increased when our ongoing liaison with the civil aviation authorities of the Mainland and Macao results in an improvement in the use of airspace and the co-ordination of air traffic management in the Pearl River Delta region.

As mentioned in the 2008-09 Budget, the AA intends to start within 2008 the engineering and environmental feasibility studies on the proposal of building a third runway at the HKIA. The runway capacity will be further increased if the third runway is built.

Signature _____

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 26.3.2008

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department Subhead:

Programme:

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the studies (including in-house studies or those entrusted to consultants) conducted by the Department for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

- (1) For those consultancy studies that have been earmarked funds in 2007-08, please provide information in the following format :

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimates (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

- (2) Are there any funds earmarked for conducting consultancy studies in 2008-09? If yes, please provide the following information :

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply:

The Civil Aviation Department has not earmarked any funds in 2007-08 and 2008-09 to conduct consultancy studies for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ NORMAN LO _____

Post Title _____ Director-General of Civil Aviation _____

Date _____ 18.3.2008 _____

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Air Traffic Management

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is mentioned in the 2008-09 Budget that the Administration will increase the capacity of the two existing runways of the Hong Kong International Airport progressively from the present 54 movements per hour to 58 movements per hour in 2009 and to 68 movements per hour by 2015. In this regard, will the Administration deploy additional air traffic management staff in the 2008-09 financial year? If so, please provide the number of additional staff and the amount of financial provision involved.

Asked by: Hon. HO Chung-tai, Raymond

Reply:

In 2008-09, eight additional posts of air traffic management staff will be created to undertake the related work. The annual staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is \$6.2 million.

It is envisaged that we would need additional air traffic management posts to cope with the workload upon the increase in the runway capacity to 68 movements per hour by 2015. We are working out the required manpower resources which will be sought through the established procedures.

Signature _____

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 26.3.2008

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (5) Air Services

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In 2008-09, the Civil Aviation Department will monitor aircraft noise and flight routes, and implement the noise abatement programme. Please provide:

- (a) the number of cases where aircraft noise level exceeded the standard during landing and take-off from 2004-05 to 2006-07;
- (b) the details of and timetable for implementing the noise abatement programme; and
- (c) the expenditure incurred.

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

- (a) The Schedule to the Civil Aviation (Aircraft Noise) Ordinance (Cap 312) stipulates that all subsonic jet aircraft landing and taking off in Hong Kong shall comply with the standards of noise in Chapter 3 of Volume I Part II of Annex 16 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation. There have been no cases of contravention since the enactment of the requirement in 2002.
- (b) As an ongoing effort, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) will continue to monitor aircraft noise and flight routes round the clock through the Aircraft Noise and Flight Track Monitoring System (the System). The System comprises 16 noise monitors installed near the landing and take-off paths at the Hong Kong International Airport. CAD will also continue to implement the noise abatement programme through design of flight paths, landing and take-off procedures, and prohibition of aircraft which cannot meet international standards to minimise the nuisance caused by aircraft noise.
- (c) The estimated annual staff cost involved is about \$2.3 million. The recurrent repair and maintenance cost of the System is about \$1.6 million per year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 19.3.2008

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department Subhead:

Programme: (1) Flight Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

During 2008-09, the Civil Aviation Department will review the policy on the avoidance of drug and alcohol abuse in personnel holding aviation safety-sensitive posts. Among such personnel, how many of them were involved in drug and alcohol abuse at their posts in 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08? What are the specific details of the review?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

Hong Kong airlines are required to file with the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) reports of drug or alcohol abuse incidents. In the past three financial years, CAD has not received any report of drug or alcohol abuse by personnel holding aviation safety-sensitive posts.

According to Annex 1 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, holders of licences (including flight crews and air traffic controllers) shall not exercise the privileges of their licences while under the influence of any psychoactive substance (including alcohol and psychostimulants) which might render them unable to safely and properly exercise their privileges. Furthermore, in accordance with the Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order 1995 (Cap 448C), a person shall not, when acting as a member of the crew of any aircraft, be under the influence of drink or a drug to such an extent as to impair his capacity so to act.

To ensure compliance with the requirements, CAD, in consultation with its appointed medical assessors and representatives of airlines and pilots, reviews the implementation of the policy from time to time and is now considering the publication of a Code of Practice to prevent drug and alcohol abuse by personnel holding aviation safety-sensitive posts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 20.3.2008

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department Subhead:

Programme: (2) Airport Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please provide the number of inspections conducted in every airport every year and their main purposes. Are there any random surprise inspections? If so, what is the number? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

The Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) is the only licenced aerodrome in Hong Kong. In 2007, CAD conducted 225 inspections on the HKIA including 170 random surprise inspections. The main purpose of these inspections is to monitor the performance of the aerodrome licence holder (i.e. the Airport Authority) in aerodrome safety and aviation security so as to ensure that its operations comply with all relevant international and local airport safety and aviation security standards.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **NORMAN LO** _____

Post Title _____ **Director-General of Civil Aviation** _____

Date _____ **17.3.2008** _____

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department Subhead:

Programme: (2) Airport Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

How much resources have been earmarked by the Civil Aviation Department for monitoring the construction of new facilities in the airport?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

The Airport Authority (AA) is responsible for planning as well as coordinating with its business partners the development of new facilities at the Hong Kong International Airport. For those facilities undertaken by AA, the AA is responsible for monitoring the construction of such facilities. The role of the Airport Standards Division of the Civil Aviation Department is to monitor the AA's performance in aerodrome safety and aviation security, including the safety and security implications of the facilities on airport operations. The resources required are primarily staff costs and related operating expenses. They are part of the overall provision under Head 28 Civil Aviation Department Programme (2) (\$33.5 million for 2008-09 (Estimate)), but we do not have a breakdown of the provision that relates to such monitoring work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **NORMAN LO**

Post Title _____ **Director-General of Civil Aviation**

Date _____ **19.3.2008**

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department

Subhead:

Programme: (1) Flight Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In 2008-09, what will be the expenditure involved in reviewing the policy on the avoidance of fatigue in aircrews? Please provide further information such as the implementation timetable and roadmap, etc.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

On the policy on the avoidance of fatigue in aircrews, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) has published detailed guidelines requiring Hong Kong airlines to establish flight time limitations (FTL) schemes for their crew members (including flight crews and cabin crews) in accordance with the standards and recommended practices promulgated by the International Civil Aviation Organization. The FTL schemes should ensure that crew members have adequate rest so that they can perform their duties effectively. CAD conducts flight inspections and documentation checking to ensure compliance by airlines with the associated FTL requirements. In addition, Hong Kong airlines are required to file with CAD reports of crew fatigue incidents.

In the light of the operational experience with the introduction of new and longer range aircraft types for ultra-long haul flights, we need to review the FTL provisions from time to time. The FTL working group, chaired by CAD and comprising CAD's appointed medical assessors and representatives of airline pilot associations, flight attendant associations and airlines, meets regularly to review the policy and to update the guidelines on the avoidance of fatigue in aircrews.

The above work is undertaken by CAD's existing staff as part of their normal duties under Programme (1). There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved for this particular duty.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ NORMAN LO

Post Title _____ Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date _____ 20.3.2008

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department Subhead:

Programme: (1) Flight Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Is it possible to explain the reasons for the re-scheduling of two inspections of local maintenance organizations to 2008?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

The reasons for re-scheduling two local maintenance organization inspections from 2007 to 2008 are as follows :

1. As a result of a delay in the opening of a new maintenance facility by the maintenance organisation concerned, the inspection originally planned for November 2007 was postponed to February 2008.
2. Due to the unavailability of the aircraft concerned at the time of the scheduled inspection in December 2007, a combined aircraft and maintenance organization inspection of the organisation concerned was postponed to mid January 2008. The combined inspection comprises a review and examination of the associated maintenance procedures and is one that requires an aircraft undergoing maintenance to be present at the maintenance facility for inspection.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **NORMAN LO** _____

Post Title _____ **Director-General of Civil Aviation** _____

Date _____ **18.3.2008** _____

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department Subhead:

Programme: (1) Flight Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Is it possible to reveal the content of the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme of the International Civil Aviation Organization and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) established the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) in January 2005. Under USOAP, ICAO will conduct comprehensive on-site audits on all Contracting States to ensure that their safety oversight systems comply with international standards regarding operation and airworthiness of aircraft, airport, personnel licensing, etc.

According to the work plan of USOAP, the audit team will visit Hong Kong in 2009 to conduct a comprehensive system audit of our civil aviation system.

The estimated cost of the audit to be borne by the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) is around \$400,000. All other related tasks will be undertaken by CAD's existing staff as part of their normal duties and there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **NORMAN LO** _____

Post Title _____ **Director-General of Civil Aviation** _____

Date _____ **17.3.2008** _____

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Air Traffic Management

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

There will be an increased provision of \$12.4 million (4.2%) to fill job vacancies and to create 19 posts in 2008-09. Please provide a breakdown of the new posts specifying the ranks, job duties and the salaries.

Asked by: Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply:

The information on the 19 posts to be created in 2008-09 is set out below:

10 Air Traffic Control Officer II

The ten posts will provide the necessary manpower support for the new Civil Aviation Department (CAD) building project team and will be responsible for the planning and design of the operational requirements of the new air traffic control system; testing and evaluation of the new systems; designing and evaluating new operating procedures; and conducting conversion training to existing controllers. The annual staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is \$7.5 million.

4 Air Traffic Control Officer II

The four posts will be responsible for manning a new Departure Upper control position to cope with the increasing traffic in the Hong Kong Terminal Control Area. The annual staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is \$3.0 million.

1 Senior Operations Officer and 1 Operations Officer

The two posts will be responsible for designing and developing new flight procedures and reviewing the existing procedures for aircraft operations in the Hong Kong Flight Information Region. The officers will also conduct study and simulation of traffic for enhancing air traffic management efficiency and capacity. The annual staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is \$1.6 million.

1 Senior Operations Officer and 1 Operations Officer

The two posts are needed to strengthen Safety Management System support and will be responsible for establishing safety policies, implementing safety procedures, overseeing air traffic control operations and training, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements, conducting internal audits, safety assessment and incident investigation. The annual staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is \$1.6 million.

1 Assistant Information Officer

The post is needed to strengthen the support of the department's Public Relations Office which is at present staffed only by one Senior Information Officer. The annual staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is \$0.3 million.

Signature _____
Name in block letters NORMAN LO
Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation
Date 18.3.2008

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department Subhead:

Programme: (4) Air Traffic Engineering and Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is stated that the department will develop implementation plans and procure equipment for the study and trials of the satellite-based Communications, Navigation, Surveillance / Air Traffic Management (CNS/ATM) Systems during 2008-09. What are the plans and how much resources will be allocated?

Asked by: Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply:

The implementation plan of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for satellite-based CNS/ATM Systems is an evolving programme that is reviewed from time to time, taking into account global developments on new technology. The Civil Aviation Department will plan and acquire relevant system components with reference to the latest implementation requirements as specified by ICAO. The implementation plan in 2008-09 is as follows –

- (a) Arrival Metering and Sequencing System – its operational trial will start in April 2008;
- (b) Advanced Surface Movement Guidance and Control System – its operational trial will commence in May 2008; and
- (c) Pre-Departure Clearance via 2-way data link – trials are being conducted with various airlines and the system will be put into operational use in June 2008.

The expenditure required for the CNS/ATM Systems in 2008-09 is estimated to be \$37 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 20.3.2008

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department Subhead:

Programme: (5) Air Services

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In 2008-09, the department will continue to monitor the allocation of runway slots and time-keeping performance of airlines in the light of expected traffic growth. What is the concrete plan and the resources involved?

Asked by: Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply:

In 2008-09, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) will continue to monitor the allocation of runway slots and the time-keeping performance of airlines, with a view to maintaining an orderly flow of traffic in and out of the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA). Apart from the day-to-day monitoring work, the overall situation of slots usage and time-keeping performance of airlines at the HKIA will be reported regularly to the Scheduling Advisory Committee chaired by the Deputy Director-General of Civil Aviation and comprising representatives from airlines and the Airport Authority for review and appropriate follow-up actions. The above work is undertaken by CAD's existing staff as part of their normal duties under Programme (5). There is no separate breakdown on the resources involved in relation to such monitoring work.

Signature _____

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 26.3.2008

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department Subhead:

Programme: (5) Air Services

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please provide details of the resources allocated and schedules of taking forward necessary statutory procedures for the development of heliports.

Asked by: Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply:

To enhance cross-boundary helicopter services, the existing heliport at the rooftop of the Macau Ferry Terminal at Sheung Wan will be expanded. A tenancy agreement was awarded to a heliport operator in early 2007 for the expansion and the operation of the heliport from July 2007 and the expansion works are scheduled for completion in mid 2009. The heliport operator intends to apply for an aerodrome licence in accordance with the Air Navigation (Hong Kong) Order 1995 (the Order) so that scheduled services will be allowed at the heliport. The Civil Aviation Department (CAD) is discussing with the heliport operator the requirements for the grant of the licence and will process the application in accordance with the provisions of the Order once received.

The above work is undertaken by CAD's existing staff as part of their normal duties under Programme (2) and Programme (5). There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 26.3.2008

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department Subhead:

Programme: (1) Flight Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In 2008-09, what are the preparatory works for the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)? Please provide details of the schedule for implementing the programme and the resources involved.

Asked by: Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply:

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) established the Universal Safety Oversight Audit Programme (USOAP) in January 2005. Under USOAP, ICAO will conduct comprehensive on-site audits on all Contracting States to ensure that their safety oversight systems comply with international standards regarding operation and airworthiness of aircraft, airport, personnel licensing, etc.

According to the work plan of USOAP, the audit team will visit Hong Kong in 2009 to conduct a comprehensive system audit of our civil aviation system.

To prepare for the coming audit, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) has established a working group to coordinate the review and updating of the existing safety oversight systems to ensure their compliance with the latest applicable ICAO standards and recommended practices.

The estimated cost of the audit to be borne by CAD is around \$400,000. All other related tasks will be undertaken by CAD's existing staff as part of their normal duties and there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters NORMAN LO

Post Title Director-General of Civil Aviation

Date 20.3.2008

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department Subhead:

Programme: (2) Airport Standards

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

During 2008-09, the Department will monitor airfield enhancement works at the HKIA, including the design and construction of new taxiways, additional parking stands and remote terminal concourse to ensure these new facilities meet aerodrome licensing standards. How much provision will be allocated for the enhancement works?

Asked by: Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply:

The Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) is operated by the Airport Authority (AA) under an aerodrome licence issued by the Civil Aviation Department (CAD). The airfield enhancement works at the HKIA are funded by the AA, so no allocation of provision is required under Head 28 CAD. The CAD is responsible for monitoring such works to ensure that the new facilities will meet aerodrome licensing standards.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **NORMAN LO** _____

Post Title _____ **Director-General of Civil Aviation** _____

Date _____ **19.3.2008** _____

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

Head: 28 Civil Aviation Department Subhead:

Programme: (3) Air Traffic Management

Controlling Officer: Director-General of Civil Aviation

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

What are the details and resources involved to refine the air traffic control procedures and effect improvement to facilities, with a view to promoting flight safety and operational efficiency and enhancing the capacity of the air traffic control systems?

Asked by: Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply:

Regarding the refinement of the air traffic control procedures, the Civil Aviation Department (CAD) will study and devise means to increase the handling capacity of the existing air traffic control system. The objective is to develop an airspace management plan which encompasses re-designed arrival and departure route structures, air traffic control operating procedures, airspace sectorisation and utilisation so as to achieve high capacity operations in a progressive, safe and orderly manner. One Senior Operations Officer and one Operations Officer posts will be created in 2008-09 to cope with the increased workload on design and development of new flight procedures and review of the existing procedures for aircraft operations in the Hong Kong Flight Information Region. The estimated annual staff cost of these two posts, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is \$1.6 million.

As regards improvement to facilities, the software of the existing air traffic control facilities will be modified and the system database will be updated so as to provide additional radar control positions. The estimated expenditure for the improvement facilities is \$9.6 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ NORMAN LO _____

Post Title _____ Director-General of Civil Aviation _____

Date _____ 26.3.2008 _____

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

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead
(No. & title) :

Programme : (3) Provision of Land and Infrastructure

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Please advise the planning position, latest progress and schedule of completion of the following new major highway projects -

- (a) Tseung Kwan O – Lam Tin Tunnel; and
- (b) Trunk Road T2 in South East Kowloon.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (a) Tseung Kwan O – Lam Tin Tunnel

Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) is finalizing the feasibility study for the project and consulting the concerned District Councils (DCs). Subject to the support of the concerned DCs, CEDD will consult the Legislative Council on the funding application for design and site investigation for the project with a view to completing the construction in 2016.

- (b) Trunk Road T2 in South East Kowloon

Technical studies for Trunk Road T2 are being carried out as part of the Public Works Programme item “Kai Tak development - engineering review” on the basis of the Kai Tak Outline Zoning Plan approved by the Chief Executive in Council in November 2007. Subject to the outcome of the studies, CEDD plans to complete Trunk Road T2 in the same timeframe as other parts of Route 6 which is currently scheduled for completion in 2016.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOHN S V CHAI

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Date _____ 25.3.2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)020

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

Question Serial No.

0472

Head : 33 Civil Engineering and Development Department Subhead
(No. & title) :

Programme : (2) Port and Marine Facilities

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

The 2008 estimates of the Civil Engineering and Development Department on the value of marine facilities and port projects under planning and design, and the expenditure on marine facilities and port construction works are both less than the actual figures in 2006 and 2007 respectively. What are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The decrease in the estimated value of marine facilities and port projects under planning and design in 2008 as compared to the actual value in 2006 and 2007 is due to the completion of the planning and design of the fender upgrading works in 2006 and the Sai Kung Public Pier No. 2 in 2007.

The decrease in the estimated expenditure on marine facilities and port construction works in 2008 as compared to the actual expenditure in 2006 and 2007 is due to the completion of the re-construction of the public piers at Sha Tau Kok, Wong Shek and Ko Lau Wan, the construction of the public pier at Stanley and the improvement works to the public pier at Tung Ping Chau in 2006 and the substantial completion of the fender upgrading works in 2007.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ JOHN S V CHAI _____

Post Title _____ Director of Civil Engineering and Development _____

Date _____ 25.3.2008 _____

**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 Transport and Housing

Question:

Up to now, how many vehicle mechanics have been registered since the implementation of the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics? What is the percentage of the registered vehicle mechanics to the overall number of vehicle mechanics in the trade?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply:

Since the implementation of the Voluntary Registration Scheme for Vehicle Mechanics in January 2007, around 4 200 vehicle mechanics have been registered so far, accounting for about 40% of the total number of vehicle mechanics in the trade.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ **Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services** _____

Date _____ **17 March 2008** _____

**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 Transport and Housing

Question:

The estimated expenditure for this programme in 2008-09 will increase by 23.4% as compared to the revised estimate for 2007-08, mainly due to the creation of five posts and the transfer of the Hong Kong Railway Inspectorate (HKRI) to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD). In this regard, would the Government advise on –

- (a) the reasons for transferring the HKRI to EMSD and the total expenditure involved; and
- (b) details of the work of the five new posts to be created, whether they are permanent posts and total annual expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- (a) As approved by the Finance Committee on 11 January 2008, the Hong Kong Railway Inspectorate (HKRI) was transferred from Transport Branch (TB) of the Transport and Housing Bureau to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD) and renamed as the Railways Branch on 1 February 2008, with a view to enhancing Government's regulatory role and functions regarding railway safety.

Transferring the HKRI to EMSD will enhance the flexibility of the Department in deploying relevant expertise for overseeing railway safety, facilitate the nurturing of expertise and experience of the Railways Branch and render in-house professional support to the Railways Branch, and allow the regulatory work of railway safety to be monitored and supervised by senior officers of the professional grade of the Department.

The transfer is cost neutral: the increased total staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, of about \$6 million in EMSD is offset by the corresponding reduction of the provision in TB.

(b) The following five permanent posts will be created in 2008-09, at a total staff cost of about \$3 million in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value –

- (i) one Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/Senior Electronics Engineer for the Railways Branch;
- (ii) one Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/Electronics Engineer/Assistant Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/Assistant Electronics Engineer for the Railways Branch;
- (iii) one Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/Assistant Electrical and Mechanical Engineer for the Gas and General Legislation Branch; and
- (iv) two Mechanical Inspectors for the Gas and General Legislation Branch.

The two posts in (i) and (ii) are to be created in the Railways Branch to assist in developing and implementing additional safety monitoring measures, to strengthen networking with overseas railway regulators and railway organizations, and to monitor and conduct audits in relation to the safety-related activities in respect of the merger of the MTR and Kowloon-Canton Railway systems.

