

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(4)438/19-20(04)

Ref. : CB4/PS/1/16

**Panel on Transport**

**Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways**  
**Meeting on 5 May 2020**

**Background brief on Tung Chung Line Extension**

**Purpose**

This paper provides background information on the Tung Chung Line Extension proposed under the Railway Development Strategy 2014 ("RDS-2014"). It also summarizes the major views and concerns expressed by Members during previous discussions relevant to this subject.

**Background**

2. According to the Administration, RDS-2014 is an update of the Railway Development Strategy 2000 ("RDS-2000").<sup>1</sup> Based on the findings and final recommendations of the consultancy study and the views collected during a two-stage Public Engagement exercise, RDS-2014 was formulated to map out the development and planning blueprint of the heavy rail network up to 2031. RDS-2014 also reaffirmed the policy of using railway as the backbone of the public transport system in Hong Kong.

3. Having regard to transport demand, cost-effectiveness and the development needs of New Development Areas and other new

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<sup>1</sup> RDS-2000 was announced in May 2000, mapping out a plan for the expansion of Hong Kong's railway network up to 2016. In total, five railway projects, namely West Island Line, South Island Line (East), Kwun Tong Line Extension, Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and Shatin to Central Link ("SCL"), have been implemented. Except SCL, all were completed and put into operation. On 14 February 2020, part of the east-west corridor of SCL, namely Tuen Ma Line Phase 1 commenced operation.

developments, seven railway projects are recommended to be taken forward under RDS-2014 in the planning horizon up to 2031. The seven railway projects and their proposed indicative implementation programme for planning purpose are as follows –

<b>Railway project</b>	<b>Indicative implementation window for planning purpose</b>
Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station)	2018 – 2023*
Tuen Mun South Extension	2019 – 2022
East Kowloon Line	2019 – 2025*
Tung Chung West Extension	2020 – 2024*
Hung Shui Kiu Station	2021 – 2024*
South Island Line (West)	2021 – 2026*
North Island Line	2021 – 2026

Note: Implementation of the schemes marked with an asterisk ("\*") will be contingent upon the progress of the residential developments in the vicinity.

4. As advised by the Administration, the preliminary cost estimate of all the seven recommended railway schemes is in the order of \$110 billion (in 2013 prices). The preliminary cost estimates for the individual railway proposals are shown below. These are only indicative and will need to be confirmed based on in-depth studies to be carried out at the detailed planning stage for the individual railway schemes.

<b>Railway project</b>	<b>Preliminary cost estimate (\$ billion, in 2013 prices)</b>
Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station)	23
Tuen Mun South Extension	5.5
East Kowloon Line	27.5
Tung Chung West Extension	6
Hung Shui Kiu Station	3
South Island Line (West)	25
North Island Line	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>

5. For details of these railway schemes, please refer to the RDS-2014 document on the Transport and Housing Bureau website at <https://www.thb.gov.hk/eng/psp/publications/transport/publications/rds2014.pdf>.

## **Major views and concerns of Members**

6. Members have expressed views and concerns on the new railway projects recommended in RDS-2014, including the Tung Chung Line Extension, at the meetings of the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways ("the Subcommittee") and the Panel on Transport, the special meetings of the Finance Committee and the Council meetings. The major views and concerns raised by Members at these meetings are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

### Implementation progress of the Railway Development Strategy 2014

7. Members were very concerned about the detailed proposals and the implementation timetables for the seven new railway projects recommended in RDS-2014 since they had been announced in 2014. Some Members called on the Administration to take forward these new railway projects in a timely and orderly manner, so that they could be commissioned as scheduled to meet the pressing transport demand arising from growing population in new development areas.

8. The Administration advised that having regard to the indicative implementation window recommended in RDS-2014, the Transport and Housing Bureau ("THB") had invited the MTR Corporation Limited ("MTRCL") to submit proposals for the implementation of the Tuen Mun South Extension, Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station), East Kowloon Line, Tung Chung West Extension (and Tung Chung East Station) and North Island Line. MTRCL submitted proposals for these five railway projects to the Government in December 2016, March 2017, July 2017, January 2018 and July 2018 respectively. THB, the Highways Department and relevant bureaux/departments had evaluated the proposals and requested MTRCL to provide additional information and supplement details. The Administration further advised that in carrying out the evaluation, its main focus was to ensure that the proposals were practically feasible and could bring maximum benefits to the community. Due to the tight housing supply and the potential housing supply that might be brought about by railway development, the Administration was also reviewing the proposals submitted by MTRCL in this light.

9. The Administration remarked that railway projects involve huge capital investment, and the Government had to plan in a prudent manner. The new railway projects proposed in RDS-2014 have different degrees of complexities. As clearly stated in RDS-2014, the taking forward of individual proposed railway projects set out in the Strategy would be subject to the outcome of detailed engineering, environmental and financial

studies relating to each project, as well as updated demand assessment and availability of resources. Moreover, for railway projects which were mainly intended to complement new development areas and new housing developments, the implementation timetable for the development areas and new housing developments in question would be an important planning parameter for the railway projects. Therefore, the indicative implementation windows recommended in RDS-2014 may be adjusted having regard to any change in circumstances. Further, in line with established procedures, prior to the finalization of any new railway scheme, the Government would consult the public, including the legislative Council and the relevant District Councils, on the details of the scheme.

