

# 立法會

## *Legislative Council*

LC Paper No. CB(4)276/2023(01)

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### **Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways** **Special meeting on 18 April 2023**

### **Updated background brief on the Tung Chung Line Extension**

#### **Purpose**

This paper provides updated background information on the Tung Chung Line Extension (“TCLE”), being one of the seven railway projects proposed under the Railway Development Strategy 2014 (“RDS-2014”). It also summarizes the major views and concerns expressed by Subcommittee members during previous discussions on the subject.

#### **Background**

##### Scope

2. The TCLE project mainly comprises Tung Chung West (“TCW”) Extension and Tung Chung East (“TCE”) Station. The scope includes re-alignment of an approximately 1.2-kilometre long railway track section between the existing Sunny Bay Station and Tung Chung Station; and construction of TCE Station at the re-aligned track section. In addition, Tung Chung Line will be extended westward from the end of the existing Tung Chung Station railway tunnel for about 1.3 kilometres with the construction of TCW Station at the west of Yat Tung Estate.

##### Financial arrangement

3. The TCLE project is implemented under the ownership approach. The MTR Corporation Limited (“MTRCL”) will be responsible for the financing, design, construction, operation and maintenance of the project. The capital cost estimate for the TCLE is \$19.5 billion (in December 2020 prices) and the funding gap is \$15.5 billion (July 2022 Net Present Value). The Administration will provide funding support to the MTRCL in order to implement the project.

The Executive Council approved the above financial arrangement for TCLE on 28 February 2023.

#### Expected completion time

4. According to the Administration, it is expected that the construction of TCLE will commence in mid-2023 for completion in 2029.

#### **Major views and concerns of members**

5. The Administration consulted the Subcommittee on the proposed way forward of TCLE at its meeting on 5 May 2020 and briefed the Subcommittee on the latest development of RDS-2014 (including TCLE) at its meeting on 3 February 2023. The major views and concerns raised by members are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

#### High capital cost

6. At the Subcommittee meeting of 5 May 2020, members expressed deep concern about the high estimated capital cost of the proposed TCLE, which was about \$18.7 billion (in December 2016 prices) and were of the view that the Administration should provide more information to justify the high project cost. Noting that the TCLE project would be taken forward under the ownership approach, members enquired whether the estimated capital cost would be all borne by the Administration and whether funding would be applied from the Legislative Council to implement the TCLE project.

7. The Administration had explained that the piling cost of the TCLE project would be higher than that in normal situation since the project area was located at a reclamation area and close to the seawall. Furthermore, TCE Station and the proposal to construct the remaining section of the Airport Railway Extended Overrun Tunnel were not included in the preliminary cost estimate of about \$6 billion for the TCW Extension stated in RDS-2014. The ratio for sharing the capital cost of the TCLE between the Administration and MTRCL would depend on the detailed planning and design of the project, the property development rights to be granted to MTRCL and the profits arising therefrom.

#### Tie in with the first population intake of Tung Chung East

8. At the meetings on 5 May 2020 and 3 February 2023, members noted with serious concern that the first population intake of TCE would take place in 2024, but the TCLE project would not be completed until 2029. They urged the Administration to expedite the implementation of the project and provide

adequate road-based public transport services prior to the commissioning of the TCLE. The Subcommittee passed a motion at the meeting on 5 May 2020 urging the Administration to construct a new light rail system linking Tung Chung Station, the proposed TCE Station, Cathay Pacific City, airport terminals, SkyCity, AsiaWorld-Expo and the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities Island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, so as to facilitate Tung Chung residents to find employment nearby, without having to take the TCL to the urban areas to work.

9. Members also enquired whether the Administration could consider commissioning TCE Station right after its completion without having to wait for the completion of the entire TCLE. Noting that most of the works were required to be carried out at night when the train service was suspended, some members also suggested that the Administration should consider suspending train service earlier at night so as to extend the night-time works sessions, thereby advancing the project programme.

### **Latest position**

10. The Administration plans to update members on the latest progress of TCLE at the special Subcommittee meeting to be held on 18 April 2023.

### **Relevant papers**

11. A list of relevant papers is in the **Appendix**.

**“Tung Chung Line Extension”**

**List of relevant papers**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Paper No. / Document link</b>
27.10.2014	Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways	Administration’s paper on Railway Development Strategy 2014	<a href="#"><u>CB(1)2012/13-14(01)</u></a>
		Administration’s supplementary information on the railway development	<a href="#"><u>CB(4)293/14-15(01)</u></a>
		Minutes of meeting	<a href="#"><u>CB(4)539/14-15</u></a>
17.4.2019	Council meeting	LCQ17: New railway projects and Tung Chung traffic	<a href="https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201904/17/P2019041700280.htm"><u>https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201904/17/P2019041700280.htm</u></a>
18.12.2019	Council meeting	LCQ18: New railway projects and Tung Chung traffic	<a href="https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201912/18/P2019121800304.htm"><u>https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201912/18/P2019121800304.htm</u></a>
5.5.2020	Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways	Administration’s paper on Tung Chung Line Extension	<a href="#"><u>CB(4)438/19-20(03)</u></a>
		Background brief	<a href="#"><u>CB(4)438/19-20(04)</u></a>
		Minutes of meeting	<a href="#"><u>CB(4)311/20-21</u></a>
		Administration’s consolidated response to the motions passed at	<a href="#"><u>CB(4)654/19-20(01)</u></a>

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Paper</b>	<b>Paper No. / Document link</b>
		the meeting on 5 May 2020	
16.11.2022	Council meeting	LCQ14: Implementation of railway projects	<a href="https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202211/16/P2022111600299.htm">https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202211/16/P2022111600299.htm</a>
3.2.2023	Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways	Administration's paper	<a href="#">CB(4)54/2023(01)</a>
		Minutes of meeting	<a href="#">CB(4)167/2023</a>
28.2.2023	/	Government press release: Executive Council approves financial arrangement for Tung Chung Line Extension	<a href="https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202302/28/P2023022800722.htm">https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202302/28/P2023022800722.htm</a>

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