The three posts in (iii) and (iv) are to be created in the Gas and General Legislation Branch for the enhancement of regulatory control under the Lifts and Escalators (Safety) Ordinance, including contractors registration, codes of practice updating and incident investigation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ HO KWONG WAI _____

Post Title Director of Electrical and Mechanical Services

Date _____ 26 March 2008 _____

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

THB(T)023

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

Question Serial No.

0725

Programme: (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The estimate for 2008-09 under this programme is \$53.2 million higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08. This is mainly due to the increased provision for structural maintenance service for Route 8 between Tsing Yi and Sha Tin, filling of vacancies and creation of 27 posts in 2008-09. Please specify the expenditure involved for each of these items.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The major increases in the expenditure under Programme (4) Technical Services are as follows

-
- (a) \$37.4 million for structural maintenance service for Route 8 between Tsing Yi and Sha Tin;
 - (b) \$4.7 million for filling of vacant posts; and
 - (c) \$8.0 million for creation of 27 posts. The annual staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is \$7.1 million with the rest being personnel related expenses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18 March 2008

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

THB(T)024

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

Question Serial No.

0726

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the targets set for the purpose of measuring performance, what are the reasons for the relatively low percentage of cumulative progress for “formulating, negotiating and agreeing on detailed implementation plans for the Shatin to Central Link” in 2007-08? Please give an update on the progress of the project by providing information on the latest alignment, the construction cost, the commencement date and the anticipated completion date at this stage.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The Shatin to Central Link (SCL) has major interfaces with the Kai Tak Development, Wan Chai Development Phase II and the Central – Wan Chai Bypass. The planning of the SCL in the past year has to take into consideration the development of these projects.

The Government has asked the MTR Corporation Limited to proceed with the further planning and design of the SCL project. We hope that the construction of the SCL can commence in 2010 for the Tai Wai to Hung Hom section to be completed in 2015 and the cross harbour section to be completed in 2019. The estimated cost of the project is about \$37.4 billion (in 2007 prices).

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 27 March 2008

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

THB(T)025

Question Serial No.

0727

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

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Highways Department will facilitate the further planning of the South Island Line. Will the Government advise:

1. whether the Administration will examine the feasibility of constructing the South Island Line (West) when planning for the South Island Line (East)? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons? and
2. in examining the South Island Line (East) project, the criteria that will be used to determine whether there is a need to build a station at Happy Valley.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

1. We shall continue to keep the proposed South Island Line (SIL) (West) under review, in the light of whether the SIL (East) can meet the growing traffic demand of the Southern District. Our assessment is that serious congestion does not frequently occur along Pokfulam Road and Victoria Road. We expect that the SIL (East) and the West Island Line, when completed, will help improve the traffic conditions in Pokfulam Road.
2. In assessing the need for a Happy Valley Station, we will consider the transport grounds for such a station, the implications on the project costs and the impact on the implementation schedule of the SIL (East).

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008

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

THB(T)026

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

Question Serial No.

0728

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the expenditure in the year for the indicator "capital projects under design and construction entrusted to the railway corporations or other agencies", will the Government advise:

- a. the reasons for the drastic increase of \$2,432 million in expenditure when the number of capital projects remains the same; and
- b. the railway projects that the additional expenditure will be spent on. Please list out the expenditure involved and the commencement and anticipated completion dates for each railway project.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The expenditure has excluded the remaining entrustment works for the Tseung Kwan O Line project, which have just been completed, but included the design works for the railway projects under planning, such as the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) project. It is targeted to start the detailed design of the SCL in 2008 and the construction in 2010 for the Tai Wai to Hung Hom section to be completed in 2015 and the cross harbour section to be completed in 2019.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 27 March 2008

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

THB(T)027

Question Serial No.

0729

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

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Highways Department will facilitate the further planning of the Northern Link and the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link. Will the Government advise:

- a. the expected timing for tendering and the commencement and completion of the construction of the Northern Link and the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link; and
- b. the estimated construction cost of the Northern Link and the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

For the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL), we aim at starting the construction in 2009 for completion in 2014 or 2015. The project proposal of the XRL, including its project costs, is being reviewed.

The project proposal of the Northern Link, including the project costs and implementation timetable, is also being reviewed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008

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

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

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In 2008-09, the Highways Department will oversee the progress of the Kowloon Southern Link project. Will the Government advise:

- a. whether there are any measures in place to prevent recurrence of road subsidence or settlement during the construction process. If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons? and
- b. considering the repeated occurrence of road subsidence or settlement during the construction of the Kowloon Southern Link, whether the Government has assessed the risk of road subsidence or settlement after the Link has come into operation. If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The remaining tunnelling works for the Kowloon Southern Link project are expected to be completed in about two months' time. Track laying and E&M installations inside the tunnels are now underway. For the past two years, the Railway Development Office of the Highways Department has been working together with relevant government departments including the Buildings Department, Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Civil Engineering and Development Department, Transport Department, Traffic Police, etc. to ensure that the tunneling works are carried out safely and with minimum disruption to the general public. The chances of settlement over the tunnel structures, when they are completed, will be extremely slim. The Department will closely monitor the tunnel structures after completion as in other highway projects.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 25 March 2008

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

THB(T)029

Question Serial No.

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

0731

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In 2008-09, the Highways Department will commence the preliminary design and preparatory work for the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (BCF) for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB); continue with the preliminary design and preparatory work for the North Lantau Highway Connection for the HZMB; and continue to assist in the preparatory work for the HZMB project. When will the Government expect to complete the site selection study for BCF and commence public consultation? What is the detailed timetable?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (BCF) Site Selection Study in connection with the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge was completed in early 2008. The study recommends reclamation at the north-east of the Airport Island as the preferred site for the BCF. During the study, we had consulted environmental concern groups and fishermen representatives on their views of the possible BCF site locations. We had also consulted the Islands District Council on the possible options. We plan to commence in 2008 the Investigation and Preliminary Design for the BCF including the environmental impact assessment for finalising the location of the BCF.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 27 March 2008 _____

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

THB(T)030

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0854

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the preparatory work for the widening of Tuen Mun Road at Tsing Tin Interchange, will the Government inform this Committee of:

- a. the commencement date and the anticipated completion date of the aforesaid works;
- b. whether the Administration has assessed the impact of the aforesaid works on the traffic conditions in the vicinity? If yes, what are the details?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

- a. Subject to funding approval, we plan to commence the construction works for the widening of Tuen Mun Road at Tsing Tin Interchange in May 2008 for completion in November 2009.
- b. During the implementation of the project, all the existing traffic lanes in Tuen Mun Road at Tsing Tin Interchange will continue to be open during peak hours (i.e. from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm) on working days. The project is not likely to cause major adverse impact on the nearby traffic conditions.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 19 March 2008

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

THB(T)031

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0307

Programme: (1) Capital Projects and (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please provide details about the planning, the progress and the completion timetable of the following new railway lines and major road projects:

1. Shatin to Central Link;
2. a possible rail link between the airports of Hong Kong and Shenzhen; and
3. Central Kowloon Route.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

1. Shatin to Central link (SCL)

The Government has asked the MTR Corporation Limited to proceed with the further planning and design of the SCL project. We hope that the construction of the SCL can commence in 2010 for the Tai Wai to Hung Hom section to be completed in 2015 and the cross harbour section to be completed in 2019.

2. A possible rail link between the airports of Hong Kong and Shenzhen

The Task Force on Airport Co-operation between Hong Kong and Shenzhen set up by the HKSAR Government and the Shenzhen Municipal Government has commissioned a study on the feasibility of a rail link between the Hong Kong International Airport and the Shenzhen International Airport. We hope to complete the study in 2008.

3. Central Kowloon Route (CKR)

The consultancy study on the investigation and preliminary design for CKR started in August 2007 for completion in two years, after which detailed design will follow. It is anticipated that the construction works will commence in 2012 for completion by 2016.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 27 March 2008

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

Head: 60 - Highways Department Subhead 700 General
(No. & title): non – recurrent

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

What are the details of the restructuring and enhancement of the Railway Development Study Model being carried out by the Highways Department? Will the Model be shown to the public? What is the anticipated completion time of the study?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

The Railway Development Study (RDS) Model is a special computer-aided transport software to simulate rail patronage forecasts for different scenarios of railway developments. Model enhancement is needed to take into account the latest planning parameters in the transportation network in Hong Kong. We aim to complete the restructuring and enhancement work in the third quarter of 2008. The RDS Model contains huge quantities of highly technical information which may not be of interest to the public. However, there have been regular dialogues and discussions with interested professionals and academics both in Hong Kong and aboard on the RDS model.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 25 March 2008

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)033

Question Serial No.

0303

Reply:

- (1) The consultancy study for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies and has earmarked funding in 2007-08 -

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
Lloyd's Register Rail (Asia) Limited	A study on how railway projects would be delivered under concession approach	\$1.3 million	In progress	The study is not yet completed	The study is not yet completed

- (2) The Highways Department has not earmarked any funds in 2008-09 to conduct consultancy studies for the purpose of formulating and assessing policies.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008

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

THB(T)034

Question Serial No.

1732

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

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Highways Department will “commence the preliminary design ... for the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facility (BCF) for the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge (HZHB)”. Please provide updated information on the location of the landing point of the Hong Kong BCF for the HZMB. Will the Government advise on the design and construction standards of the country that have been adopted in building the bridge?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (BCF) Site Selection Study was completed in early 2008 and recommends reclamation at the north-east of the Airport Island as the preferred site for the BCF. We plan to commence in 2008 the Investigation and Preliminary Design for the BCF including the environmental impact assessment for finalising the location of the BCF.

With regard to the design and construction for the HZMB, technical studies are being undertaken to determine the most appropriate standards to be adopted for different elements of the project so as to meet the requirements of the Guangdong, Macao and Hong Kong Governments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 27 March 2008

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

THB(T)035

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

Question Serial No.

1733

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Highways Department will "monitor closely the construction progress of ... Stonecutters Bridge ...". Will the Administration advise on the updated information on the construction progress and the anticipated timing for installing the bridge deck?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

As at the end of February 2008, we have completed 69% of the construction of the Stonecutters Bridge. The erection of bridge deck segments over the sea commenced in December 2007 for completion by end of 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18 March 2008

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

THB(T)036

Question Serial No.

1734

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

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Highways Department will facilitate "the further planning of the Shatin to Central Link ... the Northern Link and the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou– Shenzhen–Hong Kong Express Rail Link". Will the Administration advise on the latest progress on the planning of the three projects, including the financing arrangement, alignment, location of the railway stations and the estimated construction costs, etc.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

Shatin to Central Link (SCL)

The Government has asked the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to proceed with the further planning and design of the SCL project based on the concession approach, under which the Government will fund the construction of the SCL and upon completion, MTRCL will be granted the right to operate the railway during the concession period. MTRCL in return will make service concession payments for this right. The 17-km SCL will have nine stations including Tai Wai, Diamond Hill, Kai Tak, To Kwa Wan, Ma Tau Wai, Homantin, Hung Hom, Exhibition and Admiralty. We hope that the construction of the SCL can commence in 2010 for the Tai Wai to Hung Hom section to be completed in 2015 and the cross harbour section to be completed in 2019. The estimated cost of the project is about \$37.4 billion (in 2007 prices).

Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL)

For the Hong Kong section of the XRL, we aim to start the construction in 2009 for completion in 2014 or 2015. The project proposal of the XRL, including its alignment and project costs, is being reviewed.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)036

Question Serial No.

1734

Northern Link

The proposed Northern Link is a 11-km railway connecting the West Rail at Kam Sheung Road Station to the Lok Ma Chau Terminus of the Spur Line. The MTRCL has taken over the project from the then Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation after the Rail Merger in December 2007. They are now working on a review on the project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 27 March 2008

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

THB(T)037

Question Serial No.

1736

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

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Highways Department will "assist in updating the rail expansion plan...". Will the Administration advise on the details of the task? Is there any new rail expansion plan for future implementation? What are the expenditure and staffing arrangement involved? Is the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) involved in the work?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The Highways Department is continuously updating with its in-house resources the scope and implementation programme for various railway projects recommended under the Railway Development Strategy 2000. We will take into account the prevailing traffic demand, updated project assumptions, planning parameters as well as the views of the public, concerned bureaux/departments and the MTRCL in the review.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 25 March 2008

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

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

Programme: (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Will the Administration advise on the expenditure for electricity for road lighting over the past 3 years? Has the Administration introduced any environmental features to road lighting in order to save energy? If yes, what are the specific measures taken? Will the Administration consider setting targets for saving electricity?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The expenditure on electricity for road lighting in the past 3 years (2005-06 to 2007-08) is set out below:

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (Estimated figures)
Expenditure on electricity for road lighting (\$'000)	112,452	114,620	118,000
Electricity consumption for road lighting ('000 kWh)	133,900	134,789	137,000
No. of lighting points in the system	198,937	202,799	205,200

The increase in the expenditure on electricity for road lighting is due to the rises in tariff charged by the power companies and the number of lighting points in the system.

In order to save energy, it has long been our practice to replace old lanterns with more energy efficient lanterns available in the market. In the past three years, about 8 000 old lanterns were replaced by more energy efficient ones with lower lamp wattage. Another 6 000 old lanterns will be replaced in the next three years. The estimated total annual saving in energy cost is \$ 3.2 million upon completion of the whole scheme.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)038

Question Serial No.

1737

In the past two years, dimmable electronic ballasts were installed for 2 400 road lights as a trial for assessing the feasibility of its application as an energy saving measure while maintaining the standard of road lighting. The trial has confirmed that the use of electronic ballasts for energy saving is feasible. We plan to install electronic ballasts for 15 000 road lights in the next four years starting from 2008-09. The estimated annual saving in energy cost is about \$2.7 million upon completion of the installation for the 15 000 road lights.

We shall continue to closely monitor our performance in energy saving and will consider introducing a target as appropriate in future.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 20 March 2008

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

THB(T)039

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2059

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09 that the Highways Department will complete the highway works related to the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events in 2008-09. What are the details of the highway works and the amount of funding involved? Are the works permanent or temporary in nature? Will reinstatement works be carried out on the roads concerned after the conclusion of the Olympic and Paralympic events?

Asked by: Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply:

Details of the road works related to the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events, which will be completed before the Events start, are as follows -

Item	Facility	Location	Completion date	Cost
1.	Temporary transport interchange	Chak Cheung Street outside MTR University Station	End June 2008	\$6.9 million
2.	Traffic management measures including signages, road markings, tactile warning strips, pick up/set down bays, railings, bicycle racks, etc.	Yuen Wo Road Circuit leading to the event venue in Sha Tin	Early August 2008	\$2.0 million
3.	Traffic management measures including signages, road markings, tactile warning strips, railing, etc.	Shatin Town Centre near the Olympic Village	Early August 2008	\$1.3 million

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)039

Question Serial No.

2059

Item	Facility	Location	Completion date	Cost
4.	Footpath widening and street furniture modification (railings, bicycle rack, etc.)	Fan Kam road, Po Kin Road and Chi Fuk Circuit, Fanling	Early August 2008	\$0.2 million
5.	Modification of street furniture (railings, bicycle racks, etc.)	Around Pak Wo Road, MTR Fanling Station	Early August 2008	\$0.2 million
6.	Traffic management measures including signages, road markings, etc.	Ching Shing Road, Po Kin Road, Fan Kam Road, Kam Tsin Road, Choi Fat Street and Fanling Highway	Early August 2008	\$0.6 million

For Item 1, the temporary transport interchange will be used for providing shuttle bus service between the event venue in Sha Tin and MTR University Station. After the events, the area will be reverted to its original land use. For the remaining items, with the exception of the permanent improvement works such as footpath widening, modification of bicycle racks etc., most of the measures are temporary in nature and the affected areas will be reinstated to their original conditions after the events.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008

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

THB(T)040

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1243

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Road cleanliness, streetscape enhancement and greening etc. are of vital importance to environmental improvement. However, the Highways Department estimated the expenditure on road cleanliness, streetscape enhancement and greening of shortcreted slopes at \$106.4 million in 2008. The expenditure is lower than that of 2007. What are the reasons for the reduction? How could environmental improvement be achieved with a reduction in expenditure?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

The 4.4% decrease of the expenditure from \$111.3 million in 2007 to \$106.4 million in 2008 is mainly attributed to the decrease in streetscape enhancement works planned to be carried out in 2008. Despite the decrease, the amount to be spent on streetscape enhancement works in 2008-09 is still of a comparable magnitude to those in previous years. Furthermore, we will increase the spending under other items, such as highways maintenance, road rehabilitation and resurfacing, which will also contribute to the improvement to the environment. We therefore consider that there would be continuous overall improvement to the environment in 2008-09.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 20 March 2008

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

THB(T)041

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

Question Serial No.

1244

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Highways Department indicated that the task of “receiving and assessing proposals on the Northern Link and the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou–Shenzhen–Hong Kong Express Rail Link” would be completed this year. Please advise -

- (a) what is the anticipated completion date of the proposals? and
- (b) what are the contents of the proposals, including the construction timetable, expenditure, alignment and fare?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

The Government is reviewing the project proposal of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, including its alignment and costs. Our target is to complete our assessment in 2008. We aim at starting construction in 2009 for completion in 2014 or 2015.

The project proposal of the Northern Link, including the project costs and implementation timetable, is also being reviewed.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008

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

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

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Highways Department has commenced the preliminary design and preparatory work for the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge. Please advise:

- (a) how much is the expenditure involved?
- (b) what are the details of the alignment? and
- (c) what are the details of the preparatory work?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

For the Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge (HZMB) project, Highways Department is overseeing the preparatory work for the HZMB Main Bridge, the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (BCF) and the link road within Hong Kong.

- (a) As regards the HZMB Main Bridge, the feasibility study and advance technical studies of the HZMB are in their finalisation stage, and the estimated expenditure of these works is about \$22 million. For the BCF, we plan to commence in 2008 the Investigation and Preliminary Design (I&PD) for the BCF including the environmental impact assessment for finalising the location of the BCF, and the estimated expenditure for the study is being worked out. For the HZMB link road within Hong Kong, we have commenced an I&PD study at an estimated cost of about \$59 million.
- (b) Under the proposed construction package, the HZMB Main Bridge will run from the artificial islands off Gongbei and Macao to the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) / Guangdong boundary. Link roads will be built to connect the Main Bridge to the local road networks. The Hong Kong BCF Site Selection Study completed in early 2008 recommends reclamation at the north-east of the Airport Island as the preferred site for the BCF. The link road within Hong Kong is therefore about 12.6 km, running from its connection with the HZMB Main Bridge at the HKSAR boundary to the Hong Kong BCF.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)042

Question Serial No.

1380

- (c) A feasibility study and a number of advance technical studies on the HZMB Main Bridge are being jointly conducted by the governments of Guangdong, Macao and Hong Kong. As regards the BCF in Hong Kong, we plan to commence in 2008 the I&PD study for the BCF including the environmental impact assessment for finalising the location of the BCF. As regards the HZMB link road within Hong Kong, we have commenced an I&PD study to determine the preferred alignment of the link road and its various impacts.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 27 March 2008

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

THB(T)043

Question Serial No.

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

1381

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Highways Department will complete the highway works related to the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events in 2008-09. Please advise -

- a. which are the roads involved?
- b. how much is the expenditure involved? and
- c. will there be any changes in land use for the sites occupied by the roads concerned after the conclusion of the events? If yes, what will these sites be used for?

Asked by: Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

Details of the road works related to the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events, which will be completed before the Events start, are as follows -

Item	Facility	Location	Completion date	Cost
1.	Temporary transport interchange	Chak Cheung Street outside MTR University Station	End June 2008	\$6.9 million
2.	Traffic management measures including signages, road markings, tactile warning strips, pick up/set down bays, railings, bicycle racks, etc.	Yuen Wo Road Circuit leading to the event venue in Sha Tin	Early August 2008	\$2.0 million
3.	Traffic management measures including signages, road markings, tactile warning strips, railing, etc.	Shatin Town Centre near the Olympic Village	Early August 2008	\$1.3 million

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)043

Question Serial No.

1381

Item	Facility	Location	Completion date	Cost
4.	Footpath widening and street furniture modification (railings, bicycle rack, etc.)	Fan Kam road, Po Kin Road and Chi Fuk Circuit, Fanling	Early August 2008	\$0.2 million
5.	Modification of street furniture (railings, bicycle racks, etc.)	Around Pak Wo Road, MTR Fanling Station	Early August 2008	\$0.2 million
6.	Traffic management measures including signages, road markings, etc.	Ching Shing Road, Po Kin Road, Fan Kam Road, Kam Tsin Road, Choi Fat Street and Fanling Highway	Early August 2008	\$0.6 million

For Item 1, the temporary transport interchange will be used for providing shuttle bus service between the event venue in Sha Tin and MTR University Station. After the events, the area will be reverted to its original land use. For the remaining items, with the exception of the permanent improvement works such as footpath widening, modification of bicycle racks etc., most of the measures are temporary in nature and the affected areas will be reinstated to their original conditions after the events.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008

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

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

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the commencement of design and preparatory works for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge in 2008-09, what are the details of the work and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

For the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) project, Highways Department is overseeing the preparatory work for the HZMB Main Bridge, the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (BCF) and the link road within Hong Kong.