10. Members noted in the 2019 Policy Address that the Government would invite MTRCL to commence the detailed planning and design for the Tung Chung Line Extension (i.e. Tung Chung West Extension and Tung Chung East Station), Tuen Mun South Extension and Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station) in the coming year, so that work on these three railway projects could commence as early as possible.

11. A Member was concerned about the estimated time needed for MTRCL to carry out the detailed planning and design of the above-mentioned projects, as well as the time needed for completing the relevant public consultation processes.

12. The Administration advised that the detailed planning and design stage would involve a number of activities, including consultation with the public and stakeholders and resolution of the comments received, carrying out feasibility study, site investigation, project design, gazettal of railway schemes and handling of objections, carrying out environmental impact assessment, seeking authorisation of the railway schemes, as well as preparation of relevant agreements with the MTRCL. In particular, the Government and MTRCL would need to handle technical issues associated with the new railway projects, such as the impact on nearby residents, the environment and ecology arising from the railway alignment and its mitigation measures, the interface with existing railway network, utilisation of resources, etc. When the details of a proposed scheme such as railway alignment as well as location of station(s) and entrance(s) are available, the Government would consult the public in line with established procedures. In respect of projects for which MTRCL had submitted the proposals, the time required for the detailed planning and design stage was preliminarily estimated as three to five years, including the time allowed for public consultation, subject to the degree of complexities of the projects and the progress of implementing the above activities.

### Tung Chung Line Extension

13. In view of the fact that a specific implementation timetable for the Tung Chung Line Extension was not yet available, a Member was concerned whether MTRCL would enhance the service of Tung Chung Line to meet Tung Chung residents' transport needs.

14. According to the information provided by the Administration, MTRCL had been closely monitoring the services and passenger demand of Tung Chung Line. At present, the Tung Chung Line train services were operating at a headway of about 3.6 minutes (Hong Kong to Tsing Yi) and 6 to 8 minutes (Hong Kong to Tung Chung) on average during the morning peak hours. As the number of the passengers commuting from Tsing Yi Station and Nam Cheong Station towards Hong Kong Section were relatively high during morning peak hours on weekdays, MTRCL had deployed two special train departures from Tsing Yi Station to Hong Kong Station during morning peak hours to relieve the crowded situation. MTRCL would continue to keep in view the passenger demand on different sections of the railway network and consider measures to further enhance the service as necessary.

### **Latest development**

15. The Administration plans to consult members on the implementation of the Tung Chung Line Extension at the Subcommittee meeting to be held on 5 May 2020.

### **Relevant papers**

16. A list of relevant papers is at **Appendix I**.

## Tung Chung Line Extension

## List of relevant papers

Date of meeting	Committee	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
4.11.2010	Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways	Administration's paper on review and update of the Railway Development Strategy 2000	LC Paper No. CB(1)256/10-11(03)  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdp1104cb1-256-3-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdp1104cb1-256-3-e.pdf</a>
		Minutes of meeting	LC Paper No. CB(1)1068/10-11  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/minutes/rdp20101104.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/minutes/rdp20101104.pdf</a>
14.1.2011	Finance Committee	Head 60 – Highways Department; Subhead 700 General non-recurrent; New Item "Review and Update of the Railway Development Strategy 2000"	FCR(2010-11)53  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/fc/fc/papers/f10-53e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/fc/fc/papers/f10-53e.pdf</a>
		Minutes of meeting	LC Paper No. FC116/10-11  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/fc/fc/minutes/fc20110114.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/fc/fc/minutes/fc20110114.pdf</a>

Date of meeting	Committee	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
22.5.2012	Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways	Administration's paper on "Our Future Railway Stage 1 Public Engagement exercise"	LC Paper No. CB(1)1832/11-12(02) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdp0522cb1-1832-2-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdp0522cb1-1832-2-e.pdf</a>
		Minutes of meeting	LC Paper No. CB(1)2542/11-12 <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/minutes/rdp20120522.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/minutes/rdp20120522.pdf</a>
7.11.2012	Council meeting	Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun raised a question on study on the construction of the MTR Siu Sai Wan extension	<a href="http://www.info.gov.hk/gi/general/201211/07/P201211070229.htm">http://www.info.gov.hk/gi/general/201211/07/P201211070229.htm</a>
18.1.2013	Panel on Transport	Administration's paper on transport-related policy initiatives of the Transport and Housing Bureau under the 2013 Policy Address	LC Paper No. CB(1)409/12-13(03) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0118cb1-409-3-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0118cb1-409-3-e.pdf</a>
		Minutes of meeting	LC Paper No. CB(1)839/12-13 <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp20130118.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp20130118.pdf</a>

