

**Supplementary question raised by Finance Committee Members in
examining the Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10**

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

| Reply Serial No | Question Serial No. | Name of Member | Head | Programme |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|---|
| S-THB(T)01 | S052 | IP Wai-ming | 158 | Land and Waterborne Transport |
| S-THB(T)02 | S053 | IP Wai-ming | 186 | Planning and Development |
| S-THB(T)03 | S054 | WONG Kwok-hing | 186 | Planning and Development |
| S-THB(T)04 | S055 | WONG Kwok-hing | 186 | District Traffic and Transport Services |

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

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 reply No. THB(T)70, the Government stated that the “preliminary” results regarding the Northern Link (NOL) would be available in early 2010 at the soonest. In this connection, please advise:

- (a) whether the NOL project is postponed for the time being or might not necessarily be implemented;
- (b) if the project is not to be implemented, how can the Government link the West Rail Line and the East Rail Line in the New Territories; and
- (c) given the Tung Chung Line Extension was also not mentioned in this programme, what are the considerations and timetable of the Government in respect of this project?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) & (b) With the planning and engineering study of the New Territories New Development Areas on-going, we consider it to be prudent to match the NOL with the overall planning of the New Development Areas, the preliminary study results on which are expected to be available in early 2010. We will therefore continue to review the railway scheme, including the proposed alignment, station locations and the implementation timetable of the NOL.

- (c) Having regard to the engineering schemes of the Hong Kong Link Road and Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities of the Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macao Bridge near Tung Chung, the Government will consider the extent and development of the westward expansion of the new town. As regard whether the MTR Tung Chung Line should be extended westward, the Government will consider the future development and population growth, etc, of the Tung Chung New Town.

A decision or timetable for a new railway station at Tung Chung is not available for the time being. The Administration will continue to keep in view the planning and development of Tung Chung and will consider the means of transport connections at the appropriate time.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ FRANCIS HO

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

Date _____ 30 March 2009

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

Reply Serial No.

S-THB(T)02

Question Serial No.

S053

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 Reply Serial No. THB(T)108, the Administration pointed out that 4 210 buses, representing 51% of the bus fleet, are not provided with low floor. Will the Administration advise :

- (a) How many bus routes are operated without low floor buses?
- (b) What is the average waiting time for people with disabilities before they can board a low floor bus?
- (c) Whether there is a timetable to require the bus companies to convert all buses to low floor buses to provide barrier-free bus services?

Asked by : Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply :

- (a) As at end December 2008, there were about 2 970 franchised buses, or 51% of the total bus fleet, not equipped with low floor and ramps. About 210 franchised bus routes were operated without low floor buses and ramps, representing about 37% of the total bus routes.
- (b) As bus routes allocated with low floor buses and ramps are operated with different service frequencies at different time periods, the average waiting time for different bus routes vary. Passengers who wish to use low floor bus services are encouraged to call the franchised bus companies' hotlines for the latest service information.
- (c) The Kowloon Motor Bus Company, Long Win Bus Company Limited, Citybus Limited and New World First Bus Services Limited have agreed that all new buses purchased will be wheelchair accessible. Thus, those buses without low floor in the current bus fleet will be replaced by wheelchair accessible buses as and when they are due for replacement. New Lantao Bus Company Limited's (NLB) buses operate largely on Lantau Island where deployment of wheelchair accessible buses is not suitable due to constraints of the terrain. However, NLB plans to deploy wheelchair accessible buses on routes where the terrain permits.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10

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

Reply Serial No.

S-THB(T)02

Question Serial No.

S053

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **30 March 2009**

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

Reply Serial No.

S-THB(T)03

Question Serial No.

S054

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 Reply Serial No. THB(T)134, the Government has not given any details on how half-price fare concessions for persons with disabilities (PwDs) are to be introduced. Please advise:

- (a) why half-price fare concessions for PwDs are not introduced even though Government has been encouraging public transport operators to provide concessions for some time; and
- (b) how the Administration will address the above difficulties and issue in future.

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) While the Government has put in place a comprehensive mechanism to regulate basic fares, the provision of fare concessions and the details of such offers are matters of commercial decision of the public transport operators. At present, major public transport operators offer various kinds of fare concession schemes to passengers to alleviate their burdens of traveling expenses.
- (b) The Administration will continue to encourage the public transport operators to offer fare concessions to passengers, including PwDs, having regard to their operations and financial conditions, the overall economic environment and customer needs while maintaining proper and efficient public transport services.

Signature _____

Name in block letters ALAN WONG

Post Title Commissioner for Transport

Date 30 March 2009

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

Reply Serial No.

S-THB(T)04

Question Serial No.

S055

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 Reply Serial No. THB(T)132, the Administration indicated that there would not be additional provision of red light camera and speed enforcement camera before the second quarter of 2010. Will the Administration please advise –

- (a) Why does the Administration refuse to further expand the related plan?
- (b) Many roads and strategic routes will be commissioned in the coming two years. Without the appropriate increase in the installation of cameras or their housings concerned, will the road safety of these new roads be affected?
- (c) What are the reasons for the expansion projects to be completed until August and December 2010?

Asked by : Hon. WONG Kwok-hing

Reply :

- (a) The Administration has expanded the use of red light camera (RLC) and speed enforcement camera (SEC) systems in combination with other mobile enforcement measures, such as laser gun and mobile radar speed enforcement cameras to deter traffic offences. We will continue to closely monitor traffic accident trends and further expand the systems as and when necessary.
- (b) The Police will continue to monitor the traffic situation over the territory, including new roads and strategic routes, and take necessary enforcement action to ensure road safety.
- (c) The expansion projects involve the installation of camera housings and equipment throughout the territory. The scheduled completion dates in 2010 have taken into account the time required for the design, manufacture and testing of the equipment to meet road safety standards, site investigation, excavation works on roads with running traffic, diversion of underground utilities and construction works. The construction programme is considered appropriate in order to ensure that these systems are installed properly.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10

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

Reply Serial No.

S-THB(T)04

Question Serial No.

S055

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **ALAN WONG**

Post Title _____ **Commissioner for Transport**

Date _____ **30 March 2009**