

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

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

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding Shatin to Central Link, South Island Line (East), Northern Link and the Guangzhou–Shenzhen–Hong Kong Express Rail Link, please provide information on their planning progress, resources consumed and the financial resources that will be used in future.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

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).

South Island Line East (SIL(E)):

The Government has asked the MTRCL to proceed with the preliminary planning and design of SIL(E) and is studying the proposal of granting the property development rights at the railway stations and depot sites along SIL(E) to the MTRCL to bridge the funding gap of the project. At the same time, the MTRCL have commissioned consultants to carry out the preliminary planning and design of the project. The project is estimated to cost over \$7 billion (in 2007 prices). This is targeted for completion in 2008.

Northern Link:

The project proposal of the Northern Link, including the project costs and implementation timetable, is being reviewed.

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Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Line (XRL):

The Government is reviewing the project proposal, including its alignment and costs, on the Hong Kong section of the XRL. Our target is to complete our assessment in 2008.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008