A feasibility study and a number of advance technical studies on the HZMB Main Bridge are being jointly conducted by the governments of Guangdong, Macao and Hong Kong. The estimated expenditure of these works is about \$22 million.

As regards the BCF in Hong Kong, we plan to commence in 2008 the Investigation and Preliminary Design (I&PD) for the BCF including environmental impact assessment for finalising the location of the BCF. The estimated expenditure for the I&PD study is being worked out.

As regards the HZMB link road within Hong Kong, we have commenced an I&PD study to determine the preferred alignment of the link road and its various impacts. The estimated cost for the I&PD study is about \$59 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 27 March 2008

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

THB(T)045

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

2205

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

What is the progress of the highway works related to the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events? What are the details of the highway works and the estimated expenditure for 2008-09?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

Details of the road works related to the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events, which will be completed before the Events start, are as follows -

Item	Facility	Location	Completion date	Estimated expenditure for 2008-09
1.	Temporary transport interchange	Chak Cheung Street outside MTR University Station	End June 2008	\$3.9 million
2.	Traffic management measures including signages, road markings, tactile warning strips, pick up/set down bays, railings, bicycle racks, etc.	Yuen Wo Road Circuit leading to the event venue in Sha Tin	Early August 2008	\$2.0 million
3.	Traffic management measures including signages, road markings, tactile warning strips, railing, etc.	Shatin Town Centre near the Olympic Village	Early August 2008	\$1.3 million

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)045

Question Serial No.

2205

Item	Facility	Location	Completion date	Estimated expenditure for 2008-09
4.	Footpath widening and street furniture modification (railings, bicycle rack, etc.)	Fan Kam road, Po Kin Road and Chi Fuk Circuit, Fanling	Early August 2008	\$0.2 million
5.	Modification of street furniture (railings, bicycle racks, etc.)	Around Pak Wo Road, MTR Fanling Station	Early August 2008	\$0.2 million
6.	Traffic management measures including signages, road markings, etc.	Ching Shing Road, Po Kin Road, Fan Kam Road, Kam Tsin Road, Choi Fat Street and Fanling Highway	Early August 2008	\$0.6 million

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008

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

THB(T)046

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

Question Serial No.

2206

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

What are the details, estimated expenditure and tentative schedule of the facilitation work for the construction of the Tseung Kwan O South Station in 2008-09?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

Highway Department has been deploying existing resources in co-ordinating the various activities associated with the implementation of the Tseung Kwan O South Station (TKS) project, including gazetting under the Railways Ordinance, and liaison with other government bureaux and departments for resolution of interfacing issues on site. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved. The construction of TKS commenced in 2006 for completion in 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 25 March 2008

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

THB(T)047

Question Serial No.

2207

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

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Administration will assist in studying the feasibility of a possible rail link between the airports of Hong Kong and Shenzhen in 2008-09. With which departments or Mainland authorities will the Administration discuss the matter? How long will it take to complete the study?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

The Task Force on Airport Co-operation between Hong Kong and Shenzhen set up by the HKSAR Government and the Shenzhen Municipal Government has commissioned a study on the feasibility of a rail link between the Hong Kong International Airport and the Shenzhen International Airport. The Task Force is headed jointly by the Transport and Housing Bureau of the HKSAR Government and the Shenzhen Municipal Government. Other departments involved in the Task Force include, for example, the Highways Department and the Planning Department of the HKSAR Government, and the Shenzhen Rail Transit Construction Headquarters Office and the Shenzhen Municipal Planning Bureau. We hope to complete the study in 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 25 March 2008

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

THB(T)048

Question Serial No.

2208

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

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Administration will co-ordinate with the Mainland authorities on cross-boundary infrastructure developments in 2008-09. What are the details of the aforesaid task? Where are these facilities located and how much is the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Line (XRL)

We will continue to coordinate with the Mainland authorities on the planning, technical and other interfacing issues on XRL. The Hong Kong section of the XRL will run through a 26-km long dedicated rail tunnel from the West Kowloon Terminus to the boundary at Huanggang where it will connect to the Mainland section of the XRL. The project proposal of the XRL, including its alignment and project costs, is being reviewed.

The Shenzhen – Hong Kong Airport Rail Link

The Task Force on Airport Co-operation between Hong Kong and Shenzhen set up by the HKSAR Government and the Shenzhen Municipal Government has commissioned a study on the feasibility of a rail link between the Hong Kong International Airport and the Shenzhen International Airport. The associated cost is estimated to be RMB 5.2 million, to be shared equally between the two governments.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008

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

THB(T)049

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

Question Serial No.

2209

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the planning of the Shatin to Central Link in 2008-09, will the Administration advise on the anticipated progress and works schedule of the project? While planning for the aforesaid rail link, will the Administration consider building a Tsz Wan Shan station and a Hin Keng (Sha Tin) station? What is the estimated expenditure on the planning work in 2008-09?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

The Government has asked the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to proceed with the further planning and design of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) project. We hope that the construction of the SCL can commence in 2010 for the Tai Wai to Hung Home section to be completed in 2015 and the cross harbour section to be completed in 2019. Site investigation has concluded that a station in Tsz Wan Shan is technically not advisable. We are looking at the provision of additional pedestrian facilities and the possible enhancement of green mini-bus services upon the commissioning of the SCL to improve the traffic conditions of Tsz Wan Shan and its connectivity with the SCL. As for Hin Keng, the current estimated patronage does not fully justify a station there. We shall keep in close view the demand for rail service, the traffic conditions in Hin Keng and Tai Wai and the conditions in the Tai Wai Station in order to ascertain the need of the Hin Keng Station. In the meantime, the MTRCL has made provision in the track design of the SCL to cater for a station at Hin Keng in future.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 27 March 2008

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

THB(T)050

Question Serial No.

0941

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

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Highways Department will continue with the investigation and preliminary design of the Central Kowloon Route and widening of Gascoigne Road Flyover. Please advise:

- a. as part of the Central Kowloon Route may pass through buildings of historical and conservation value, will the Administration invite other government departments to participate in the investigation? If yes, which departments will be invited? If not, what are the reasons? and
- b. when will the investigation and preliminary design be completed and will the results be released?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

- a. The Administration has set up a high level inter-departmental steering committee to oversee the implementation of the Central Kowloon Route (CKR). The committee serves to monitor the progress of the consultancy study on the investigation and design, oversee the public consultation process, provide guidance to the study team on the direction and methodology of the study, facilitate close liaison among the study team and other government departments, and resolve difficult issues arising from the study, including the preservation of built heritage. The committee, chaired by the Director of Highways, is composed of representatives from the concerned bureaux and departments, including Development Bureau, Antiquities and Monuments Office, and Environmental Protection Department.
- b. The consultancy study on the investigation and preliminary design for CKR started in August 2007 for completion in two years, after which detailed design will follow. We plan to report the progress of the study to the relevant District Councils and the Legislative Council Panel on Transport within the 2007-08 Legislative Council session.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 19 March 2008

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

THB(T)051

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

0985

Programme: (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Highways Department will provide better lighting fixtures in 2008-09. As some overseas countries have already introduced the technology of light-emitting diode (LED) to public lighting facilities, will the Government examine the feasibility of introducing LED to public lighting in Hong Kong? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. LEE Wing-tat

Reply:

The luminous efficacy of commercially available LED lamps is currently not higher than 50 lumen per watt, which is much lower than that of the public lighting installations being used in Hong Kong (90 – 150 lumen per watt). That means LED lamps require more electrical energy and cost to achieve the same level of illumination. Therefore, they have so far not been put on trial for use in public lighting. Highways Department has however been staying in touch with LED lamp suppliers. If LED lamps of higher efficiency are successfully developed in future, we shall try to test their suitability for public lighting in Hong Kong.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 25 March 2008

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

THB(T)052

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

Question Serial No.

0135

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Administration will prepare for the commencement of works for the project of Central – Wanchai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link under this programme in 2008-09. Please advise this Council of the estimated expenditure of the preparatory work and the details of the work. Is there any provision earmarked for studying ways to improve the alignment and design of Central – Wanchai Bypass in response to the public's views about the planning proposal for the sites concerned?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

We have earmarked \$29.579 million in 2008-09 for the preparation work including detailed design, temporary traffic diversion schemes and tender documents for construction contracts.

From May 2005 to June 2007, under the steer of the then Sub-committee on Wan Chai Development Phase II Review of Harbour-front Enhancement Committee, a comprehensive public engagement exercise entitled "Harbour-front Enhancement Review-Wan Chai, Causeway Bay & Adjoining Areas" was conducted. Public views and inputs on the alignments of Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link (Trunk Road) and the associated harbour front land uses were gathered. All such views have been fully considered in developing the proposed Trunk Road alignment. As the alignment development has been completed, no further funding provision is earmarked for the purpose.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 25 March 2008

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

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

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the highway works related to the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events, which are scheduled to be completed in 2008-09 under this programme, what are the details of the highway works that have yet to be completed as at 31 March 2008, including the works items, locations, dates of completion and expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The road works related to the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events will be completed before the Events start. As at 31 March 2008, the works yet to completed are as follows -

Item	Facility	Location	Completion date	Estimated expenditure for 2008-09
1.	Temporary transport interchange	Chak Cheung Street outside University Railway Station	End June 2008	\$3.9 million
2.	Traffic management measures including signages, road markings, tactile warning strips, pick up/set down bays, railings, bicycle racks, etc.	Yuen Wo Road Circuit leading to the event venue in Sha Tin	Early August 2008	\$2.0 million
3.	Traffic management measures including signages, road markings, tactile warning strips, railing, etc.	Shatin Town Centre near the Olympic Village	Early August 2008	\$1.3 million

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)053

Question Serial No.

0136

Item	Facility	Location	Completion date	Estimated expenditure for 2008-09
4.	Footpath widening and street furniture modification (railings, bicycle rack, etc.)	Fan Kam road, Po Kin Road and Chi Fuk Circuit, Fanling	Early August 2008	\$0.2 million
5.	Modification of street furniture (railings, bicycle racks, etc.)	Around Pak Wo Road, MTR Fanling Station	Early August 2008	\$0.2 million
6.	Traffic management measures including signages, road markings, etc.	Ching Shing Road, Po Kin Road, Fan Kam Road, Kam Tsin Road, Choi Fat Street and Fanling Highway	Early August 2008	\$0.6 million

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008

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

THB(T)054

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

Question Serial No.

0137

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Whilst the target for repairing traffic signs within 36 hours is set at 85% in 2008 under this programme, the actual achievement rates exceeded 90% in the past two years. Will the Administration consider raising the target to further improve service delivery?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

In 2006, we introduced a new target of 70% for repairing damaged traffic signs within 36 hours as a continuous improvement of our services to the public. Since then, we raised the target to 80% in 2007 and further to 85% in 2008 after carrying out annual reviews. We shall continue to closely monitor our performance and will consider raising the target as appropriate in future.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18 March 2008

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

THB(T)055

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

Question Serial No.

0138

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Administration will co-ordinate actions with bodies and departments concerned to speed up land resumption and to resolve interface problems to facilitate implementation of the railway projects under this programme. What are the planned land resumption items this year, the sites concerned and the estimated expenditure involved?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

In 2008-09, active preparatory work on clearance and resumption of private land will be undertaken for the MTR West Island Line (WIL). The proposed land requirements for the WIL were gazetted under the Railways Ordinance on 26 October 2007. Some buildings and some underground stratum are proposed to be resumed. The proposed land resumption will be ordered after the authorisation of the WIL scheme. Highways Department is liaising closely with Lands Department to actively plan for the proposed clearance and resumption of the affected buildings and land along its route. The cost of the proposed land clearance and resumption is not available at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 19 March 2008

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

THB(T)056

Question Serial No.

0139

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

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Shatin to Central Link is being reviewed having regard to the planning proposals from Kai Tak Planning Review and Wanchai Development Phase II Review under this programme. What is the anticipated completion date of the review and the commencement date of the construction works of Shatin to Central Link?

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The Government has asked the MTR Corporation Limited to proceed with the further planning and design of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) project. We hope that the construction of the SCL can commence in 2010 for the Tai Wai to Hung Hom section to be completed in 2015 and the cross harbour section to be completed in 2019.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 27 March 2008

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

THB(T)057

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

Question Serial No.

0140

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the six posts to be created under this programme in 2008-09, please provide details about their ranking, salary expenditure and duties.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The ranks of the six posts to be created under Programme (1) Capital Projects are as follows :

Senior Engineer	No. 1
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	3
Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/ Assistant Electrical and Mechanical Engineer	1
Geotechnical Engineer/Assistant Geotechnical Engineer	<u>1</u>
	<u>6</u>

The annual staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, for the six posts is \$3.6 million. They are to be created for the implementation of the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link and Tuen Mun Western Bypass project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18 March 2008

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

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

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the 17 posts to be created under this programme in 2008-09, please provide details about their ranking, salary expenditure and duties.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The ranks and duties of the 17 posts to be created under Programme (2) District and Maintenance are as follows:

(a) 15 posts for maintenance and administration of new roads taken over in the New Territories:

	No.
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	4
Assistant Inspector of Work	1
Assistant Electrical Inspector	1
Technical Officer/Technical Officer (Civil)	4
Survey Officer/Survey Officer (Engineering)	1
Works Supervisor I	1
Works Supervisor II	2
Executive Officer II	1
	<u>15</u>

(b) two posts for supporting the co-ordination and control of excavation on public roads :

	No.
Technical Officer/Technical Officer (Civil)	1
Assistant Clerical Officer	<u>1</u>
	<u>2</u>

The annual staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, for the 17 posts is \$ 4.9 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18 March 2008

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

THB(T)059

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

Question Serial No.

0142

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the eight posts to be created under this programme in 2008-09, please provide details about their ranking, salary expenditure and duties.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The ranks of the eight posts to be created under Programme (3) Railway Development are as follows:

	No.
Senior Engineer	2
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	<u>6</u>
	<u>8</u>

The annual staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, for the eight posts is \$5.1 million. They are to be created for the development and implementation of new railway projects such as the Shatin to Central Link and the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou – Shenzhen – Hong Kong Express Rail Link.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18 March 2008

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

THB(T)060

Question Serial No.

0143

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

Programme: (4) Technical Services

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the 27 posts to be created under this programme in 2008-09, please provide details about their ranking, salary expenditure and duties.

Asked by: Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply:

The ranks and duties of the 27 posts to be created under Programme (4) Technical Services are as follows :

(a) nine posts for management and maintenance of the public lighting system :

	No.
Engineer/Assistant Engineer	5
Technical Officer/Technical Officer (Civil)	2
Survey Officer/Survey Officer (Engineering)	<u>2</u>
	<u>9</u>

(b) 18 posts for maintenance of road side slopes :

	No.
Geotechnical Engineer/Assistant Geotechnical Engineer	1
Technical Officer/Technical Officer (Civil)	4
Works Supervisor II	10
Assistant Clerical Officer	<u>3</u>
	<u>18</u>

The annual staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, for the 27 posts is \$ 7.1 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18 March 2008

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

THB(T)061

Question Serial No.

1331

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

Programme: (1) Capital Projects and (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please provide information on the progress and expenditure of the following projects:

- (i) Shatin to Central Link;
- (ii) Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou–Shenzhen–Hong Kong Express Rail Link; and
- (iii) Hong Kong–Zhuhai–Macao Bridge and the related transport infrastructure in Hong Kong.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

- (i) Shatin to Central Link (SCL)

The Government has asked the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to proceed with the further planning and design of the SCL project. We hope that the construction of the SCL can commence in 2010 for the Tai Wai to Hung Hom section to be completed in 2015 and the cross harbour section to be completed in 2019. The estimated cost of the project is about \$37.4 billion (in 2007 prices) and the estimated expenditure in 2008-09 for the design works is about \$819 million.

- (ii) Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL)

For the Hong Kong section of the XRL, we aim to start the construction in 2009 for completion in 2014 or 2015. The project proposal of the XRL, including its alignment and project costs, is being reviewed.

- (iii) The Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macao Bridge (HZMB)

Consensus has been reached with the Guangdong and Macao Governments on the alignment of the HZMB Main Bridge and its financing arrangement.

As regards the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (BCF), the Site Selection Study was completed in early 2008 and recommends reclamation at the north-east of the Airport Island as the preferred site for the BCF. We plan to commence in 2008 the Investigation and Preliminary Design (I&PD) for the BCF including the environmental impact assessment for finalizing the location of the BCF. The estimated expenditure for the I&PD study is being worked out.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)061

Question Serial No.

1331

As regards the HZMB link road within Hong Kong, we have commenced an I&PD study to determine the preferred alignment of the link road and its various impacts. The estimated cost of the I&PD study is about \$59 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 27 March 2008

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

THB(T)062

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

Question Serial No.

1374

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please provide information on the progress of investigation for Hiram's Highway Improvement Stage 2, the funding required and the timetable.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

The investigation study for Hiram's Highway Improvement Stage 2, which costs about \$2.5 million, commenced in October 2007. A preliminary traffic survey as part of the study had been carried out. Highways Department has been consulting the public on the project. It is anticipated that the investigation study will be completed by end 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 27 March 2008

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

THB(T)063

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

Question Serial No.

1375

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please provide a brief description of the study, progress and estimated expenditure for:
the widening of Fanling Highway between Tai Hang and Wo Hop Shek Interchange project.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

The widening of Fanling Highway between Tai Hang and Wo Hop Shek Interchange is within the scope of the consultancy study under 6751TH "Widening of Tolo Highway/Fanling Highway between Island House Interchange and Fanling – detailed design and ground investigation". The consultancy study includes the review, detailed design and ground investigation for the widening of the concerned road section from dual 3-lane to dual 4-lane and associated works. We have substantially completed the review and are moving onto the detailed design stage. The cost estimate for the consultancy is about \$28.72 million.

We plan to commence the widening of Fanling Highway between Tai Hang and Wo Hop Shek Interchange in end 2009 for completion in 2013 at an estimated cost of around \$1,000 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 27 March 2008

THB(T)064

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

Question Serial No.

1376

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

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding Shatin to Central Link, South Island Line (East), Northern Link and the Guangzhou–Shenzhen–Hong Kong Express Rail Link, please provide information on their planning progress, resources consumed and the financial resources that will be used in future.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

Shatin to Central Link (SCL):

The Government has asked the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to proceed with the further planning and design of the SCL project. We hope that the construction of the SCL can commence in 2010 for the Tai Wai to Hung Hom section to be completed in 2015 and the cross harbour section to be completed in 2019. The estimated cost of the project is about \$37.4 billion (in 2007 prices).

South Island Line East (SIL(E)):

The Government has asked the MTRCL to proceed with the preliminary planning and design of SIL(E) and is studying the proposal of granting the property development rights at the railway stations and depot sites along SIL(E) to the MTRCL to bridge the funding gap of the project. At the same time, the MTRCL have commissioned consultants to carry out the preliminary planning and design of the project. The project is estimated to cost over \$7 billion (in 2007 prices). This is targeted for completion in 2008.

Northern Link:

The project proposal of the Northern Link, including the project costs and implementation timetable, is being reviewed.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)064

Question Serial No.

1376

Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Line (XRL):

The Government is reviewing the project proposal, including its alignment and costs, on the Hong Kong section of the XRL. Our target is to complete our assessment in 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008

THB(T)065

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

Question Serial No.

1377

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

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please provide details about the updating of the rail expansion plan, the expenditure for conducting studies, the estimated expenditure involved, and the timetable.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

The Highways Department has been deploying existing resources in updating the project assumptions and planning parameters as well as the scope and implementation programmes of projects recommended under Railway Development Strategy 2000. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 25 March 2008

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

THB(T)066

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

Question Serial No.

