

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

THB(T)165

Head: 706 - Highways Infrastructure Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1527

Programme: -

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The total estimate provision for the Infrastructure of Transport – Roads has been reduced to \$2,209,709,000 in 2008-09 as against \$3,068,841,000 in 2007-08, despite the implementation of 7 new projects in 2008-09, namely 6025TC, 6579TH, 6720TH, 6746TH, 6800TH, 6801TH and 6828TH. What are the reasons for the decrease? What are the impacts on the progress of the existing transport – roads infrastructure projects with the decrease in provision?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

The decrease in the expenditure on the construction of roads in 2008-09 over that in the previous year is mainly due to –

- (a) the completion of several major projects in 2007-08 including the Improvements to San Tin Interchange, Route 8 between Cheung Sha Wan and Sha Tin, and Route 8 between Tsing Yi and Cheung Sha Wan – Ngong Shuen Chau Viaduct; and
- (b) the continued decrease in expenditure on some major projects completed earlier on, such as the Improvement to Castle Peak Road between Ka Loon Tsuen and Siu Lam.

New projects starting in 2008-09 will not incur a full year's expenditure in that year. The fall in the estimated provision for 2008-09 reflects the different stages of implementation that the major road projects are under. It will not affect their progress.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008