

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2007-08
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)004

Head : Subhead (No. & title) :
60 - Highways Department

Question Serial No.

0095

Programme : (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Question :

Please provide details about the latest progress of the West Island Line, the Northern Link and the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, including the latest alignments, construction costs, and the commencement and completion dates of the projects. Could the works schedule of these projects be implemented in 2008-09?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

West Island Line

The proposed West Island Line is the extension of the existing Mass Transit Railway Island Line from Sheung Wan Station to the Western District with three new stations to be provided at Sai Ying Pun, University and Kennedy Town respectively. The Government is examining the project proposal submitted by the MTR Corporation Limited in August 2006 and discussing with them on the project scope, costs and implementation programme. We plan to gazette the project proposal later this year. After the proposal is authorised, construction works can commence and will take about 4 to 5 years to complete. On this basis, the project can be commissioned in about 2013. The estimated project capital costs are about \$8 billion.

Northern Link (NOL) and the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (ERL)

The Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) is now conducting an engineering/business study and preliminary site investigation on the two projects. It is expected that the KCRC will submit its final study report to the Government in mid 2007.

In the meantime, we have been working closely with the Mainland authorities on the various planning, technical and interface issues of the ERL. The Government will make a decision on the choice of the Corridor Options in the light of the latest planning parameters and the KCRC's report. The two projects are expected to be completed in 2014-15 at the earliest.

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Signature _____

Name in block letters _____

WAI CHI SING

Post Title _____

Director of Highways

Date _____

16 March 2007