0640

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the improvement works to Tung Chung Road between Lung Tseng Tau and Cheung Sha carried out by the Highways Department in 2007-08, please provide the following information:

- a. the specific works carried out for this project in 2007-08 and the expenditure involved; and
- b. the progress and the anticipated completion date of the improvement works.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply:

- a. The improvement to Tung Chung Road between Lung Tseng Tau and Cheung Sha carried out in 2007-08 included road construction, widening and re-alignment, provision of passing bays/bus-bays and associated works such as drainage, utilities, slope stabilisation, landscaping, traffic aids, lighting and electrical and mechanical works. The total expenditure involved in 2007-08 is about \$266 million.
- b. About 2.2 km of Tung Chung Road had been widened to a single two-lane carriageway and opened to traffic. It is anticipated that the upgrading of the remaining section between Tai Tung Shan Service Reservoir and Pak Kung Au of about 1.1 km long will be substantially completed by end of March 2008. The construction of a new section of Tung Chung Road between Pak Kung Au and Cheung Sha roundabout of about 2.6 km long will be substantially completed by mid 2008. The remaining landscaping and site reinstatement works will be completed by end 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 19 March 2008

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

THB(T)067

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

Question Serial No.

0641

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In the 2008 Estimate of the Highways Department, capital works projects under design and construction, whether undertaken by in-house staff or consultants, are fewer than those in 2006 and 2007. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

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 2007, completed projects were more than new items. In 2008, projects planned to be completed are also more than new items. As a result, the number of capital projects under design and construction by in-house resources and consultants has been slightly reduced over the years. Nevertheless, the estimated total value of projects under design and construction in 2008, at about \$159 billion, is comparable to that in 2007 (\$165 billion) and is more than that in 2006 (\$134 billion).

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

Reply Serial No.

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

THB(T)069

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1144

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please provide full details and the distribution of estimated resources for assisting in studying the feasibility of a possible rail link between the airports of Hong Kong and Shenzhen. When will the study be completed?

Asked by: Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply:

The Task Force on Airport Co-operation between Hong Kong and Shenzhen set up by the HKSAR Government and the Shenzhen Municipal Government has commissioned a study on the feasibility of a rail link between the Hong Kong International Airport and the Shenzhen International Airport. The associated cost is estimated to be RMB 5.2 million, to be shared equally between the two governments. We hope to complete the study in 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)070

Question Serial No.

0724

Head : 100 Marine Department Subhead :

Programme : (5) Government Fleet

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

The estimate for 2008-09 is \$12 million higher than the revised estimate for 2007-08. This is mainly due to the increased provision for the filling of vacancies, increase in other operating expenses and the creation of two posts in 2008-09. Please advise on the additional expenditure involved for each of these items.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The additional expenditure is mainly due to filling of vacancies (\$4.1 million) and increase in other operating expenses (\$6.8 million). Besides, the provision involved for the creation of two posts is \$0.1 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROGER TUPPER

Post Title Director of Marine

Date 19 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)071

Question Serial No.

0305

Head : 100 Marine Department Subhead : 000 Operational expenses

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the studies (including in-house studies or those entrusted to consultants) conducted by the Department for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

- (1) For those consultancy studies that have been earmarked funds in 2007-08, please provide information in the following format:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

- (2) Are there any funds earmarked for conducting consultancy studies in 2008-09? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The Marine Department has not earmarked any funds in 2007-08 and 2008-09 for conducting consultancy studies for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)071

Question Serial No.

0305

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROGER TUPPER

Post Title Director of Marine

Date 19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)072

Question Serial No.

0468

Head : 100 Marine Department Subhead :

Programme : (4) Services to Ships

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Please provide figures for the number of examinations conducted, the frequency of issuing certificates of seafarers and the number of such certificates issued in 2007.

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

The Marine Department provides examinations for "Sea-going" and "River-trade" Deck and Engineer Officer Certificate of Competency (CoC) for seafarers serving on sea-going ships and river-trade vessels. Written examinations for different classes (Class 3, 2 and 1) of "Sea-going" and "River-trade" CoC are held three times a year while oral examinations are available once a month. A certificate is issued to a candidate upon his/her meeting the qualifying condition and passing the related examination. In 2007, a total of 230 candidates applied for the various Sea-going and River-trade CoC examinations. 102 of them passed the examinations and were issued with the appropriate classes/types of certificates.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROGER TUPPER

Post Title Director of Marine

Date 17.3.2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)073

Question Serial No.

0469

Head : 100 Marine Department Subhead :

Programme : (4) Services to Ships

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

- (a) Please provide details about the Sea-going Training Incentive Scheme and its time frame.
- (b) How many people enrolled in the Scheme in 2006 and 2007 respectively?
- (c) How many sea-going cadets trained under the Scheme in 2006 and 2007 have become professionals? Please list out the figures by profession.

Asked by : Hon. KWONG Chi-kin

Reply :

- (a) The Hong Kong Maritime Industry Council, the maritime industry and the Government jointly launched the Sea-going Training Incentive Scheme in July 2004 to encourage young people to join sea-going ships as cadet officers. Under the Scheme, each participating cadet will receive a financial incentive of \$4,000 a month from the Government during the cadetship training period that will qualify a candidate to sit for the Class 3 Deck/Engineer Officer Certificate of Competency (CoC) examination. A total of \$9 million was provided by the Government to implement the scheme for four years from 2004-05 to 2007-08. The scheme was later extended to 2010-11 to fully utilise the funds allocated.
- (b) 14 and 26 cadets joined the Scheme in 2006 and 2007 respectively.
- (c) The number of cadets who have completed their training under the Scheme and passed the various CoC examinations in 2006 and 2007 are tabulated below. Most of these cadets continued to serve as deck or engineer officers on sea-going ships.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)073

Question Serial No.

0469

Year	Class/Type of Certificates	No. of Cadets Passed
2006	Class 3 Deck Officer CoC	3
	Class 3 Engineer Officer CoC	6
2007	Class 3 Deck Officer CoC	7
	Class 3 Engineer Officer CoC	7

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROGER TUPPER

Post Title Director of Marine

Date 17.3.2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)074

Question Serial No.

1245

Head : 100 Marine Department Subhead :

Programme : (5) Government Fleet

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

According to the Marine Department, the number of mechanised vessels in use in 2008 is estimated to be 124, and the number of new vessel projects undertaken is estimated to be 12. Please advise -

- a. have green specifications been introduced for new vessels to be procured?
- b. has any study been conducted on the feasibility of fully adopting environmentally friendly fuel within the government fleet?
- c. will environmentally friendly fuel be fully adopted by the whole government fleet? If yes, will there be an increase in expenditure as compared to the past? If yes, how much will the increase be? and
- d. how to ensure that the government fleet will not emit smoke that pollutes our harbour?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- a. Green specifications, including the installation of environmentally friendly engines for the propulsion system and use of environmentally friendly refrigerant for the air-conditioning system, have been incorporated into all government vessel procurement contracts since 2001.
- b & c. We have used environmentally friendly fuel, i.e. ultra low sulphur diesel, in all government vessels since 2001. Since that time we have not obtained comparison quotes for industrial diesel. No cost comparison statistics are thus available.
- d. Apart from the measures mentioned above, government vessels are regularly maintained in accordance with the requirement of engine makers to minimise engine emission.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)074

Question Serial No.

1245

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROGER TUPPER

Post Title Director of Marine

Date 20 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)075

Question Serial No.

0559

Head : 100 Marine Department Subhead :

Programme : (2) Port Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

In 2007, the number of passengers using marine ferry terminals increased by over 10% compared with 2006. What specific measures will the Marine Department take to ease the congestion of passengers waiting for boarding?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-ye, Miriam

Reply :

At the Macau Ferry Terminal (MFT), modification works to eight berthing platforms were completed in early 2008 to enhance flexibility of berth utilisation. We have also installed new passenger seating in the Departure Waiting Halls of the China Ferry Terminal (CFT) to provide a more comfortable environment for passengers.

In 2008-09, we will continue to carry out the following works at the terminals to further enhance the service standards:

- (a) refurbishment of berthing platforms at MFT;
- (b) replacement of the sailing information display systems at MFT and CFT; and
- (c) replacement of components of the ventilation and air-conditioning systems at MFT and CFT.

The above measures will help improve the facilities at the marine ferry terminals and in turn facilitate more efficient passenger flow.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROGER TUPPER

Post Title Director of Marine

Date 17.3.2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)076

Question Serial No.

0560

Head : 100 Marine Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) Local Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

In 2007, the Marine Department projected that a comprehensive review of the management of public cargo working areas would be completed in 2007-08. What is the progress of the review?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

The Marine Department completed the Public Cargo Working Areas (PCWA) Management Review in 2007. We are now consulting the trade and operators on the re-allocation of the PCWA berths, and would consult the trade on other issues under the review in due course.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROGER TUPPER

Post Title Director of Marine

Date 20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)077

Question Serial No.

0561

Head : 100 Marine Department Subhead :

Programme : (3) Local Services

Controlling Officer : Director of Marine

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

The cargo throughput of the Public Cargo Working Areas (PCWAs) decreased by over 10% in 2007 compared with 2006. What are the reasons for this? Has the Administration assessed the impact of such a decrease on the operators in PCWAs? If yes, what is the outcome of the assessment? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

Cargo throughput at PCWAs fluctuates from time to time. For instance, a decrease of 12% in 2002 and an increase of 9.3% in 2003 were recorded. The decrease in cargo throughput of the PCWAs in 2007 could be attributed to economic cycles, changes in operational efficiency and competition among different modes of transport or cargo handling facilities in Hong Kong and the region. The Department has not assessed the impact of annual changes in throughput on the operators. Rather we monitor the longer term trend performance of PCWAs from time to time.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ROGER TUPPER

Post Title Director of Marine

Date 20 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)078

Question Serial No.

1104

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

When will the detailed design work of the Shatin to Central Link commence? Are any achievements expected in 2008-09? How much resources will be allocated?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply :

The Government has asked the MTR Corporation Limited to proceed with the further planning and design of the Shatin to Central Link project. We anticipate that the detailed design will commence in 2008 subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)079

Question Serial No.

1105

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

When will the detailed design of the South Island Line commence? Are any achievements expected in 2008-09? How much resources will be allocated for the purpose?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN FANG On-sang, Anson

Reply :

The Transport Branch is deploying internal resources in overseeing the work of the MTR Corporation Limited in the preliminary planning and design of the South Island Line (SIL) (East), with a view to developing a scheme for gazettal in 2009. The detailed design work will then commence. The construction of the SIL (East) is expected to start in 2011 for commissioning no later than 2015.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)080

Question Serial No.

0548

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

In 2008-09, the Transport Branch will co-ordinate the implementation of the Kowloon Southern Link (KSL) for completion by 2009. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee of:

- (a) the specific details of the work involved;
- (b) the estimated expenditure for the implementation of the KSL project; and
- (c) the current progress and the expected month of completion in 2009?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Yuen-han

Reply :

- (a) The Transport Branch, with the support of the Highways Department, has been monitoring closely the progress of the KSL project. In particular, we have been in close touch with the MTR Corporation Limited to ensure the smooth implementation of the project. We are also processing the statutory requirements under the Railways Ordinance.
- (b) The Transport Branch and the Highways Department have been using existing in-house resources to oversee the implementation of the project. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.
- (c) The construction of this project, started in August 2005, has been progressing well. Works for the West Kowloon Station and the railway tunnel between Nam Cheong and West Kowloon are in full swing. The bored tunnels from West Kowloon to the East Tsim Sha Tsui Station are near completion. It is anticipated that the KSL would be completed in end 2009.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)080

Question Serial No.

0548

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

FRANCIS HO

Post Title _____

**Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)**

Date _____

25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)081

Question Serial No.

0856

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

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

As regards fostering closer co-operation between the Hong Kong International Airport and Shenzhen Airport in 2008-09, please provide this Committee with the following information about the study on the feasibility of a direct rail link between them:

- (a) the anticipated completion date of the study and the expenditure involved; and
- (b) should the plan for a direct rail link prove not feasible, whether the Government has other alternative options; if so, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) We hope to complete the study on the feasibility of a rail link between the Hong Kong International Airport and the Shenzhen International Airport in 2008. The associated cost is estimated to be RMB 5.2 million, to be shared equally between the HKSAR Government and the Shenzhen Municipal Government.
- (b) Apart from the above study, the two governments are studying airport business co-operation. High-speed ferry services and cross-boundary coach services now ply between the two airports. The two airports are pursuing other airport business co-operation initiatives, including implementing measures to facilitate transfer of passengers and cargo at the two airports and examining other initiatives.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)082

Question Serial No.

0861

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008–09*, please advise on the following:

- (a) apart from the Tuen Mun Western Bypass and Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link, has the Government conducted studies on other options, such as the construction of Route 10 Northern Section (Lam Tei to So Kwun Wat) to alleviate traffic congestion on the Tuen Mun Road? If yes, what are the details of the project and the expenditure involved? and
- (b) what is the timetable for the completion of the studies on the above options?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) According to the the Northwest New Territories Traffic and Infrastructure Review (the Review) conducted by the Transport Department, the existing and committed road network, including Tuen Mun Road, will be able to cope with the traffic demand up to at least 2016.

To cope with the anticipated traffic demand in the Northwest New Territories (NWNT) and Lantau beyond 2016, the Highways Department (HyD) is about to commence the preliminary design and site investigation of the Tuen Mun – Chek Lap Kok Link and Tuen Mun Western Bypass. In order to further enhance the road network of the NWNT and Lantau in the longer term, HyD has also been conducting engineering feasibility studies on other possible link options identified under the Review, including the “Tuen Mun Eastern Bypass”, “Link Options between Tuen Mun and Lantau” and “Tsing Yi

Lantau Link”. The studies on the “Tuen Mun Eastern Bypass” and “Link Options between Tuen Mun and Lantau” were completed in February and October 2007 respectively, whereas the “Tsing Yi Lantau Link” study is in progress and will be completed by mid 2008.

The Government will continue to monitor the progress of the various major developments in the region and consider the need to take forward the other highway projects identified under the Review.

The Transport and Housing Bureau is responsible for formulating policies on the development of transport infrastructure. Policy input into the Tuen Mun–Chek Lap Kok Link and Tuen Mun Western Bypass project and the other studies under the Review are carried out by in-house staff resources as part of their normal duties and there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

- (b) HyD is now selecting consultants to undertake the investigation and preliminary design of the Tuen Mun – Chek Lap Kok Link and Tuen Mun Western Bypass. The study is scheduled to commence in May 2008 for completion in May 2010.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ FRANCIS HO _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport) _____

Date _____ 19 March 2008 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)083

Question Serial No.

0862

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

As regards the Site Selection Study on the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) in 2008-09, will the Government advise:

- (a) in conducting the site selection study, whether consideration will be given to reservation of land for a rail link in future; if so, of the details; if not, of the reasons; and
- (b) the anticipated completion date of the study and release date of the findings of the study.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) Right at the early stage of the feasibility study for the HZMB project, we have already recognized the need to look into incorporating a railway into the bridge. We have studied the pros and cons of such an arrangement. However, the findings of the feasibility study do not support the idea. The study has considered various factors such as demand forecast, technical requirements as well as financial viability. On the demand side, it is concluded that incorporation of a railway into the HZMB will not significantly increase passenger volume. On the other hand, adding a railway to the HZMB would drastically increase its construction cost. Given that the existing railway networks in the Mainland and Hong Kong are different, further costs would be required to enable through train service. As a result, providing a rail link on the HZMB will adversely affect the financial viability of the project, and will not be conducive to its speedy delivery. The three governments have

therefore proceeded on the basis that the HZMB will be a road structure, and all the studies conducted so far have adopted this as the model.

- (b) The Site Selection Study for the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (BCF) was completed in early 2008. The study recommends reclamation at the north-east of the Airport Island as the preferred site for the BCF. We plan to commence in 2008 the Investigation and Preliminary Design for the BCF including the environmental impact assessment for finalising the location of the BCF.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 27 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)084

Question Serial No.

0863

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

In 2007-08, the Transport Branch co-operates with the franchised bus companies to deploy environment-friendly buses at busy corridors. Please provide the proportion of environment-friendly buses to the franchised bus fleet running along the busy corridors.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

As at end 2007, 100% of the franchised buses running along Yee Wo Street and over 80% of the franchised buses running along Hennessy Road, Queensway, Des Voeux Road Central and Nathan Road were of Euro II or above emission standard.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)085

Question Serial No.

0144

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding road safety, what are the details of the respective expenditure on and staffing arrangement for legislation, enforcement and education for the enhancement of road safety from 2004-05 to 2006-07?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

We have been using existing staff resources in overseeing measures to enhance road safety by means of legislation, enforcement and education. On publicity and education, about \$2.3 million, \$2.9 million and \$3.6 million were allocated to the Road Safety Council in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively to conduct campaigns and publicity activities. On the other hand, enforcement of road traffic legislation and promotion of road safety education are mainly carried out by the Hong Kong Police Force and the Transport Department as part of their normal duties. There is no separate breakdown on the manpower and expenditure involved for these duties.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)086

Question Serial No.

0145

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

In view of the public's growing concern over road safety, does the Administration have any plan to increase the expenditure on road safety? If so, what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The Transport and Housing Bureau (Transport Branch) oversees measures to enhance road safety through legislation, enforcement and education. On publicity and education, we will increase the funding allocated to the Road Safety Council (RSC) by \$0.3 million to \$2.8 million in 2008-09 for conducting campaigns and publicity activities. Additional funding may also be redeployed to the RSC to carry out extra publicity activities as and when necessary. We will continue to work closely with the Police and Transport Department to enhance 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 _____ FRANCIS HO _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport) _____

Date _____ 18 March 2008 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)087

Question Serial No.

0146

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the construction of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB), please inform:

- (1) the current position of the financing arrangement of the HZMB;
- (2) when the implementation programme of the bridge will be finalised; and
- (3) whether there are other ancillary facilities, in addition to the North Lantau Highway Connection, on the Hong Kong side to tie in with the construction of the bridge and what are the details?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (1) At its meeting on 28 February 2008, the HZMB Advance Work Co-ordination Group (AWCG) reached a consensus on the financing arrangement for the HZMB project. The three governments will be responsible for the construction, operation and maintenance of the boundary crossing facilities and the connecting roads to the bridge within their own territories. Private investment will be invited for the construction, operation and maintenance of the Main Bridge. The three governments will, if necessary, provide subsidy to the construction of the Main Bridge of the HZMB. The split of the subsidy will be based on the principle of equalisation of the cost-to-benefit ratios of the three places.

- (2) On the basis of the consensus reached on the project financing arrangement for the HZMB, the AWCG will proceed with the preparatory work for the tendering of the HZMB Main Bridge with an aim to commencing the tendering exercise as soon as possible. The programme of the project would depend on the progress and outcome of the tendering exercise.
- (3) To support the function of the HZMB, there is a need to provide the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (BCF) as well as a connecting road to link up the bridge with the BCF. We have identified options for the alignment of the connecting road and the location of the BCF, and will take forward their preparatory work as quickly as possible.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 27 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)088

Question Serial No.

0147

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the quota arrangements for cross-boundary vehicles, please inform me of:

- (1) the current application status of quotas for cross-boundary vehicles (please provide details of the number of applications and the number of quotas issued from 2004-05 to 2006-07);
- (2) the existing procedures for quota application; and
- (3) 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 TD	Total number of cross-boundary private car CRPs issued by TD
2004-2005	1 533	1 448
2005-2006	1 150	1 086
2006-2007	1 125	1 086

With the commissioning of the Shenzhen Bay Port in July 2007, the total number of cross-boundary private car CRP applications received and issued has increased substantially. As at end February 2008, the total number of such CRP applications received and issued exceeded 4 600.

- (3) The number of cross-boundary private car quotas for all the land boundary crossings is as follows:

Crossing	Number of quotas (as at Feb 2008)
Lok Ma Chau	10 988
Sha Tau Kok	2 538
Man Kam To	595
Shenzhen Bay	4 914
Total	19 035

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 19 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)089

Question Serial No.

0301

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the studies (including in-house studies or those entrusted to consultants) conducted by the Department for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, please provide the relevant information in the following format:

(1) For those consultancy studies that have been earmarked funds in 2007-08, please provide information in the following format:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimates (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

(2) Are there any funds earmarked for conducting consultancy studies in 2008-09? If yes, please provide the following information:

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply :

The consultancy study for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies and has earmarked funding in 2008-09 –

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
- Tender to be invited	Kwun Tong Line Extension – Impact Study on Other Modes of Public Transport	\$1.3 million	Under planning	The study has not yet commenced.

In addition to the above, we engaged an external traffic consultant in 2007-08 to provide technical input to assist us as an ongoing process in exploring possible measures to improve the distribution of traffic among the three road harbour crossings. About \$0.24 million was spent for this purpose. We will continue with our work in 2008-09, and engage experts to provide assistance as necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ FRANCIS HO

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date _____ 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)090

Question Serial No.

