

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

THB(T)036

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

Question Serial No.

1734

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is mentioned under Matters Requiring Special Attention that the Highways Department will facilitate “the further planning of the Shatin to Central Link ... the Northern Link and the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou– Shenzhen–Hong Kong Express Rail Link”. Will the Administration advise on the latest progress on the planning of the three projects, including the financing arrangement, alignment, location of the railway stations and the estimated construction costs, etc.

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

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 based on the concession approach, under which the Government will fund the construction of the SCL and upon completion, MTRCL will be granted the right to operate the railway during the concession period. MTRCL in return will make service concession payments for this right. The 17-km SCL will have nine stations including Tai Wai, Diamond Hill, Kai Tak, To Kwa Wan, Ma Tau Wai, Homantin, Hung Hom, Exhibition and Admiralty. 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).

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.

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Northern Link

The proposed Northern Link is a 11-km railway connecting the West Rail at Kam Sheung Road Station to the Lok Ma Chau Terminus of the Spur Line. The MTRCL has taken over the project from the then Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation after the Rail Merger in December 2007. They are now working on a review on the project.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 27 March 2008