

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

Reply Serial No.

ETWB(T)007

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

Question Serial No.

0098

Programme : (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

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

Question :

Regarding road planning under this programme, please advise on the following-

- (a) Apart from the option of Tuen Mun Eastern Bypass being studied, has the Administration conducted studies on other measures, such as the construction of Route 10 Northern Section (Lam Tei to So Kwun Wat) to alleviate the traffic congestion in Tuen Mun Road? If yes, what are the details of the project and the expenditure involved?
- (b) Has the Administration reserved any provision to carry out a study on the impacts of constructing the Central Kowloon Route on the Yau Ma Tei Police Station and the heritage in the vicinity? If yes, what is the anticipated completion date of the study and the expenditure involved?
- (c) What are the timetables and the expenditures involved for the studies on the Link Options between Tuen Mun and Lantau, and the Tsing Yi-Lantau Link?

Asked by : Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply :

- (a) The Northwest New Territories Traffic and Infrastructure Review (the Review), concluded that the existing road network together with the committed highways in the Northwest New Territories (NWNT) and North Lantau will be operating at manageable levels until year 2016. To accommodate the longer-term demand in the areas, possible packages of highway projects have been identified under the Review, including Tuen Mun Eastern Bypass and the northern section of the previously proposed Route 10 (from Lam Tei to So Kwun Wat).

The feasibility study of Tuen Mun Eastern Bypass was completed in late 2006 at the cost of \$4.7 million, whereas the preliminary design of Route 10 - North Lantau to Yuen Long Highway was completed in 2002. We are now carrying out the engineering feasibility studies on other infrastructure projects, including (i) Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link and Tuen Mun Western Bypass; (ii) Link Options between Tuen Mun and Lantau and (iii) Tsing Yi-Lantau Link. The estimated costs of these three feasibility studies (including site investigation work) are \$11.7 million, \$9.8 million and \$9.9 million respectively.

In order to improve the overall operation of Tuen Mun Road, we also plan to

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implement the widening works at Tsing Tin Interchange at an estimated cost of \$42.2 million; the widening works of the Tuen Mun Road Town Centre Section in 2008 at an estimated cost of \$700 million; and the reconstruction and improvement works of the expressway section of Tuen Mun Road at an estimated cost of \$3,246.4 million.

- (b) We have included provision in 2007-08 for the study, investigation and design of the Central Kowloon Route (CKR) project, which include a built heritage impact assessment to look into the possible impacts on Yau Ma Tei Police Station and other built heritages within the area.

We have submitted the funding application to the Legislative Council for the study, investigation and design. Subject to approval of the Finance Committee, we plan to commence the study and investigation in August 2007. We will consult the public throughout the course of the study and commence the detailed design upon acceptance of an alignment scheme for completion by 2012. The estimated expenditure for the study, investigation and design of CKR is \$136 million.

- (c) The feasibility study (which includes site investigation work) for the Link Options between Tuen Mun and Lantau commenced in February 2006 and is anticipated to be completed by mid 2007 at an estimated cost of \$9.8 million.

The feasibility study (which includes site investigation work) for the Tsing Yi-Lantau Link commenced in January 2007 and is anticipated to be completed by mid 2008 at an estimated cost of \$9.9 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 16 March 2007 _____