1183

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

As regards overseeing the preparation for the commencement of works for the reconstruction and improvement of Tuen Mun Road and the traffic improvement to Tuen Mun Road Town Centre Section, please provide information about the specific details of the preparation work. What will be done to protect and deal with the neighbouring trees? What measures will be taken to forestall traffic problems during the construction period?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

The Transport and Housing Bureau is responsible for formulating policies on the development of transport infrastructure. In 2008-09, we will continue to oversee the preparation of the Highways Department (HyD) for the timely commencement of the “Reconstruction and Improvement of Tuen Mun Road” and “Traffic Improvement to Tuen Mun Road Town Centre Section” projects.

We consulted the Legislative Council Panel on Transport and Public Works Subcommittee on 28 January 2008 and 20 February 2008 respectively on the project details of the reconstruction and improvement of Tuen Mun Road. Issues on trees preservation and traffic management measures during construction were discussed. Subject to Finance Committee’s approval for our funding proposal on 25 April 2008, we will commence construction by mid 2008.

As regards the “Traffic Improvement to Tuen Mun Road Town Centre Section” project, HyD is actively preparing for the gazette of the road scheme under the Roads (Works, Use & Compensation) Ordinance in 2008, with a view to commencing construction works by mid 2009.

HyD is well aware of the need to protect neighbouring trees when carrying out improvement works on Tuen Mun Road. The tree forms, amenity values and health conditions of all trees to be affected have been comprehensively assessed. HyD has consulted the concerned parties, including Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Leisure and Cultural Services Department and Landscape Unit of HyD on the details of the tree proposals in order to minimize the impact on the trees.

Concerning the traffic arrangement during construction, the existing number of traffic lanes on Tuen Mun Road will be maintained between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. on working days in order to minimise disturbance to the traffic along Tuen Mun Road. In addition, all temporary traffic management (TTM) schemes will be approved by the Traffic Management Liaison Group, to be made up of representatives from Transport Department, the Police and HyD, before implementation. HyD will also consult the relevant District Councils on major TTM schemes. The works contractor will also be required to arrange standby towing vehicles at strategic locations to facilitate timely removal of broken-down vehicles so that normal traffic can be resumed as quickly as possible.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ FRANCIS HO _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport) _____

Date _____ 26 March 2008 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)091

Question Serial No.

0691

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

In 2008-09, the Transport and Housing Bureau will decide on the financing arrangement for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) in conjunction with the Mainland and Macao authorities. Please advise on the following:

- (d) when the open tender will be conducted;
- (e) what would be done to encourage investors to submit bids for the project;
- (f) the implementation timetable of the bridge;
- (g) the estimated traffic flow and the entry controls imposed by the three authorities; and
- (h) the engineering and technical difficulties in the construction of the bridge.

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply :

- (a) At its meeting on 28 February 2008, the HZMB Advance Work Co-ordination Group (AWCG) reached a consensus on the financing arrangement for the HZMB project. Based on this consensus, the AWCG is now in a position to start the preparatory work for the tendering of the HZMB Main Bridge.
- (b) According to the consensus reached on the financing arrangement for the HZMB project, the three governments will be responsible for the construction, operation and maintenance of the boundary crossing facilities and the connecting roads to the bridge within their own territories. The three governments will, if necessary, provide subsidy to the construction of the Main Bridge of the HZMB. We are confident that the project would be attractive to investors.

- (c) The AWCG will proceed with the preparatory work for the tendering of the HZMB Main Bridge with an aim to commencing the tendering exercise as soon as possible. The programme of the project would depend on the progress and outcome of the tendering exercise.
- (d) The traffic projection for the HZMB will vary considerably depending on the input assumptions on various planning parameters such as tolls and quota arrangements for private vehicles etc. We will look further into these options and consider the most suitable regulatory regime to be adopted for cross boundary vehicles using the HZMB.
- (e) The feasibility study has confirmed that it is feasible to build the HZMB in the Pearl River Estuary. A deep immersed tunnel will be built with two artificial islands on each end providing bridge/tunnel switching facilities so as to ensure the sea traffic of the main navigation channels towards the Guangzhou and Shenzhen ports remains unimpeded.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 27 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)092

Question Serial No.

1176

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

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

It is the objective of the Administration to ensure that the port of Hong Kong is able to develop continuously in tandem with Hong Kong's economic growth and to meet the demands of trade. The Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao Governments have recently reached an agreement on the financing arrangement of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. However, projects under the Concept Plan for Lantau, such as the Lantau Logistics Park (LLP) and its way forward, have for years remained at the feasibility study stage. When will the feasibility study on the LLP project be completed? Will the Administration continue with its study on the development of the Container Terminal 10? Is there a specific timetable for its implementation?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Wai-keung, Daniel

Reply :

The detailed feasibility study on the LLP has now reached its final stage. With the completion of the feasibility study, we shall report the findings to the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council and the Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development, and further consult them on the LLP project in the light of the development in the logistics industry and other related infrastructure development. We shall also, in accordance with the statutory requirements under the Town Planning Ordinance and Foreshore and Sea-bed (Reclamations) Ordinance, prepare the draft outline zoning plan and to set out the reclamation works related to the LLP project. According to the relevant procedures and past experience, the statutory process is expected to take about 14 months. If the consultation and the statutory procedures go smoothly, the reclamation works can commence in 2009.

Regarding the Container Terminal 10, two site options have been identified for its development. Due to the ecological impact of the Northwest Lantau site option, the Government is now actively studying the Southwest Tsing Yi site option to prepare for the timely commissioning of the Container Terminal 10. There is no specific implementation timetable pending the study of the Southwest Tsing Yi option.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)093

Question Serial No.

2133

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the study to address the uneven distribution of traffic among the three road harbour crossings, what was done by the Administration in 2007-08 and the expenditure involved? What will be done by the Administration in 2008-09? What are the anticipated results of the work and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

We are keeping the traffic situation and traffic management options at the three harbour crossings closely in view on a continuing basis. In 2007-08, we engaged an external traffic consultant to provide technical input at a cost of about \$0.24 million. This work will continue in 2008-09 and we will engage external experts to provide assistance as necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)094

Question Serial No.

2233

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

The Financial Secretary mentioned earlier that the Administration would study any options that could rationalise the traffic flow of the three road harbour crossings, including whether the supporting infrastructure of Eastern Harbour Crossing and Western Harbour Crossing have sufficient capacity to absorb the traffic flow diverted. In this connection, will the Administration provide details about the content, methodology, timetable and anticipated results of the study to be conducted in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

We are studying the traffic situation and traffic management options at the three harbour crossings on a continuing basis. Any practicable measures to rationalize their traffic flow will have regard to the respective location of the tunnels concerned and their toll levels, the adequacy of the supporting road network, the availability of new infrastructure under planning, and other relevant considerations. This has been a major issue that does not lend itself to any easy solutions. We are keeping an open mind in studying all possible options in 2008-09.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)095

Question Serial No.

0095

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the recommendations of the Task Force on Emergency Transport Co-ordination, which recommendations have not yet been implemented? What is the specific timetable for their implementation and the expenditure involved?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

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:

- (a) conducting a feasibility study on deploying advanced technology in incident management at a cost of about \$7 million and about \$4.7 million will be spent in 2008-09. The study has started in March 2007 for completion in mid 2008; and
- (b) installing about 400 closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs) to enhance the coverage of the CCTV system along major routes for completion in 2010. The estimated project cost is \$234 million and funding approval has been obtained.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)096

Question Serial No.

0096

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

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

In 2008-09, the Transport Branch will work out the way forward of the Lantau Logistics Park (LLP) project having regard to the development of the necessary connecting infrastructure and the cargo flow from the Mainland. In this connection, what is the specific timetable for working out the way forward of the LLP project?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

The detailed feasibility study on the LLP has now reached its final stage. With the completion of the feasibility study, we would report the findings to the Hong Kong Logistics Development Council and the Legislative Council Panel on Economic Development, as well as further consult them on the LLP project in the light of the development in the logistics industry and other related infrastructure development. We shall also, in accordance with the statutory requirements under the Town Planning Ordinance and Foreshore and Sea-bed (Reclamations) Ordinance, prepare the draft outline zoning plan and set out the reclamation works related to the LLP project. According to the relevant procedures and past experience, the statutory process is expected to take about 14 months. If the consultation and the statutory procedures go smoothly, the reclamation works can commence in 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)097

Question Serial No.

1034

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

As regards overseeing the implementation of environment-friendly measures by franchised bus companies listed under *Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2008-09*, will the Government advise on the following:

- (a) whether the Government has drawn up any timetable requiring the bus companies to implement all the environment-friendly measures within a specified timeframe? If so, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons? and
- (b) whether the Government will consider other measures, such as incorporating clauses, at the time of extension of their franchises, mandatorily requiring the companies to implement environment-friendly measures? If so, what are the details; if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by : Hon. LEE Wing-tat

- (a) The franchised bus companies have been taking a number of initiatives to improve the environment. These include controlling the number of buses, deployment of environment-friendly buses on busy corridors, installation of emission reduction devices on vehicles, rationalising bus routes and introduction of bus-bus interchange schemes to reduce the need for introducing new bus routes. The Government requires the bus companies to implement these as on-going initiatives since this is considered more desirable. Apart from consulting the relevant District Councils on the major bus rationalisation items proposed, the Government has to take into account the operating conditions and financial situation of the bus companies so as to avoid causing undue increase in their operating costs which would in turn exert pressure on the bus fares.

- (b) To promote the use of environment-friendly buses, a clause has already been added in all the existing bus franchises to require the franchised bus companies to adopt the latest commercially available and proven environment-friendly technology in setting specifications for acquiring new buses. A new clause has also been added in the franchises of the Citybus Limited (Franchise for Hong Kong Island and Cross Harbour Routes), New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited and Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited, granted by the Chief Executive in Council in 2006, to require these three companies to adopt the latest commercially available and proven environment-friendly technology and products as specified by the Commissioner for Transport on their existing buses.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)098

Question Serial No.

1639

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

The number of non-directorate posts will increase from an estimated 126 posts as at 31 March 2008 to 130 posts as at 31 March 2009. Please provide information about the rank, specific duties and salaries of the four additional posts.

Asked by : Hon. LEONG Kah-kit, Alan

Reply :

The information on the four additional posts is set out below–

- (a) one Senior Engineer to provide additional professional support for planning work relating to new railway projects;
- (b) one Senior Personal Secretary to provide secretarial support for the Under Secretary under the Political Appointment System;
- (c) one Executive Officer II to strengthen the administrative support for finance and supplies matters; and
- (d) one Assistant Information Officer to assist in handling public relations matters, media enquiries, media research and related work.

The staff cost in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value for the four posts is \$2 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)099

Question Serial No.

2492

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Regarding the transfer of the Hong Kong Railway Inspectorate to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department, please provide information on the number, ranks, terms of employment and salaries of the staff involved. Has any staff been redeployed to other posts or made redundant as a result of the above transfer? If so, what are the number and ranks of the staff involved and their terms of employment?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

On 1 February 2008, nine staff of the Hong Kong Railway Inspectorate (HKRI) of the following ranks, all on civil service permanent terms of employment, were transferred to the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD). The breakdown in rank is as follows:

- (a) one Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer (CEME);
- (b) one Senior Electrical and Mechanical Engineer;
- (c) one Senior Electronics Engineer;
- (d) one Senior Engineer;
- (e) two Electrical and Mechanical Engineers/ Assistant Electrical and Mechanical Engineers;
- (f) one Engineer/Assistant Engineer; and
- (g) two Personal Secretaries II.

The staff cost in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value for these nine posts is about \$6 million.

As approved by the Finance Committee on 11 January 2008, the rank of the head of the HKRI was upgraded from CEME (D1) to Government Electrical and Mechanical Engineer (D2) on 1 February 2008. Consequently, the incumbent CEME was transferred to another Department. The officer's terms of employment were unaffected.

No staff has been made redundant in this transfer exercise.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)100

Question Serial No.

0771

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

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

In paragraph 103 of the Speech for the 2008-09 Budget, the Financial Secretary mentioned that the Airport Authority is preparing to start the engineering and environmental feasibility studies for the third runway within this year. Please provide the details of the preparatory work, the anticipated commencement dates and completion dates of the said studies.

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

The Airport Authority (AA) intends to start within 2008 the engineering and environmental feasibility studies on the proposal of building a third runway at the Hong Kong International Airport. The AA, in consultation with the Government, is drawing up a consultancy brief to invite bids from consultancy firms and aims to request the selected firm to start the studies in the fourth quarter of 2008. The studies are expected to take about two years.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ FRANCIS HO

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date _____ 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)101

Question Serial No.

1354

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Please advise on the current progress of the Kowloon Southern Link.

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

The construction of the Kowloon Southern Link (KSL) project started in August 2005 and has been progressing well. Works for the West Kowloon Station and the railway tunnel between Nam Cheong and West Kowloon are in full swing. The bored tunnels from West Kowloon to the East Tsim Sha Tsui Station are near completion. It is anticipated that the KSL would be completed in end 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 25 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)102

Question Serial No.

1355

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

What is the current progress of the planning and design of the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link and Tuen Mun Western Bypass, and the amount of resources allocated and to be allocated?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

The Transport and Housing Bureau is responsible for formulating policies on the development of transport infrastructure. Policy input into the Tuen Mun–Chek Lap Kok Link and Tuen Mun Western Bypass project are carried out by in-house staff resources.

The Finance Committee has approved \$88.6 million in capital funding for the investigation and preliminary design of the Tuen Mun – Chek Lap Kok Link and Tuen Mun Western Bypass. The Highways Department is now selecting consultants to undertake these works. The study is scheduled to commence in May 2008 for completion in May 2010.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ FRANCIS HO _____

Post Title _____ Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport) _____

Date _____ 19 March 2008 _____

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)103

Question Serial No.

1356

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Please advise the criteria adopted by the Administration for the issue of cross-boundary vehicle licences; and, in view of the increase in cross-boundary population, whether the Administration will issue more categories of cross-boundary vehicle licences, such as licences for cross-boundary school transport vehicle.

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

To ensure smooth cross-boundary traffic, all cross-boundary vehicles other than goods vehicles and the Lok Ma Chau – Huanggang Shuttle Buses are subject to quota restriction. The quota system is jointly administered by the Hong Kong and Guangdong authorities, with the number of quotas for the crossings set at a level which is commensurate with the processing capacity of the respective control points.

According to the agreement between the governments of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and Guangdong, quotas for Hong Kong private cars to enter and leave the Mainland are issued mainly to persons with business need to travel between the two places. On the other hand, quotas for cross-boundary coaches are issued to Hong Kong – Mainland joint ventures that provide cross-boundary passenger services.

The two governments review the number of quotas to be issued from time to time, having regard to passenger demand and the processing capacity of the control points. In connection with the commissioning of the Shenzhen Bay Port in July 2007, additional quotas have been issued to facilitate cross-boundary travel.

Cross-boundary coach operators who are interested in providing cross-boundary school bus services may do so by using their existing quotas. In fact, some operators are already providing such services via different crossings.

The Administration will continue to monitor the traffic situation at all the crossings and review the quota arrangements and the number of quotas to be issued with the relevant Guangdong authorities from time to time.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)104

Question Serial No.

1357

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

Please explain why the revised estimate for 2007-08 in respect of general departmental expenses is nearly twice the original estimate.

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

The much expanded policy purview of the Transport Branch (TB) accounts mainly for the increase in general departmental expenses in the 2007-08 revised estimate.

The 2007-08 original estimate was drawn up to provide for expenditure relating to Policy Area (PA) 21 : Transport, the only PA under TB of the then Environment, Transport and Works Bureau. With the re-organisation of the Government Secretariat with effect from 1 July 2007, TB became part of the new Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) and its policy portfolio was enlarged to cover also PA 3 : Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development and PA 27 : Intra-Governmental Services, both of which were formerly under the purview of the then Economic Development and Labour Bureau (EDLB). The relevant provision for the portfolios was transferred from the then EDLB to THB.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Permanent Secretary for
Post Title Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 19 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)105

Question Serial No.

0639

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

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

In 2007-08, the Transport Branch completed a training programme on the application of e-logistics for logistics employees in co-operation with the Hong Kong Productivity Council. In this connection, will the Administration advise on the following:

- (c) the duration of the training programme;
- (d) the expenditure incurred; and
- (e) the number of programme participants who were from the logistics sector?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The training programme was held between August 2006 and March 2007.
- (b) The expenditure was \$1.5 million.
- (c) 1 713 participants from the logistics sector attended various sessions of the programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Post Title Permanent Secretary for
Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 18 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)106

Question Serial No.

0642

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

Programme : (3) Air and Sea Communications and Logistics Development

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

In 2007-08, the Transport Branch worked with the Hong Kong Productivity Council to monitor the development of a pilot project on an On-Board Trucker Information System. In this connection, will the Government advise on the following:

- (a) the expenditure on the pilot project in 2007-08;
- (b) the duration of the project; and
- (c) the progress update on the project?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) A sponsorship totalling \$7 million was provided to the Hong Kong Productivity Council (HKPC) for this pilot project. The actual expenditure on the project incurred by HKPC in 2007-08 was approximately \$2.4 million.
- (b) The pilot project, which commenced in March 2006, is expected to span over about four years from consultation, preparation and development stages to the conclusion of the one-year pilot run by 500 trucks.
- (c) The project has entered into the proof-of-concept stage since February 2008, which involves the installation of the On-Board Trucker Information System on 50 trucks to test its basic features. Based on the findings at this stage, the project will be expanded to include another 450 trucks to test its integrated functions.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)106

Question Serial No.

0642

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Permanent Secretary for
Post Title Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 26 March 2008

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)107

Question Serial No.

0644

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

Programme : (2) Land and Waterborne Transport

Controlling Officer : Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing
(Transport)

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

In 2008-09, the Transport Branch will continue with the planning of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL). In this connection, will the Government advise on the following:

- (a) the specific details of the planning work involved in 2008-09; and
- (b) the expenditure on the planning of the SCL.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The Transport Branch, with the support of Highways Department and other bureaux and departments concerned, will examine the detailed scheme to be submitted by the railway corporation with a view to finalizing the scheme for gazetting.
- (b) The Transport Branch and the Highways Department have been using existing in-house resources to oversee the planning of the project. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters FRANCIS HO

Permanent Secretary for
Post Title Transport and Housing (Transport)

Date 27 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)108

Question Serial No.

0995

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Please provide the road test waiting time for applicants who are students of the Hong Kong School of Motoring and that for other applicants who are not students of designated driving schools in 2007. Will the Government take any measures to shorten the long waiting time for road test?

Asked by : Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply :

The road test waiting time fluctuates as demand changes from time to time. In 2007, the road test waiting time of all applicants, whether or not from designated driving schools, was within the Transport Department's (TD's) performance pledge of 85 days. The range is set out as follows -

- (a) applicants who are students of the designated driving schools: 30 to 69 days; and
- (b) applicants who are not students of the designated driving schools: 30 to 84 days.

TD will continue to flexibly deploy driving examiners to different driving test centres in response to the demand and with a view to achieving the new performance pledge of arranging road driving tests within 82 days in 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **27 March 2008**

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)109

Question Serial No.

0855

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the continuing implementation of pedestrian schemes to improve the environment for pedestrians under this programme, please advise -

- (a) the details of pedestrian schemes to be implemented, their target completion dates and expenditure involved (please provide breakdown by 18 districts); and
- (b) whether the Government has any plan to extend the footbridge network to improve the environment for pedestrians of Hong Kong Island North and Mong Kok district. If so, what are the implementation timetable and the estimated expenditure? If not, why not?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

(a) Details of the pedestrian schemes are as follows -

District	Location	Target Completion Date	Project Estimate \$ million	Estimated Expenditure in 2008-09 \$ million
Wan Chai	Lockhart Road, East Point Road and Great George Street	Mid 2010	4.5	1.0
	Yiu Wah Street	Early 2009		

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0855

Yau Tsim Mong	Bowring Street (between Nathan Road and Parkes Street)	Mid 2009	13.3	5.0
	Woosung Street (between Jordan Road and Kansu Street)	End 2009		
	Parkes Street (between Jordan Road and Saigon Street)	End 2009		
	Ning Po Street (between Nathan Road and Shanghai Street)	Early 2009		
	Saigon Street (between Nathan Road and Shanghai Street)	End 2008		
	Pak Hoi Street (between Nathan Road and Shanghai Street)	Mid 2009		
	Kimberley Road (between Nathan Road and Carnarvon Road)	Mid 2009		
	Hart Avenue (Eastern Section)	Early 2009		
	Peking Road (between Nathan Road and Hankow Road)	End 2009		
	Prat Avenue (between Hart Avenue and Chatham Road South)	Early 2009		
Sham Shui Po	Fuk Wa Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	Mid 2008	8.1	3.2
	Pei Ho Street (between Yu Chau Street and Un Chau Street)	Mid 2008		
	Fuk Wing Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	Mid 2009		
	Kweilin Street (between Yu Chau Street and Un Chow Street)	End 2009		
	Yu Chau Street (between Yen Chow Street and Nam Cheong Street)	End 2008		

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0855

- (b) With a view to improving the pedestrian environment, the Administration has the following plans to extend the footbridge network in Hong Kong Island North -
- (i) an at-grade open deck across the proposed Road P2 connecting the Tamar Site with the new Central waterfront promenade, the construction and expenditure of which are covered by the Central Reclamation Phase III project, is targeted for completion in end 2009;
 - (ii) two elevated walkways, connecting the Tamar Development with the footbridge system outside the CITIC Tower and the south of Harcourt Road, are targeted for completion in 2011. Their construction and expenditure are covered by the Tamar Development project;
 - (iii) an elevated walkway along the northern side of Gloucester Road and Harcourt Road connecting the Wan Chai Government Offices with the Tamar Development is now under planning for completion in 2014 at an estimated cost of \$240 million;
 - (iv) three landscaped decks (located near Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wan Chai North public transport interchange and Victoria Park) and one footbridge at Wan Shing Street, connecting the future Wan Chai harbourfront with the hinterland are under planning. Their construction and expenditure are intended to be covered by the Wan Chai Development Phase II project; and
 - (v) an elevated walkway along the northern side of Connaught Road West connecting Shun Tak Centre with the Sun Yat Sen Memorial Park is now under planning. Its implementation will tie in with the development of the commercial site to the west of Shun Tak Centre and its cost is subject to detailed study.

