

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

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

Programme: (1) Capital Projects and (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please provide information on the progress and expenditure of the following projects:

- (i) Shatin to Central Link;
- (ii) Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link; and
- (iii) Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the related transport infrastructure in Hong Kong.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

(i) Shatin to Central Link (SCL)

The Government has asked the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to proceed with the further planning and design of the SCL project. We hope that the construction of the SCL can commence in 2010 for the Tai Wai to Hung Hom section to be completed in 2015 and the cross harbour section to be completed in 2019. The estimated cost of the project is about \$37.4 billion (in 2007 prices) and the estimated expenditure in 2008-09 for the design works is about \$819 million.

(ii) Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL)

For the Hong Kong section of the XRL, we aim to start the construction in 2009 for completion in 2014 or 2015. The project proposal of the XRL, including its alignment and project costs, is being reviewed.

(iii) The Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macao Bridge (HZMB)

Consensus has been reached with the Guangdong and Macao Governments on the alignment of the HZMB Main Bridge and its financing arrangement.

As regards the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (BCF), the Site Selection Study was completed in early 2008 and recommends reclamation at the north-east of the Airport Island as the preferred site for the BCF. We plan to commence in 2008 the Investigation and Preliminary Design (I&PD) for the BCF including the environmental impact assessment for finalizing the location of the BCF. The estimated expenditure for the I&PD study is being worked out.

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As regards the HZMB link road within Hong Kong, we have commenced an I&PD study to determine the preferred alignment of the link road and its various impacts. The estimated cost of the I&PD study is about \$59 million.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 27 March 2008