Date of meeting	Committee	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
1.3.2013 3.5.2013	Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways	Administration's paper on "Our Future Railway" Stage 2 Public Engagement Exercise	LC Paper No. CB(1)595/12-13(03)  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdp0301cb1-595-3-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdp0301cb1-595-3-e.pdf</a>
		Minutes of meeting	LC Paper No. CB(1)1060/12-13  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/minutes/rdp20130301.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/minutes/rdp20130301.pdf</a>  LC Paper No. CB(1)628/13-14  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/minutes/rdp20130503.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/minutes/rdp20130503.pdf</a>
30.10.2013	Council meeting	Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT raised a question on railway development plans	<a href="http://www.info.gov.hk/gi/general/201310/30/P201310290548.htm">http://www.info.gov.hk/gi/general/201310/30/P201310290548.htm</a>
11.12.2013	Council meeting	Minutes of meeting	LC Paper No. CB(3) 343/13-14  <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr13-14/english/counmtg/minutes/cm20131211.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr13-14/english/counmtg/minutes/cm20131211.pdf</a>



Date of meeting	Committee	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
17.1.2014	Panel on Transport	Administration's paper on transport-related policy initiatives of the Transport and Housing Bureau under the 2014 Policy Address	LC Paper No. CB(1)702/13-14(05) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr13-14/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0117cb1-702-5-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr13-14/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0117cb1-702-5-e.pdf</a>
		Minutes of meeting	LC Paper No. CB(1)1105/13-14 <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr13-14/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp20140117.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr13-14/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp20140117.pdf</a>
27.10.2014	Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways	Administration's paper on Railway Development Strategy 2014	CB(1)2012/13-14(01) <a href="https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr13-14/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdpcb1-2012-1-e.pdf">https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr13-14/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdpcb1-2012-1-e.pdf</a>
		Administration's supplementary information on the railway development (follow-up paper)	CB(4)293/14-15(01) <a href="https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr14-15/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdp20141027cb4-293-1-e.pdf">https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr14-15/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/papers/tp_rdp20141027cb4-293-1-e.pdf</a>
		Minutes of meeting	CB(4)539/14-15 <a href="https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr14-15/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/minutes/rdp20141027.pdf">https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr14-15/english/panels/tp/tp_rdp/minutes/rdp20141027.pdf</a>

Date of meeting	Committee	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
16.6.2017	Panel on Transport	Administration's paper on strategic studies on railways and major roads beyond 2030	CB(4)1176/16-17(07)  <a href="https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr16-17/english/panels/tp/papers/tp20170616cb4-1176-7-e.pdf">https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr16-17/english/panels/tp/papers/tp20170616cb4-1176-7-e.pdf</a>
		Administration's supplementary information on strategic studies on railways and major roads beyond 2030 (follow-up paper)	CB(4)1571/16-17(01)  <a href="http://library.legco.gov.hk:1080/articles/1200688.298093/1.PDF">http://library.legco.gov.hk:1080/articles/1200688.298093/1.PDF</a> (Chinese version only)
		Minutes of meeting	CB(4)177/17-18  <a href="https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr16-17/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp20170616.pdf">https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr16-17/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp20170616.pdf</a>
29.11.2017	Council meeting	Hon WU Chi-wai raised a question on traffic situation in Kowloon East	<a href="https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201711/29/P2017112800932.htm">https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201711/29/P2017112800932.htm</a>
16.5.2018	Council meeting	Hon Frankie YICK raised a question on railway services in Northwest New Territories	<a href="https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201805/16/P2018051600264.htm">https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201805/16/P2018051600264.htm</a>
24.10.2018	Council meeting	Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok raised a question on new railway projects	<a href="https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201810/24/P2018102400502.htm">https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201810/24/P2018102400502.htm</a>
17.4.2019	Council meeting	Hon Holden CHOW raised a question on implementation of Railway Development Strategy 2014	<a href="https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201904/17/P2019041700280.htm">https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201904/17/P2019041700280.htm</a>
23.10.2019	Council meeting	Hon LEUNG Che-cheung raised a question on Tuen Mun South Extension	<a href="https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201910/23/P2019102300360.htm">https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201910/23/P2019102300360.htm</a>

Date of meeting	Committee	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
18.12.2019	Council meeting	Hon Holden CHOW raised a question on taking forward the Railway Development Strategy 2014	<a href="https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201912/18/P2019121800304.htm">https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201912/18/P2019121800304.htm</a>
25.10.2019	Panel on Transport	Administration's paper on transport-related policy initiatives in 2019 Policy Address	LC Paper No. CB(4)13/19-20(01)  <a href="https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr19-20/english/panels/tp/papers/tp20191025cb4-13-1-e.pdf">https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr19-20/english/panels/tp/papers/tp20191025cb4-13-1-e.pdf</a>
		Minutes of meeting	LC Paper No. CB(4)280/19-20  <a href="https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr19-20/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp20191025.pdf">https://www.legco.gov.hk/yr19-20/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp20191025.pdf</a>

Council Business Division 4  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
 15 April 2020