The Administration is also considering enhancing the pedestrian environment in Mong Kok by extending the existing footbridge system at Mong Kok Road southwards to Argyle Street in conjunction with the future redevelopment of the depots of Food and Environmental Hygiene Department and Water Supplies Department at Sai Yee Street. The implementation programme and the estimated cost of the extension are subject to further study after the programmes for the concerned redevelopment projects have been confirmed.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)109

Question Serial No.

0855

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)110

Question Serial No.

0857

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the bus route rationalisation packages processed, will the Administration list out by 18 districts the bus stops and areas covered by the bus routes, the number of bus routes involved, the implementation timetable and the estimated expenditure.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The rationalisation of bus services is an on-going programme with various measures being implemented having regard to the passenger demand, road traffic conditions, reduction of roadside exhaust emission and other operational considerations such as the need to enhance bus network coverage and efficiency. The Transport Department consults the relevant District Councils annually on major rationalisation proposals put forward by the franchised bus companies in their Bus Route Development Programmes. The rationalisation packages planned for 2008 will involve about 50 bus routes serving 17 districts and the consultation has started in March 2008. As the District Councils' views are very important, the plans and the number of routes to be rationalised in 2008 can only be finalised later.

The bus rationalisation measures will be implemented by the bus companies concerned. No additional expenditure is required. The consultation work is undertaken by the Transport Department's existing staff as part of their normal duties. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)111

Question Serial No.

0858

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding achieving the installation of electronic black boxes on franchised buses under this programme, please advise the details of the plan, the implementation timetable, the required expenditure, and whether the measure will 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 all new buses to be procured by all franchised bus companies.

The Long Win Bus Company Limited has completed the retrofitting of electronic black boxes on all its buses in end 2007. The 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 September 2008 and end 2008 respectively. The New World First Bus Services Limited, Citybus Limited (Lantau and Airport network) and New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited will do so by end 2009.

The installation of electronic black boxes is funded by the relevant franchised bus companies. No additional expenditure is required.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **20 March 2008**

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)112

Question Serial No.

0859

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the developing and implementing of the Transport Information System (TIS) under this programme, please provide -

- (a) the reason why the TIS has not yet been launched, and the annual expenditure for investigation and preparatory work for the TIS in 2006-07 and 2007-08;
- (b) the Government's planned timetable for launching the TIS and the associated expenditure; and
- (c) the timetable and estimated expenditure for implementing the electronic road pricing system.

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) Technical problems related to system design and testing for the Transport Information System (TIS) were encountered and a postponement in the scheduled completion of work for several months is resulted. The Transport Department will continue to closely monitor the work progress with a view to completing the TIS project by the end of 2008.

The expenditure for the project in 2006-07 was \$0.57 million and the estimated expenditure for 2007-08 is \$0.84 million.

- (b) The two key services of the project, namely Intelligent Road Network and Public Transport Information Service, will be available to the service providers and the public in phases starting from the latter half of 2008. The total project cost is estimated to be \$63.6 million.

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Question Serial No.

0859

- (c) Electronic road pricing is a complicated issue. We need to further ascertain the transport needs and benefits, and conduct extensive consultation when formulating the way forward. We have no timetable or estimated expenditure for its implementation at this stage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)113

Question Serial No.

0860

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the key performance measures for planning and development, will the Government provide –

- (a) the reason for the significant drop in the number of bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes introduced in 2007-08 as compared with that in 2006-07; and
- (b) the details of bus routes involved in the BBI schemes planned for 2008?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

The planning and implementation of bus-bus interchange (BBI) schemes is an on-going exercise. In formulating these schemes, the Government will take into account suggestions from the public, and factors such as the operational and financial implications, how the proposed scheme can improve the bus network coverage and efficiency, and the compatibility of the Octopus software. Owing to the variations of these factors from year to year, the number of BBI schemes introduced each year may differ.

Ten BBI schemes are planned for implementation in 2008. These schemes involve about 30 bus routes serving the New Territories, Kowloon and the Hong Kong Island.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **20 March 2008**

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)114

Question Serial No.

0308

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding summonses issued for Driving Offence Points (DOP) disqualification and traffic offences in control areas of government tunnels and bridges, please advise -

- (a) the reason for the increase in number of summonses issued for DOP disqualification from 3 627 in 2006 to 4 513 in 2007;
- (b) the reason for the increase in number of summonses issued for traffic offences in control areas of government tunnels and bridges from 3 870 in 2006 to 4 827 in 2007; and
- (c) the statistics on summonses issued for DOP disqualification from 2004-05 to 2006-07.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (a) Summonses for Driving Offence Points (DOP) disqualification are issued to licence holders who have accumulated 15 or more DOPs within two years. The increase in the number of summonses issued for DOP disqualification in 2007 might be attributable to the increase in red light jumping offences detected as a result of the installation of more red light cameras since late 2006 and the stepping up of enforcement actions on traffic offences by the Police.
- (b) The increase in the number of summonses issued for traffic offences in control areas of government tunnels and bridges in 2007 might be attributable to the increase in speeding offences detected.

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Question Serial No.

0308

- (c) The number of summonses issued for DOP disqualification from 2004 to 2007 is set out as follows -

2004	:	3 236
2005	:	3 101
2006	:	3 627
2007	:	4 513

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 25 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)115

Question Serial No.

0309

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding Journey Time Indication System (JTIS), please advise –

- (a) how the JTIS would improve the road traffic conditions in areas where the system has been installed; and
- (b) whether the Administration would expand the system to all major routes in Hong Kong.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (a) The Journey Time Indication System in Hong Kong (JTIS Hong Kong) provides motorists with the estimated journey time for travelling from Hong Kong Island to Kowloon via the three road-harbour crossings. Information collated from JTIS Hong Kong has also been translated into a Traffic Speed Map and uploaded onto Transport Department's website since August 2005. A before-and-after survey was conducted in December 2002 and January 2004 respectively. It was found that the average vehicle speed along the approach roads of road-harbour crossings on Hong Kong Island North generally increased by 4% after the implementation of JTIS Hong Kong. We also carried out an opinion survey in 2006 to ascertain the usefulness of JTIS. Of the 2 760 motorists who had made cross-harbour trips within a month before the survey, over 87% noticed the existence of the JTIS and amongst them, 64% felt that the system could assist them in choosing a cross-harbour route, and 61.7% considered that the JTIS also helped them in other aspects, such as estimating the arrival time and the level of congestion.
- (b) In the light of the satisfactory performance of JTIS Hong Kong and the public support for expanding the system to Kowloon, we plan to implement the JTIS in Kowloon. The installation works will commence in mid 2008 for completion in early 2010. We will keep in view the development of new JTIS technologies which will enhance reliability and lower operating costs, and consider further expansion as necessary after the completion of the JTIS in Kowloon.

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THB(T)115

Question Serial No.

0309

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

20 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)116

Question Serial No.

0310

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : With regard to the traffic and transport arrangements at the Lok Ma Chau Spur Line and Shenzhen Bay Control Points, please advise -

1. the daily utilisation of the above two control points;
2. whether there is any difference between the actual utilisation and the Administration's estimate for the two control points and what the situation is; and
3. whether the Administration would introduce measures to enhance the utilisation of the two control points and, if yes, what the measures are. Please also provide the implementation timetable for such measures.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

The average daily two-way vehicular flow of the Shenzhen Bay Control Point (SBCP) for the month of December 2007 was 4 400 trips as compared with the estimate of 29 800, while the two-way passenger traffic flow was 28 400 trips, which is close to the estimate of 30 800. There has been progressive increase in the utilisation rate.

As for the Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Control Point (LMCSLCP), the daily average two-way passenger traffic for the month of December 2007 was around 40 800 persons. We consider that usage of the LMCSLCP needs time to build up. In fact, the patronage of the control point has been improving since August 2007 when it was opened.

To encourage the utilisation of the SBCP, the Mainland authorities and the HKSAR Government have implemented a number of measures, including -

- (a) exempting goods vehicles of cross-boundary freight companies from the requirement of obtaining an additional SBCP endorsement in advance from the relevant authorities in Guangdong Province so as to facilitate goods vehicles to use SBCP;

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Question Serial No.

0310

- (b) allowing private car quota-holders of Lok Ma Chau, Man Kam To and Sha Tau Kok Control Points to use SBCP on a trial basis, and extend the trial period from 3 months to 15 months until 30 September 2008;
- (c) enhancing the ancillary facilities at SBCP, including more directional and traffic to facilitate the movement of passengers and motorists; and
- (d) publicising the road network and facilities at SBCP, such as publication of leaflets, conducting briefings to the transport trades, etc.

In addition, we have conveyed to the relevant Shenzhen authorities the freight trade's comments on ancillary facilities at the control point and the road network for their consideration of implementing improvement measures as necessary. We understand that the Shenzhen authorities will construct a temporary office building in the Shenzhen port area to allow freight companies to set up offices for providing support on customs declarations and clearance of goods. They aim to complete the works in the first half of 2008. The Shenzhen authorities have also implemented traffic management measures (e.g. installing additional traffic signs, designating goods vehicles-only lanes at the Yueliangwan Avenue leading to the control point, etc.) to attract cross-boundary vehicles (in particular goods vehicles) to use the new control point. In addition, the Guangdong government has indicated that it will expedite the construction works of the Guangshen Yanjiang Expressway with a view to commissioning the entire expressway by end 2010.

As regards the LMCSLCP, MTR Corporation Limited has implemented various promotional schemes to enhance the attractiveness of the Lok Ma Chau Spur Line. For example, weekly tickets are provided to enable frequent travellers to ride on the Spur Line at a promotional fare. Short-term promotions were also introduced in January and February 2008 to distribute free tickets of the Spur Line. We will continue to monitor the usage of the LMCSLCP and liaise with Mainland authorities with a view to enhancing the usage.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

20 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)117

Question Serial No.

0350

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the Park-and-Ride facilities, please advise –

- (a) the utilization rates of the Park-and-Ride facilities at present;
- (b) the expenditure for each of the above Park-and-Ride facilities; and
- (c) if the Administration will review the current Park-and-Ride facilities.
If yes, what is the situation? If no, will the Administration consider doing so?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply :

- (a) At present, there are six car parks operated by the Transport Department (TD) and the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) which provide Park-and-Ride (PnR) facilities. These car parks, located at Sheung Shui Station, Kam Sheung Road Station, Choi Hung Station, Hong Kong Station, Kowloon Station and Tsing Yi Station, provide a total of about 2 100 car parking spaces for use by both PnR and other users. The average daily number of users of these car parks in 2007 was 1 750 and about half of them were PnR users.
- (b) Of the six car parks, five are run by MTRCL while the remaining one at Sheung Shui station is operated by TD. TD has outsourced the operation and management of the car park at Sheung Shui Station. The fee paid to the contractor was \$1,030,908 in 2007.
- (c) TD has been regularly monitoring the operation of the PnR facilities to ensure the policy objective of encouraging motorists to use public transport could be achieved. The current utilisation of PnR facilities is generally satisfactory, and the number of PnR parking spaces available is also sufficient to cater for the demand. TD will continue to keep in view the situation and consider measures to further enhance the usage if necessary.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)117

Question Serial No.

0350

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)118

Question Serial No.

0520

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : The Administration will continue to provide support in the planning and implementation of traffic and transport arrangements to facilitate the delivery of the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events. Please provide the latest progress and the information on the resources deployed and staff required.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The Transport Department (TD) is assisting the Home Affairs Bureau and the Equestrian Company in preparing the traffic and transport arrangements for the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events (the Events) to be held in August and September 2008, through -

- (a) implementing efficient traffic management measures to facilitate smooth traffic and pedestrian flows;
- (b) enhancing the facilities/equipment for monitoring the traffic and transport arrangements;
- (c) advising on transport arrangements made by the Equestrian Company for spectators travelling between relevant MTR Stations and the two competition venues; and
- (d) assisting in the public consultation on the impact of the traffic and transport arrangements.

Apart from existing resources, TD has deployed 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 since April 2007. To cope with the increase in workload, one Senior Transport Officer and one Transport Officer I will also be deployed to render support from April 2008. All the four posts will lapse by end September 2008. The half-year provision for these posts, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, is \$1.6 million.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)118

Question Serial No.

0520

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)119

Question Serial No.

0522

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

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : How much is the additional provision for outsourcing the management, operation and maintenance services of the Tsing Sha Control Area? What is the proportion of increase as compared to the original provision? What is the reason for exceeding the provision?

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The Tsing Sha Control Area (TSCA) will be open to traffic in three stages, viz. the section between Sha Tin and Cheung Sha Wan (Stage I) in March 2008, the Tsing Yi section (Stage II) in late 2008, and the Stonecutters Bridge (Stage III) in mid 2009. The management, operation and maintenance service contract for the TSCA will commence in March 2008 to tie in with the Stage I opening. The financial provisions for the Transport Department for the contract fees in 2007-08 and 2008-09 are \$3.5 million and \$123.2 million respectively. The increase in provisions in 2008-09 is to provide for the full-year expenditure for operation of the Stage I section and the additional contract fee for the Stage II section which is scheduled for opening in late 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ALAN WONG _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 20 March 2008 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)120

Question Serial No.

0733

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In 2008-09, the Administration will continue to study the feasibility of harnessing advanced technologies to enhance the Department's incident management capability. Please provide information on the latest progress of the study, the application areas and the associated provision.

Asked by : Hon. CHEUNG Yu-yan, Tommy

Reply :

The study started in March 2007 and is expected to be completed in mid 2008.

Technologies being applied in overseas cities in the areas of incident detection have been reviewed under the study. They include incident verification, incident data analysis and display, traffic modelling, collection and dissemination of real-time traffic information, and communication. The study will review the existing practices and facilities adopted in Hong Kong, and recommend the way forward including specific measures suitable for use in Hong Kong.

The total cost of the study is about \$7 million. The expenditure in 2008-09 is about \$4.7 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **26 March 2008**

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)121

Question Serial No.

1077

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the expenditure for the installation of red light camera systems, will the Administration advise –

- (a) the number of red light cameras that have been installed up to now and the total expenditure involved;
- (b) whether funding has been reserved in the 2008-09 Estimates for installing more red light cameras and, if yes, the number of cameras involved; and
- (c) the Administration's assessment on the effectiveness of the red light cameras in deterring the behaviour of red light jumping?

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

Reply :

- (a) Currently, there are 96 red light cameras operating in 131 housings on a rotational basis. The expenditure for the procurement and installation of these cameras and housings was about \$75 million.
- (b) In July 2007, the Finance Committee approved a commitment of \$86.3 million for replacement of the existing wet-film cameras and housings by digital ones, as well as procurement and installation of an addition of 59 red light cameras and 24 camera housings, thereby increasing both the number of red light cameras and the number of camera housings to 155 respectively upon completion of the project. Out of this provision, \$12.3 million is estimated to be spent in 2008-09 for carrying out the project.
- (c) Under the last expansion project completed in 2006, the number of red light cameras was increased by phases from 28 before May 2006 to 96 in November 2006. In 2007, there were 298 traffic accidents involving red light jumping, as compared to 331 in 2005 before the expansion project, representing a decrease of about 10%. The number of casualties in these traffic accidents also dropped by about 17%, from 608 to 507, during the same period.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)121

Question Serial No.

1077

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)122

Question Serial No.

0306

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

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the studies (including in-house studies or those entrusted to consultants) conducted by the Department for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies, please provide the relevant information in the following format :

- (1) For those consultancy studies that have been earmarked funds in 2007-08, please provide information in the following format :

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

- (2) Are there any funds earmarked for conducting consultancy studies in 2008-09? If yes, please provide the following information :

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. EU Yuet-mee, Audrey

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)122

Question Serial No.

0306

Reply:

- (1) Consultancy studies for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies and have earmarked funding in 2007-08 -

	Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Revised Estimate (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	The follow-ups taken by the Administration on the study reports and their progress (if any)	If completed, have they been released to the public? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
(a)	MVA Hong Kong Limited	Congestion Charging Transport Model – Feasibility Study	\$2 million (\$6 million for total project cost)	In progress	The consultancy study is being finalised.	The study is to update the model developed in the previous feasibility study for Government's reference. Congestion charging is a complicated issue and the Government will conduct extensive consultation when formulating the way forward.
(b)	- In-house study within the Transport Department	Strategic Highway Project Review 2007	N.A.	Completed	Monitor the planning of strategic highway projects	Completed. The study is for the Government's reference in the planning of highway networks.

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THB(T)122

Question Serial No.

0306

(2) Consultancy studies for the purposes of formulating and assessing policies and have earmarked funding in 2008-09 -

	Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
(a)	MVA Hong Kong Ltd	Consultancy Study on Regulatory Arrangements for Cross-boundary Vehicles Upon the Commissioning of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge	\$1.3 million	In progress	The study is for the Government's reference in planning the regulatory arrangements for vehicles using the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.
(b)	- In-house study within the Transport Department	Strategic Highway Project Review 2008	N.A.	Under planning	The study is for the Government's reference in the planning of highway networks.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)122

Question Serial No.

0306

Name of Consultant (if any)	Content	Expenditure (\$)	Progress of Studies (under planning / in progress / completed)	Will the studies be released to the public if they are expected to be completed in the 2008-09 financial year? If yes, through which channels? If no, what are the reasons?
(c) Ove Arup & Partners Hong Kong Ltd	Traffic Study for Mid-Levels Area	\$1.3 million	Study will commence in the second week of April 2008.	Findings will be taken into account in the future review of the Outline Zoning Plan (OZP) for Mid-Levels West. Any amendments to the OZP will be subject to public representations in accordance with the provisions under the Town Planning Ordinance.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)123

Question Serial No.

1182

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the re-tender for the licences of the four outlying island ferry routes, how will the Government, in the face of the hike in fuel prices and other expenditures such as vessel maintenance and acquisition of new vessels, attract operators to bid for the ferry services so as to provide residents of the outlying islands with stable ferry services and avoid any downgrading of the existing service level and reduction of the frequency during non-peak hours?

Asked by : Hon. FANG Kang, Vincent

Reply :

In order to enhance the financial viability of the ferry services and reduce the magnitude of fare increases during the new licence period, the Government has decided to waive the vessel-related fees of the four outlying island ferry routes, viz. “Central – Mui Wo”, “Central – Peng Chau”, “Central – Yung Shue Wan” and “Central – Sok Kwu Wan”, during the three-year term of the new licences with effect from 1 July 2008. Moreover, the Government will continue to implement the existing measures to help reduce the operating cost and increase non-fare box revenue of ferry operators. These measures include taking over pier maintenance responsibilities, waiving fuel tax, reimbursing pier rentals and exempting vessel licence fees for ferry services under the Elderly Concessionary Fares Scheme and allowing ferry operators to sub-let premises at piers for commercial and retail activities.

In addition to the above, the Government also introduced new measures in 2007 to enhance ferry operators' ability to generate non-fare box revenue. These measures include relaxing land use at Central Piers No. 4, 5 and 6 to allow commercial activities such as restaurants, fast food shops, retail shops and service trades on the first floor of the piers, streamlining the procedures for approval of applications for sub-letting pier premises and retrofitting these piers with fire prevention facilities. As a long-term measure, we are considering the feasibility of taking opportunity of the proposed development in the Urban Design Study for the New Central Harbourfront to enhance the financial viability of the outlying island ferry services by, for example, allowing the operators to sub-let the additional floor, if constructed, for commercial or retail activities while requiring them to continue to use non-fare box revenue to cross-subsidize the ferry operation.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)123

Question Serial No.

