

**Bills Committee on Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong
Express Rail Link (Co-location) Bill**

**List of follow-up actions arising from the discussion
at the meetings on 17 March and 7 April 2018**

Government response

The Administration was requested to provide an overall response to the views expressed by deputations and individuals at the meetings of the Bills Committee on Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Co-location) Bill held on 17 March 2018 and 7 April 2018

The Government would like to thank the deputations and individuals for attending the public hearing sessions held by the Bills Committee on 17 March 2018 and 7 April 2018, and/or providing written submissions, to express their views on the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Co-location) Bill (“Bill”). Among the 218 deputations and individuals who attended the public hearing sessions, we noticed that the vast majority (190) expressed support for the implementation of co-location arrangement at the West Kowloon Station of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (“XRL”) and urged the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) to pass the Bill as early as possible.

We understand that the community of Hong Kong is concerned about the co-location arrangement, and are aware that the arrangement involves complicated constitutional, legal and operational considerations. We will continue to provide due explanations on the Bill so as to address unwarranted public concerns. As for deputations and individuals expressing concerns over the legal basis for the co-location arrangement, Government officials had made it clear that the co-location arrangement is consistent with the Basic Law and “one country, two systems” for multiple times at Bills Committee meetings. We also submitted

multiple written replies providing detailed explanations in response to the queries on the Bill raised by the Members and the Legal Service Division of the LegCo Secretariat.

The Government respects the rule of law, the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and "one country, two systems", and strictly complies with the Basic Law. In the course of the discussions on the co-location arrangement, Hong Kong and the Mainland have always agreed that the co-location arrangement must be consistent with "one country, two systems" and must not contravene the Basic Law. We respect the rights of different parties to express their views, and hope that different sectors of the community may interpret the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, the Basic Law and the Bill objectively and holistically.

The XRL is an epoch-making and strategic transport infrastructure project for Hong Kong, and efficient and time-saving clearance procedures are absolutely essential to fully unleashing its transport, social and economic benefits. We believe that the implementation of co-location arrangement at the West Kowloon Station is a pragmatic and necessary arrangement for the XRL, which can also maximise convenience to passengers. The co-location arrangement is a facilitation measure for cross-boundary transport by nature, and similar arrangements have been in place in other parts of the world. It deserves to be considered by the community of Hong Kong in an objective, fair and open manner.

Construction works of the Hong Kong Section of the XRL have entered into the final stage, and the LegCo's passage of the Bill is the key to the timely commissioning of the Hong Kong Section of the XRL this September. We hope that different sectors of the community can support the LegCo in concluding the "Three-step Process" as early as possible, so as to benefit Hong Kong citizens by allowing them to enjoy

the long-anticipated high-speed rail service, and enable Hong Kong to enter into a new era of high-speed rail travel.

Transport and Housing Bureau

Department of Justice

Security Bureau

20 April 2018