

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

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

Programme:                      (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer:      Director of Highways

Director of Bureau:      Secretary for Development

Question:

The Administration has been developing a new computer system to replace the Utility Management System to improve efficiency in excavation permit processing since 2007-08. Please provide the following information:

- a.      What is the progress at this stage?      What is the anticipated completion time?
- b.      How much resources have the Administration diverted to the task in the previous year and how many will the Administration divert to the task in 2008-09?
- c.      Has the Administration assessed how the new computer system can improve efficiency in relevant work process when the system comes into operation? At present, the Highways Department issues road excavation permits to public utilities/road work permits within 12 days. In the estimation of the Administration, how much faster (in terms of days) can the department issue the permits when the new system comes into operation?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

Reply:

- a.      The new computer system replacing the Utility Management System is called the Excavation Permit Management System. The system analysis and design stage was completed in February 2008, and it is now going through the system implementation and integration stage. The new system is expected to be rolled out by the end of 2008.
- b.      The total project cost is about \$9.5 million. The expenditure of the project in 2007-08 is about \$3.1 million and the estimated expenditure for 2008-09 is \$6.4 million.

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- c. The new computer system will enable Highways Department to process the applications faster; enable the applicants to view the status of their applications in real time; enhance electronic authentication to promote electronic submissions; and reduce Highways Department's staff resources in carrying out spatial data conversion exercises between different computer systems. The overall time to process an excavation permit application is expected to be reduced by 10% to 20%.

It is expected that excavation permit applications submitted through the new system can be issued within ten working days.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 26 March 2008