1182

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)124

Question Serial No.

1246

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : As from 2008, the Transport Department has introduced new targets on licensing of vehicles and drivers, including targets on conducting driving test, road test and written test, announcing written test result upon completion of test, providing counter and non-counter services in respect of driving licence renewal, etc. Please advise -

- (a) the differences between the new and old targets;
- (b) the change in manpower requirements under the new targets;
- (c) whether there is any increase in the number of transactions processed under the new targets. If yes, what is the increase? Please set out the changes in various services; and
- (d) whether additional expenditure is involved as compared with the old targets.

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

The Transport Department has introduced new performance targets in 2008 with improvements as follows -

- (a) elaborating the existing targets (e.g. to provide separate performance target driving licence and vehicle licence services);
- (b) setting new targets (e.g. to provide additional target for non-counter licence services); and
- (c) reducing waiting time (e.g. to shorten the waiting time for driving licence services over the counter during the peak hours from 75 to 70 minutes).

The revised targets are at Annex.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)124

Question Serial No.

1246

The Transport Department will continue to monitor the performance of its licensing and driving test services against the revised targets, with a view to identifying room for further improvement. The number of transactions to be processed will depend on the demand of the public. The Department will strive to absorb the new targets through internal redeployment of existing resources.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 26 March 2008

Annex

	2007 Performance Pledge (Target %)	2008 Performance Pledge (New Target %)
<i>Driving Licence Renewal service over the counter</i>		
Peak hours	75 minutes (100%)	70 minutes (98%)
Non-peak hours	40 minutes (100%)	40 minutes (100%)
<i>Vehicle Licence Renewal service over the counter</i>		
Peak hours	75 minutes (100%)	70 minutes (95%)
Non-peak hours	40 minutes (100%)	40 minutes (100%)
<i>Non-counter Licence Services</i>	-	Within 10 working days upon application (95%)
<i>Waiting time for road tests</i>		
Motorcycle, private car and light goods vehicle	Within 85 days upon application (100%)	Within 82 days upon application (95%)
Light Bus, bus, medium and heavy goods vehicle and articulated vehicle	Within 85 days upon application (100%)	Within 82 days upon application (95%)
<i>Waiting time for written tests</i>		
Learner driving licences	--	Within 45 days upon application (98%)
Taxi licences	--	Within 60 days upon application (98%)
<i>Announcement of written test results</i>		
All written tests	--	Within 15 minutes after completion of the test (98%)

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)125

Question Serial No.

1247

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : The Transport Department has mentioned that the actual performance of providing licensing renewal service over the counter within “75 minutes during peak hours” and “within 40 minutes during non-peak hours” in 2007 was 98%, which is lower than that in 2006 at 100%. The drop in performance is due to the upsurge in renewal applications of ten-year driving licences starting in 2007. Would the Transport Department advise on the measures to be taken to avoid the recurrence of similar situation in the next renewal cycle in 2017 and to improve the efficiency in licensing offices? What is the associated expenditure?

Asked by : Hon. LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey

Reply:

To cope with the upsurge in renewal applications for ten-year driving licences, the Transport Department has secured funding totalling \$39 million for the period from 2006-07 to 2008-09 including the provision of 14 time-limited posts (i.e. two Senior Clerical Officers, six Assistant Clerical Officers and six temporary staff).

As the number of driving licence renewal applications had increased significantly (from about 15 000 in 2006-07 to 340 000 in 2007-08), the actual performance of the Transport Department's counter licensing services in 2007 was slightly below its pledge of 100% meeting the targets.

The Transport Department has recently simplified the renewal arrangement for full driving licences by replacing the existing requirement of producing a copy of identity document or using e-certificate for authentication of identity with a personal identification number (renewal pass issued by the Transport Department). This will facilitate postal and electronic applications, thereby reducing the demand for counter licensing services. This will in turn shorten the waiting time at licensing offices for applications through service counters.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)125

Question Serial No.

1247

The Transport Department will continue to monitor the performance of the licensing services and take appropriate measures to cope with any upsurge in demand. An internal review will be carried out on the effectiveness of measures taken upon completion of the current renewal exercise in 2010. The review findings will help us devise appropriate measures to cope with the next renewal cycle for ten-year driving licences in 2017.

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 25 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)126

Question Serial No.

2008

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : What are the details of the green minibus (GMB) services which were introduced in 2007-08? The five new GMB services introduced are far from meeting the demand. Is this because the Department has not allocated adequate resources for processing the applications for new GMB service routes?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

The following five new GMB services were introduced in 2007-08 -

	Origin	Destination
(a)	Tin Shui Wai (Tin Yan Estate)	Shenzhen Bay Port
(b)	Kwai Chung Estate	North-East Kwai Chung (Circular)
(c)	Kwai Chung (Lai Kong Street)	Sham Shui Po (Po On Road) (Circular)
(d)	Kowloon City (Kowloon City Road)	Kowloon Hospital (Circular)
(e)	Kowloon City (Wylar Garden)	Lok Fu Station

GMB routes are introduced to supplement the high capacity carriers (i.e. railway and franchised bus) in the public transport system, and serve areas where patronage does not justify the provision of high capacity services. The Transport Department takes into account a number of factors in planning new GMB services including -

- (a) existing and forecast transport demand and travel pattern;
- (b) availability of existing and planned public transport services;
- (c) provision of new transport infrastructure facilities in the areas concerned;
- (d) financial viability of the proposed GMB route; and
- (e) requests/suggestions from the public.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)126

Question Serial No.

2008

The provision of resources for planning and processing of applications for new GMB routes is not a relevant consideration.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)127

Question Serial No.

2009

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : What are the details of the locations with clusters of accidents investigated? In 2007-08, what are the remedial measures and the financial provision involved for improving the road safety condition for those locations with clusters of accidents?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

We carried out investigations at 100 locations with clusters of accidents in 2007 : 14 on Hong Kong Island, 48 in Kowloon and 38 in the New Territories. Most of these locations are junctions where there were six or more pedestrian injury accidents, or nine or more traffic accidents with casualties, in a year. Where appropriate, suitable remedial measures were implemented in the light of the outcome of such investigations. The remedial measures included –

- (a) addition or modification of traffic signals;
- (b) improving road environment such as laying of anti-skid material, construction of central dividers, addition of roadside barriers;
- (c) improving facilities for pedestrians such as addition of crossing facilities, erection of railings, widening of footpaths; and
- (d) improving traffic aids such as adding traffic signs, provision of road markings, installation of traffic bollards.

The expenditure for the implementation of these remedial measures in 2007 was about \$4 million.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)127

Question Serial No.

2009

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 26 March 2008

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)128

Question Serial No.

2010

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : What is the scope and progress of the “area studies for enhancing road safety”?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

Apart from investigating individual locations with clusters of accidents, we also investigate the accident patterns in a wider area or along a particular route with similar characteristics and recommend measures to enhance road safety as appropriate. In 2007, we carried out two area studies, one at the Tsing Kwai Highway and the other at the Kwun Tong Bypass. These two studies are substantially completed. Improvements to road surface and existing traffic signs and road markings on these two roads will be implemented.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ALAN WONG _____

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 26 March 2008 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)129

Question Serial No.

2134

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

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding traffic accidents and vehicle breakdown incidents on the Lantau Link, there were cases in 2007 where the staff of the management company of the Tsing Ma Control Area were not able to arrive at the incident sites within five minutes. Does the Administration have any improvement plans to enhance incident-handling efficiency? Is the performance target of arrival at the incident sites within five minutes too conservative and is it the case that incidents could not be handled effectively?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

In 2007, the staff of the management company of Tsing Ma Control Area was able to arrive at the incident sites within five minutes for 99.3% of the cases of traffic accidents and vehicle breakdowns on the Lantau Link.

The performance target of attending to the incident spots within five minutes is considered reasonable, taking into account the length of the Lantau Link and other traffic considerations.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **26 March 2008** _____

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)130

Question Serial No.

2135

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

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the taking forward of the recommendations of the Task Force on Emergency Transport Co-ordination, what was implemented by the Administration in 2007-08 and what is the expenditure involved? What are the plans for 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

The Transport Department has implemented all the immediate and short term measures recommended by the Task Force on Emergency Transport Co-ordination, including development and refinement of contingency plans, devising measures to facilitate traffic diversion and incident recovery, enhancement in communication and co-ordination within and between departments, better set up of the Emergency Transport Co-ordination Centre to enhance co-ordination, and better dissemination of information to the public with improved work arrangement and technology. The total expenditure involved in 2007-08 is about \$17.1 million.

Actions are being taken to implement recommendations that are of medium to long term nature, which include -

- (a) conducting a feasibility study on deploying advanced technology in incident management at a cost of about \$7 million and about \$4.7 million will be spent in 2008-09. The study is scheduled for completion in mid 2008; and
- (b) installing about 400 closed-circuit televisions (CCTVs) to enhance the coverage of the CCTV system along major routes for completion in 2010. The estimated project cost is \$234 million and funding approval has been obtained.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)130

Question Serial No.

2135

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **26 March 2008** _____

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)131

Question Serial No.

2011

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : What are the progress of the review and the proposals on the traffic and transport arrangements for South Lantau upon completion of the improvement to Tung Chung Road? Will the Administration consult the public on the future arrangements?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

The Tung Chung Road Improvement Project is scheduled for completion in around mid 2008. The Transport Department's review on the traffic and transport arrangements for South Lantau covers the following areas -

- (a) traffic restrictions currently imposed on Tung Chung Road and South Lantau;
- (b) access of private transport to South Lantau;
- (c) public transport services in South Lantau; and
- (d) access of tour coaches to South Lantau.

Having taken into account the planning intention and sustainable development needs, environmental considerations, anticipated change in traffic demand and traffic conditions as well as parking facilities in the area, the Transport Department considers that a gradual approach should be adopted for relaxation of traffic and transport restrictions on Tung Chung Road and South Lantau. We intend to relax private transport for local residents and shop owners with Lantau Closed Road Permits for 24-hour access to Tung Chung Road. Visitors are encouraged to make use of the existing public transport services, including franchised buses and Lantau taxis, to travel to and from South Lantau. As regards the access of tour coaches, we will seek views from the concerned parties on the options of keeping the existing arrangements or permitting not more than 30 coaches to access South Lantau per day.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)131

Question Serial No.

2011

The Transport Department has started the consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the public transport operators, travel trade, green groups and the Islands District Council on the proposed new measures since February 2008. The Legislative Council Panel on Transport will also be consulted on 1 April 2008. A decision will be made after taking into account the views of all interested parties.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)132

Question Serial No.

2234

Head : 186 – Transport Department

Subhead (No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In 2007-08, how many green minibus (GMB) fare adjustment applications were processed? What GMB routes were involved? What are the results of fare adjustment applications for these GMB routes?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

In 2007-08, a total of 29 GMB fare applications involving 19 routes on Hong Kong Island, 13 routes in Kowloon and 47 routes in the New Territories were processed and approved by the Transport Department. The rates of fare increase ranged from 3.9% to 10.7%.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ Alan WONG

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 25 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)133

Question Serial No.

2235

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : What is the scope of the “Consultancy services for additional monitoring surveys on public bus services” under Subhead 700 Item 529? What has been achieved so far?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

The Transport Department engages consultancy services under Subhead 700 Item 529 to conduct annual surveys to monitor the vehicle allocation and utilisation of franchised bus services. Results of the surveys are used to assess the service level of franchised bus routes.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **26 March 2008**

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)134

Question Serial No.

2236

Head : 186 – Transport Department Subhead 700 – General non-recurrent

(No. & title) :

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : What are the details of the “Survey on Ferry Services” under Subhead 700 Item 563? What major achievements have the survey made so far? What effects do the survey results have on the Government’s planning of the future ferry services?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

To monitor the provision of ferry services, five surveys were carried out to obtain data on vessels’ occupancy, passengers’ origins and destinations of selected ferry routes, utilisation of piers, and passenger opinions on ferry services. These surveys help assess the adequacy of the ferry services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)135

Question Serial No.

2237

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : The Third Comprehensive Transport Study was carried out about ten years ago. There have been substantial changes in transport development over the past ten years. Apart from the ongoing study on the “Restructuring and enhancement of the Third Comprehensive Transport Study Model” under Subhead 700 Item 570, will the Administration consider carrying out the Fourth Comprehensive Transport Study and reserving resources for the study?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

At this stage, we have no plan to carry out the Fourth Comprehensive Transport Study. The enhanced transport model developed under the consultancy study “Restructuring and enhancement of the Third Comprehensive Transport Study Model” remains useful and up-to-date for transport planning. We shall keep in view changes in traffic characteristics to see if the model should be revised.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **20 March 2008**

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)136

Question Serial No.

0563

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : The Transport Department will achieve the installation of electronic black boxes on franchised buses in 2008-09. What is the implementation timetable for all franchised buses?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

Electronic black boxes are required as a standard equipment on all new buses to be procured by all franchised bus companies. The Long Win Bus Company Limited has completed the retrofitting of electronic black boxes on all its buses in end 2007. The 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 September 2008 and end 2008 respectively. The New World First Bus Services Limited, Citybus Limited (Lantau and Airport network) and New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited will do so by end 2009.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 20 March 2008 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)137

Question Serial No.

0564

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In 2007, there were 50 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-yee, Miriam

Reply :

Among the 50 inquiries conducted in 2007, 48 were related to unauthorised non-franchised bus services and two were related to public light bus (scheduled) services. Out of these 50 inquiries, 37 cases were completed and found substantiated. As at end February 2008, sanctions were imposed on 18 passenger service licence (PSL) holders, ranging from suspension of the PSL of 16 buses for three to six months to cancellation of the PSL of five buses, while those on the others are being considered. The remaining 13 cases are at different stages of inquiry.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 27 March 2008 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)138

Question Serial No.

0565

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In 2008-09, what support will be provided by the Transport Department in 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 for the purchase of environment-friendly cars. What are the estimated expenditures for the two schemes?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) introduced two incentive schemes, namely, the Grant Scheme for early replacement of pre-Euro/ Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new Euro IV commercial vehicles; and the Tax Concession Scheme for environment-friendly petrol private cars on 1 April 2007. The Transport Department (TD) has been tasked to process applications and handle enquiries for the two schemes. Up to February 2008, TD processed and approved 4 153 applications for the Grant Scheme, and 3 529 applications for the Tax Concession Scheme. TD will continue to perform this role in 2008-09 in close liaison with EPD.

In 2008-09, \$1.19 billion has been earmarked for providing a one-off grant to encourage vehicle owners to replace their pre-Euro and Euro I diesel commercial vehicles with new Euro IV commercial vehicles. No provision needs to be earmarked for the Tax Concession Scheme because the incentive is provided by way of first registration tax reduction.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)139

Question Serial No.

0566

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Has the Transport Department reserved additional provision in 2008-09 to cater for the upsurge in renewal applications of ten-year driving licences? If yes, please provide the details.

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply: To cope with the upsurge in renewal applications for ten-year driving licences, the Transport Department has secured funding totalling \$39 million for the period from 2006-07 to 2009-10, including the provision of 14 time-limited posts (i.e. two Senior Clerical Officers, six Assistant Clerical Officers and six temporary staff). The provision for 2008-09 is \$12.3 million.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **25 March 2008** _____

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)140

Question Serial No.

0567

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In 2008-09, the Transport Department will review the traffic and transport arrangements for South Lantau upon completion of the improvement to Tung Chung Road between Lung Tseng Tau and Cheung Sha. What are the scope and/or contents of the review?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Kin-yee, Miriam

Reply :

The Tung Chung Road Improvement Project is scheduled for completion in around mid 2008. The Transport Department's review on the traffic and transport arrangements for South Lantau covers the following areas –

- (a) traffic restrictions currently imposed on Tung Chung Road and South Lantau;
- (b) access of private transport to South Lantau;
- (c) public transport services in South Lantau; and
- (d) access of tour coaches to South Lantau.

The Transport Department has started the consultation with relevant stakeholders on the proposed new measures. A decision will be made after taking into account the views of all interested parties.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **26 March 2008** _____

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)141

Question Serial No.

2268

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

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Would the Administration advise on the expiry dates of the existing contracts for the management of the government car parks, the New Kowloon Bay Vehicle Examination Centre, the Cross-Harbour Tunnel and the Aberdeen Tunnel? What are the numbers and ranks of employees involved? Will the Transport Department include terms and conditions in the new contracts to impose on the contractors requirements for security of wage and fringe benefits of the employees? If yes, what are the details? If not, why not?

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The existing contracts for the management, operation and maintenance (the MOM Agreement) of the government car parks, the Aberdeen Tunnel (ABT), the New Kowloon Bay Vehicle Examination Centre (NKBVEC) and the Cross-Harbour Tunnel (CHT) will expire on 30 April, 28 September, 30 November 2008 and 31 October 2010 respectively.

The numbers of staff currently working (as at January 2008) for the above-mentioned transport facilities/ infrastructure are as follows -

	CHT	ABT	Government Car parks	NKBVEC
Operation and maintenance staff	213	129	140	32
Management, supervision, non-operation and non-maintenance staff	35	17	2	20
Total	248	146	142	52

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)141

Question Serial No.

2268

It has been a requirement in the tendering exercises for government car parks, NKBVEC, CHT and ABT that the successful tenderer has to make a first offer of employment to the frontline operational and maintenance staff undertaking the same jobs under the employment of the existing contractor.

The tendering of MOM Agreements for government car parks have followed the requirement that tenders must offer to carpark attendants and cleansers salaries no less than the average monthly salary for the relevant positions published in Census and Statistics Department's Quarterly Report of Wage and Payroll Statistics. Such requirement has been included in the re-tendering exercise for the MOM Agreements for government car parks which is underway.

In the tendering exercise for the new MOM Agreement for ABT, which is underway, we have included a requirement that a tenderer must undertake to offer frontline operational and maintenance staff the first contract year salaries that are no less favourable than their existing employment terms and fringe benefits that are comparable to the prevailing major fringe benefits of such staff of government tunnels. We will consider including such requirement in the tendering exercises for the future MOM Agreements for NKBVEC and CHT.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)142

Question Serial No.

2347

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

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : The substantial increase in the 2008-09 estimate as compared to the 2007-08 revised estimate by \$139 million is mainly due to the additional provision for outsourcing the management, operation and maintenance services of the Tsing Sha Control Area. Please advise on the manpower requirement and the fee for such services.

Asked by : Hon. LI Fung-ying

Reply :

The Tsing Sha Control Area (TSCA) will be open to traffic in three stages, viz. the section between Sha Tin and Cheung Sha Wan (Stage I) in March 2008, the Tsing Yi section (Stage II) in late 2008 and the Stonecutters Bridge (Stage III) in mid 2009. The management, operation and maintenance service contract for the TSCA will commence in March 2008 to tie in with the Stage I opening. The financial provisions for the Transport Department for the contract fee in 2008-09 is \$123.2 million and the manpower requirement for Stage I and Stage II is about 400 based on the information provided by the selected service contractor.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)143

Question Serial No.

1329

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In 2007, what were the Transport Department's work and progress in the planning, development and regulation of franchised buses and non-franchised buses?

- (a) In respect of franchised buses, please list out the work items, districts involved, timetable, progress and expenditure involved.
- (b) In respect of non-franchised buses, please list out the relevant regulatory work and their effectiveness, and the expenditure involved.

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

- (a) In respect of franchised buses, in 2007 the Transport Department (TD) examined altogether six Bus Route Development Programmes (RDP) submitted by the franchised bus companies. More specifically, TD processed 79 bus route rationalisation packages (including those recommended under the RDP and others initiated by the Department), implemented 52 franchised bus RDP items (e.g. frequency and route adjustment), and introduced 12 bus-bus interchange schemes. These items covered all 18 districts. TD carried out these activities using existing resources and there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.
- (b) In 2007, TD conducted 48 inquiries relating to the operation of unauthorised non-franchised bus services. As at end February 2008, sanctions were imposed on 18 passenger service licence (PSL) holders, ranging from suspension of the PSL of 16 buses for three to six months to cancellation of the PSL of five buses, while those on the others are being considered. The remaining 13 cases are at different stages of inquiry. The holding of inquiries and imposition of sanctions, where appropriate, are effective deterrents against the operation of unauthorised non-franchised bus services. In 2007, apart from existing resources, TD deployed one Senior Transport Officer to enhance the regulatory work related to non-franchised bus services. The staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, of this post is \$0.7 million.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)143

Question Serial No.

1329

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 27 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)144

Question Serial No.

