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**(Translation)**

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Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Attn.: Ms LO Wai Yan)

11 August 2017

Dear Ms LO,

**Legislative Council Panel on Transport  
Meeting on 21 July 2017**

**Staffing Proposal  
for a Project Management Office of the Highways Department**

**Supplementary Information**

Regarding the supplementary information requested by Members at the meeting on 21 July 2017, our reply is as follows.

**Tuen Mun – Chek Lap Kok Link (TM-CLKL)**

As announced in the press release issued by the HyD on 17 March this year, the southern landfall of the subsea tunnel “will be constructed at the eastern portion of the HZMB Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (HKBCF) artificial island. However, in view of the actual site conditions, the tunnel alignment below the seawall of the artificial island needs to be lowered by approximately 10 metres to avoid

passing through the stone columns thereat, so as to ensure the safe operation of the tunnel boring machines (TBMs). Also, as a result of this alignment change, amendment to the design and construction of the approximately 700-metre-long tunnel section on the artificial island is also required.”. After rounds of discussions between the HyD and the contractor in the past months, the contractor has been more cooperative and the situation has improved. The HyD and the consultants are now discussing with the contractor the details of the amended design so as to finalise the design amendment scheme as soon as possible and to catch up with the progress. Based on the latest situation, the HyD anticipates that the TM-CLKL Northern Connection could be completed in 2020 at the earliest. Regarding the impact on the cost, it could only be determined upon the finalisation of the amended design.

For the TM-CLKL Southern Connection, as announced in the press released by the HyD on 17 March this year, in order to cope with the complex construction environment, the contractor was required to cast about 2 600 large-size precast deck segments within a tight construction programme, and to adopt various construction plants and methods to erect these precast deck segments. Since the viaducts spanned across the Tung Chung Navigation Channel, the Airport Express Line, the Tung Chung Line and the North Lantau Highway, the contractor had to ensure safe and proper operation of the major navigation channel, the railways and the highways during the construction. As the site area was located in close proximity to the Hong Kong International Airport, construction works had to be executed in compliance with the airport height restriction. The construction works experienced delay due to the technical difficulties mentioned above. At present, these technical difficulties have basically been resolved and the works are being carried out in full swing. According to the contractor's programme submitted to the HyD, it is anticipated that if no other unforeseen conditions arise in the future, all the works of the TM-CLKL Southern Connection could be completed in the first half of 2019 at the earliest. As for the cost implications, the consultants of the HyD are conducting assessments in accordance with the terms of the contract.

As at May 2017, the amount of the claims received in respect of the TM-CLKL project is about \$2,800 million. The consultants of the HyD will handle the claims in accordance with the terms of the contracts.

## Tuen Mun Western Bypass

As stated in the discussion paper, the HyD anticipated to commence the investigation study and preliminary design on the latest alignment scheme of the Tuen Mun Western Bypass in the fourth quarter of 2017. The study will entail assessments on the environment, traffic, etc. together with a review on the construction cost, implementation arrangements and implementation timetable. The investigation study and preliminary design will last for about two years.

## Remaining works of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) HKBCF and the Hong Kong Link Road (HKLR)

According to the latest works progress, the main works of the HZMB Hong Kong Section (i.e. the HKLR and HKBCF) will be completed for achieving commissioning readiness by end 2017.

The works under the HKLR and HKBCF projects which are not absolutely essential for the HZMB commissioning, including the Airport Tunnel linking the HKBCF and the Hong Kong International Airport, the associated roads and the Traffic Control and Surveillance System (TCSS) works; part of the landscape works and their associated irrigation systems in the HKBCF; the finishing, building services and electronic systems works of some ancillary buildings/facilities in the HKBCF; part of the TCSS works; and some road/viaduct works, will be completed by mid-2018 or before. The remaining works listed below which are not absolutely essential for the HZMB commissioning will be completed in 2018 at the earliest. They include:

- (i) Some roads/viaducts interfacing with TM-CLKL at the southern portion of HKBCF and their associated TCSS works will be completed in end 2018 at the earliest to match with the latest works programme of the TM-CLKL.
- (ii) The Government applied to the Legislative Council for increase in the approved project estimate for the HKBCF project during end 2015 to early 2016. As the funding could not be approved on time, the HyD had to excise the landscaping works in the southern portion of the HKBCF under Contract No. HY/2013/04 "HZMB HKBCF Superstructures and Infrastructures Contracts - Infrastructure Works Stage II

(Southern Portion)". As stated in our supplementary information provided to the Legislative Council on 11 December 2015(LC Paper No. PWSC51/15-16(01)), the completion of the above excised works would be delayed. At present, the concerned landscaping works will be tendered for completion in end 2018 at the earliest, so as to match with the latest works programme of the afore-mentioned roads/viaducts at the southern portion of the HKBCF as well as the interfacing works with TM-CLKL.

Yours sincerely,

(Jessica LEE)  
For Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.

Director of Highways (Attn: Mr Albert LEE)

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