1330

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : How much resource did the Transport Department deploy in 2007 in dealing with the cancellation of non-franchised bus routes that operated without the required licences? Will the Administration consider deploying more resources to those bus companies which are interested in operating these routes (e.g. increasing the quota for their bus fleet and relaxing the quota for bus trips on some road sections) so as to replace the non-franchised bus services concerned?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

In 2007, apart from existing resources, the Transport Department (TD) deployed one Senior Transport Officer to enhance the regulatory work related to non-franchised bus services. The staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, of this post is \$0.7 million. Enhancement of public transport services, including franchised bus services, through enlarging the fleet or increasing the trips operated has all along been one of the measures used by TD to combat the operation of unauthorised non-franchised bus services.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **27 March 2008** _____

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)145

Question Serial No.

1332

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Regarding the ferry services plying between the outlying islands and the Hong Kong Island, will the Transport Department conduct research on various alternative modes of transport and the feasibility of such alternatives? If not, what is the way forward taken by the Transport Department in this aspect?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

Ferry services have all along been serving as an essential transport link to some outlying islands where no road-based transport alternative is available. As there are no plans for substantial development on these islands in the near future, the Transport Department currently does not have any plan for providing alternative modes of public transport for them.

In order to enhance the long-term financial viability of the ferry services, the Government will continue to implement the existing measures to help reduce the operating cost and increase non-fare box revenue of these ferry services. These measures include taking over pier maintenance responsibilities, waiving fuel tax, reimbursing pier rentals and exempting vessel licence fees for ferry services under the Elderly Concessionary Fares Scheme and allowing ferry operators to sub-let premises at piers for commercial and retail activities.

In addition to the above, the Government also introduced new measures in 2007 to enhance ferry operators' ability to generate non-fare box revenue. These measures include relaxing land use at Central Piers No. 4, 5 and 6 to allow commercial activities such as restaurants, fast food shops, retail shops and service trades on the first floor of the piers, streamlining the procedures for approval of applications for sub-letting pier premises and retrofitting these piers with fire prevention facilities. As a long-term measure, we are considering the feasibility of taking opportunity of the proposed development in the Urban Design Study for the New Central Harbourfront to enhance the financial viability of the outlying island ferry services by, for example, allowing the operators to sub-let the additional floor, if constructed, for commercial or retail activities while requiring them to continue to use non-fare box revenue to cross-subsidise the ferry operation.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)145

Question Serial No.

1332

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)146

Question Serial No.

1333

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question: In 2008-09, will the bus route rationalisation continue to be implemented? If yes, how many bus routes and districts will be involved? Will consultation be conducted before the implementation of the rationalisation measures?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

The rationalisation of bus services is an on-going programme. The Transport Department consults the relevant District Councils annually on major rationalisation proposals put forward by the franchised bus companies in their Bus Route Development Programmes. The rationalisation packages planned for 2008 will involve about 50 bus routes serving 17 districts and the consultation has started in March 2008. As the District Councils' views are very important, the plans and the number of routes to be rationalised in 2008 can only be finalised later.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)147

Question Serial No.

1334

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : What criteria does the Transport Department adopt in determining the introduction of new franchised bus and green minibus routes? What is the responsibility of the Transport Department in determining the alignment of the routes?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

In planning the alignment of the new franchised bus or green minibus (GMB) routes, the Transport Department (TD) takes into account the following factors -

- (a) existing and forecast transport demand and travel pattern;
- (b) availability of existing and planned public transport services;
- (c) provision of new transport infrastructure facilities in the areas concerned;
- (d) financial viability of the proposed franchised bus or GMB route; and
- (e) requests / suggestions from the public.

TD also consults the relevant transport trades and District Councils when planning the alignment of the new routes.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **20 March 2008** _____

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)148

Question Serial No.

1622

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : Because of the advancement in the present technology of manufacturing buses, buses are relatively more durable. Does the work of the Transport Department in 2008-09 include considering the relaxation of the age requirement of franchised buses of not exceeding 18 years?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

The franchised bus companies are committed to the use of buses that do not exceed 17 years old for their franchised bus services. Having regard to the companies' operational needs, for example, to tie in with the shipment and arrival of new buses, the Transport Department will consider permitting the companies to use buses slightly beyond 17 years old provided that these buses meet the vehicle examination requirements of the Department to ensure safety.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **20 March 2008** _____

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)149

Question Serial No.

1623

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In view of the reduction in the carrying capacity of new buses from 130 in the past to only about 120, will the Transport Department in 2008-09 consider increasing the quota for the bus fleet of franchised bus companies or the relaxation of the restriction on the body length of franchised buses, so as to maintain the level of franchised bus service and to meet passenger demand?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

There is no quota for the number of buses operated by franchised bus companies. However, when the Transport Department (TD) approves the adjustment in the number of buses in the fleets of different franchised bus companies, TD will take into account factors such as passenger demand, availability of alternative transport services and road traffic conditions, etc. The overall body length of the franchised buses in Hong Kong is currently restricted to not exceeding 12 metres. Due to the geometry of some of the local roads, buses with overall body length exceeding 12 metres would have difficulty in operating on these roads.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **26 March 2008** _____

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)150

Question Serial No.

1624

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question: Does the work of the Transport Department in 2008-09 include extending the requirements/guidelines on the deployment of environment-friendly buses at busy corridors to more districts?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

Since 2002, the Transport Department has been requesting the franchised bus companies to deploy environment-friendly buses that meet Euro II emission standards or above to run along the busy corridors. This is an ongoing programme and as at end 2007, 100% of the franchised buses running along Yee Wo Street and over 80% of the franchised buses running along Hennessy Road, Queensway, Des Voeux Road Central and Nathan Road were of Euro II or above emission standard. It is envisaged that, as the companies gradually replace the buses from their fleets based on the relevant vehicle scrapping programmes, more and more environment-friendly buses will be deployed to routes operating on the busy corridors. These bus routes in fact run on the busy corridors as well as other roads in a number of districts.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **26 March 2008** _____

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)151

Question Serial No.

1625

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In 2008-09, will the Transport Department consider increasing the quota for the bus fleet in view of the high passenger demand on some franchised bus routes during the peak hours, so that the bus companies could enhance their services?

Asked by : Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply :

The Transport Department (TD) constantly monitors passenger demand for franchised bus services and will introduce service enhancements to meet such demand where appropriate. Whilst there is no quota in deciding on the number of buses required to operate on a franchised route, TD will take into account factors such as passenger demand, availability of alternative transport services and road traffic conditions, etc. when formulating the service enhancement proposals.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ ALAN WONG

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)152

Question Serial No.

0515

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In 2007, the Transport Department's actual performance in providing licensing services over the counter was below the actual performance in 2006 and the planned targets. The Administration explains that this is due to the upsurge in renewal applications of ten-year driving licences starting in 2007. Will the Administration advise -

- (a) the number of driving licence holders who were due for renewal of ten-year driving licences in 2007;
- (b) the number of renewal applications of ten-year driving licences through service counters in 2007-08; and
- (c) whether the Administration has reserved additional financial provision in the 2007- 08 Estimates to cope with the upsurge in renewal applications of ten-year driving licences. If yes, why was there still a drop in performance? If not, the reasons for that?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) There were 480 000 licence holders whose ten-year driving licences were due for renewal in 2007-08.
- (b) As at 7 March 2008, around 200 000 renewal applications of ten-year driving licences (about 60% of the applications received) were processed through the service counters at the four licensing offices of the Transport Department in 2007-08.
- (c) To cope with the upsurge in renewal applications for ten-year driving licences, the Transport Department has secured funding totalling \$39 million for the period from 2006-07 to 2009-10, including the provision of 14 time-limited posts (i.e. two Senior Clerical Officers, six Assistant Clerical Officers and six temporary staff). The provision for 2007-08 was \$10 million.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)152

Question Serial No.

0515

As the number of ten-year driving licence renewal applications had increased significantly (from about 15 000 in 2006-07 to 340 000 in 2007-08), the actual performance of Transport Department's counter licensing services in 2007 was slightly below its pledged 100% meeting the targets.

The Transport Department has recently simplified the renewal arrangement for full driver licences by replacing the existing requirement of producing a copy of identity document using an e-certificate for authentication of identity with a personal identification number (renewal password) issued by the Transport Department. This will facilitate postal and electronic applications, thereby reducing the demand for counter licensing services. This will in turn shorten the waiting time at the licensing offices for applications through service counters.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **25 March 2008** _____

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)153

Question Serial No.

0637

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : The Transport Department will continue to develop and implement the Transport Information System in 2008-09. In this connection, would the Government advise -

- (a) what the expenditure for the development and implementation of the Transport Information System is;
- (b) what the main functions of the system are; and
- (c) when the Administration expects to implement the whole system?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The total cost to develop and implement the Transport Information System is estimated to be \$63.6 million.
- (b) The system is a centralized data warehouse for the collection, processing and dissemination of comprehensive transport information. The two key services of the system are -
 - (i) providing traffic and transport information to 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
 - (ii) providing traffic and transport information on the Internet to the public for pre-trip planning.
- (c) The two key services will be available to the service providers and the public in phases starting from the latter half of 2008. The whole system is scheduled for completion by the end of 2008.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)153

Question Serial No.

0637

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **20 March 2008** _____

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)154

Question Serial No.

0638

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

Programme : (1) Planning and Development

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In 2008-09, the Transport Department will continue to study the feasibility of harnessing advanced technologies to enhance the Department's incident management capability. In this connection, would the Administration advise-

- (a) what the cost of the entire study is and what the expenditure will be in 2008-09;
- (b) how long the entire study will take; and
- (c) when the entire study will be completed?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The total cost of the study is about \$7 million. The expenditure in 2008-09 is about \$4.7 million.
- (b) The study will take about 16 months.
- (c) The study is expected to be completed in mid 2008.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport _____

Date _____ 26 March 2008 _____

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)155

Question Serial No.

0827

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

One of the tasks of the Transport Department is to handle the registration of vehicles, and the issue and renewal of vehicle and driving licences. In this regard, will the Administration advise -

- (a) the number of offices that are handling the registration of vehicles, and the issue and renewal of vehicle and driving licences at present, and the number of service counters for each office;
- (b) the number of licensing applications that are related to the registration of vehicles, and the issue and renewal of vehicle and driving licences in 2007-08; and
- (c) the utilization of each of the offices in handling applications for the registration of vehicles, and the issue and renewal of vehicle and driving licences in 2007-08.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The Transport Department has four licensing offices with a total of 81 service counters. Details are as follows –

Licensing Office	Number of counters
Hong Kong Licensing Office	39
Kowloon Licensing Office	25
Kwun Tong Licensing Office	8
Shatin Licensing Office	9

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)155

Question Serial No.

0827

- (b) In 2007, the number of vehicle licence transactions was 1 481 000 and the number of driving licence transactions was 1 185 000.
- (c) Some services involve extensive documentation and require detailed vetting procedures, and they are available only at the Hong Kong Licensing Office. These services include first registration of vehicles and direct issue of full driving licences. The distribution of transactions amongst the four licensing offices in 2007 is as follows –

Licensing Office	Percentage of total transactions
Hong Kong Licensing Office	40%
Kowloon Licensing Office	41%
Kwun Tong Licensing Office	8%
Shatin Licensing Office	11%

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 20 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)156

Question Serial No.

0833

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In 2008-09, the Transport Department will review the traffic and transport arrangements for South Lantau upon completion of the improvement to Tung Chung Road between Lung Tseng Tau and Cheung Sha. In this regard, will the Government advise the details of the review, expenditure involved, timetable, and whether any District Councils and local organizations have been consulted?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The Tung Chung Road Improvement Project is scheduled for completion in around mid 2008. The Transport Department's review on the traffic and transport arrangements for South Lantau covers the following areas –

- (a) traffic restrictions currently imposed on Tung Chung Road and South Lantau;
- (b) access of private transport to South Lantau;
- (c) public transport services in South Lantau; and
- (d) access of tour coaches to South Lantau.

The Transport Department has started the consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the public transport operators, travel trade, green groups and the Islands District Council on the proposed new measures since February 2008. The Legislative Council Panel on Transport will also be consulted on 1 April 2008. A decision will be made after taking into account the views of all interested parties.

The review is being conducted by the existing staff of the Transport Department as part of their normal duties. There is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)156

Question Serial No.

0833

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport** _____

Date _____ **26 March 2008** _____

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)157

Question Serial No.

0834

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In 2007, the Transport Department introduced new bus and green minibus services to serve areas with new demands. In this regard, will the Government advise -

- (a) the number of new bus and green minibus services that were introduced by the Transport Department in 2007-08;
- (b) the districts served by the new bus and green minibus services; and
- (c) the additional expenditure involved for the introduction of the new bus and green minibus services?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The Transport Department introduced three new bus services and five new green minibus (GMB) services in 2007-08.
- (b) The three new bus services serve Tuen Mun and Yuen Long Districts. The five new GMB services serve Yuen Long, Kwai Tsing, Sham Shui Po, Wong Tai Sin and Kowloon City districts.
- (c) The new bus and GMB services were provided by the respective bus and GMB operators. No additional expenditure is required for the introduction of these new services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ Commissioner for Transport

Date _____ 26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)158

Question Serial No.

0835

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In 2008, the Transport Department will process 50 bus route rationalisation packages and implement 59 franchised bus service route development programme items. Both figures are lower than those in 2006 and 2007. In this regard, will the Government advise the reasons for the decreasing trend?

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

The Transport Department constantly monitors passenger demand for franchised bus services. It will implement route development programme items and rationalisation measures to match changes in passenger demand, improve the efficiency of the bus network, and reduce bus congestion and roadside emission. The number of route development programme items and rationalisation schemes planned for implementation in a year is affected by factors such as community development, population changes, commissioning of new railways and other transport infrastructure which would affect the demand for franchised bus services. These factors vary from year to year, and hence there is variation in the number of route development programme items and rationalisation schemes implemented each year.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

ALAN WONG

Post Title _____

Commissioner for Transport

Date _____

26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)159

Question Serial No.

2061

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

Programme : (4) Management of Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In 2008-09, the Transport Department's financial provision under the programme "Management of Transport Services" is 114.3% more than that in 2007-08. Would the Government advise –

- (a) the uses of the increased financial provision in 2008-09;
- (b) the amount of provision involved for each item;
- (c) the reason for requiring additional provision upon the outsourcing of the management, operation and maintenance service of Tsing Sha Control Area; and
- (d) the duties of the three new posts under the concerned programme?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

(a)&(b) The increase in financial provision for 2008-09 is mainly due to –

- (i) the additional provision of around \$128.6 million for outsourcing the management, operation and maintenance (MOM) and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund's workshop service charges of the Tsing Sha Control Area (TSCA); and
- (ii) the staff cost, in terms of notional annual mid-point salary value, of around \$1.25 million for the creation of three posts.

(c) The TSCA will be open to traffic in three stages, viz. the section between Sha Tin and Cheung Sha Wan (Stage I) in March 2008, the Tsing Yi section (Stage II) in late 2008, and the Stonecutters Bridge (Stage III) in mid 2009. The increase in provisions in 2008-09 is to provide for the full-year expenditure for operation of the Stage I section and the additional contract fee for the Stage II section which is scheduled for opening in late 2008.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)159

Question Serial No.

2061

(d) Two Engineer/Assistant Engineer and one Technical Officer (Traffic)/Technical Officer Trainee (Traffic) posts will be created to enhance the Transport Department's emergency transport co-ordination and incident management capability.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 26 March 2008

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)160

Question Serial No.

1150

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

Programme : (2) Licensing of Vehicles and Drivers

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : What will be the expenses incurred to conduct process re-engineering of licensing services to improve efficiency and customer service? When will it be completed?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

The business process re-engineering of licensing services is an on-going effort to streamline the renewal mechanism for driving and vehicle licences, and to improve the efficiency in processing applications. We are studying the feasibility of various proposals and will examine whether additional resources would be required when more concrete proposals are adopted for implementation.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **26 March 2008**

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)161

Question Serial No.

1151

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

Programme : (3) District Traffic and Transport Services

Controlling Officer : Commissioner for Transport

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : In 2008-09, the department will continue to facilitate the smooth operation of cross-boundary traffic and transport services and facilities at the land boundary control points. What are the detailed plans? How much resources and manpower will be involved?

Asked by : Hon. YOUNG Howard

Reply :

We will continue to monitor the cross-boundary traffic demand and the related transport services, facilities and infrastructure. In 2008-09, we will –

- (a) monitor and regularly review the service and operation of the Lok Ma Chau-Huanggang Cross-boundary Shuttle Buses (Yellow Buses) as well as other cross-boundary coaches using the various land boundary control points;
- (b) monitor and regularly review the service and operation of public transport to/from the Shenzhen Bay Port and the Lok Ma Chau Spur Line public transport interchanges;
- (c) provide a shelter at the urban taxi stand, modify the road layout and install equipment for monitoring coach operation at the Shenzhen Bay Port;
- (d) provide a canopy over the nine newly commissioned laybys at the Lok Ma Chau Control Point for picking up of in-bound passengers travelling on cross-boundary coaches and Yellow Buses; and
- (e) assist in the review of the quota arrangements for cross-boundary vehicles.

The estimated construction costs of the works mentioned in (c) and (d) are about \$4.5 million and \$5.5 million respectively. The monitoring and review work as stated above is carried out using existing resources and there is no separate breakdown on the expenditure involved.

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)161

Question Serial No.

1151

Signature _____

Name in block letters Alan WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 25 March 2008

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)162

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2008-09

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

Question Serial No.

0378

Head : 703 - Buildings

Subhead : 3075KA New Civil Aviation
Department headquarters

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Architectural Services

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question : The project of a new Civil Aviation Department headquarters is at a rough order of cost of \$1.997 billion while the estimated expenditure in 2008-09 is only \$20 million. What is the timetable for using the \$1.99 billion plus? How can the progress of the project be expedited?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply : We will phase the expenditure for the project as follows :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>\$million</u> (in money-of-the-day prices)
2008 - 09	20.2
2009 - 10	152.6
2010 - 11	513.9
2011 - 12	622.8
2012 - 13	422.5
2013 - 14	161.6
2014 - 15	103.4
	<hr/>
	1,997.0
	<hr/> <hr/>

The construction works are scheduled to commence in September 2008 for completion in December 2011. The installation, testing and commissioning of the new Air Traffic Control (ATC) system will commence in April 2011. Upon satisfactory testing and acceptance of the new ATC system, the new headquarters building and new ATC centre will be commissioned by end 2012. In view of the project scale, complexity and tight programme, there is hardly any room for expediting the programme.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ C. H. YUE

Post Title _____ Director of Architectural Services

Date _____ 18 March 2008

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

Head : 705 Civil Engineering

Subhead

(No. & title) :

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Civil Engineering and Development

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

What is the scope of the works for 5793TH – Improvement to Sunny Bay Interchange? What will be the benefits after the completion of such works? What is the implementation timetable?

Asked by : Hon. LAU Chin-shek

Reply :

The scope of the project comprises mainly the construction of two elevated carriageways, at-grade roads, landscaping works and the associated seawall and reclamation works at Sunny Bay.

The proposed works will provide a complementary road connection with the Penny's Bay area. The new access will reduce the distance of detour from 20 kilometres (km) to about 2.5 km in case of any emergency blockage of the existing Penny's Bay Highway. The improved road network will also enhance the development potential of Sunny Bay.

The Administration is now reviewing the project and considering whether to take it forward in the light of the comments made by Members of the Legislative Council Public Works Subcommittee when the funding proposal was put to the Subcommittee on 30 January 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **JOHN S V CHAI** _____

Post Title _____ **Director of Civil Engineering and Development** _____

Date _____ **25.3.2008** _____

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

Head: 706 - Highways Infrastructure Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: -

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The total estimate provision for the Infrastructure of Transport – Roads has been reduced to \$2,209,709,000 in 2008-09 as against \$3,068,841,000 in 2007-08, despite the implementation of 7 new projects in 2008-09, namely 6025TC, 6579TH, 6720TH, 6746TH, 6800TH, 6801TH and 6828TH. What are the reasons for the decrease? What are the impacts on the progress of the existing transport – roads infrastructure projects with the decrease in provision?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

The decrease in the expenditure on the construction of roads in 2008-09 over that in the previous year is mainly due to –

- (a) the completion of several major projects in 2007-08 including the Improvements to San Tin Interchange, Route 8 between Cheung Sha Wan and Sha Tin, and Route 8 between Tsing Yi and Cheung Sha Wan – Ngong Shuen Chau Viaduct; and
- (b) the continued decrease in expenditure on some major projects completed earlier on, such as the Improvement to Castle Peak Road between Ka Loon Tsuen and Siu Lam.

New projects starting in 2008-09 will not incur a full year's expenditure in that year. The fall in the estimated provision for 2008-09 reflects the different stages of implementation that the major road projects are under. It will not affect their progress.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008

