

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

THB(T)049

Question Serial No.

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

2209

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the planning of the Shatin to Central Link in 2008-09, will the Administration advise on the anticipated progress and works schedule of the project? While planning for the aforesaid rail link, will the Administration consider building a Tsz Wan Shan station and a Hin Keng (Sha Tin) station? What is the estimated expenditure on the planning work in 2008-09?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply:

The Government has asked the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to proceed with the further planning and design of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) project. We hope that the construction of the SCL can commence in 2010 for the Tai Wai to Hung Home section to be completed in 2015 and the cross harbour section to be completed in 2019. Site investigation has concluded that a station in Tsz Wan Shan is technically not advisable. We are looking at the provision of additional pedestrian facilities and the possible enhancement of green mini-bus services upon the commissioning of the SCL to improve the traffic conditions of Tsz Wan Shan and its connectivity with the SCL. As for Hin Keng, the current estimated patronage does not fully justify a station there. We shall keep in close view the demand for rail service, the traffic conditions in Hin Keng and Tai Wai and the conditions in the Tai Wai Station in order to ascertain the need of the Hin Keng Station. In the meantime, the MTRCL has made provision in the track design of the SCL to cater for a station at Hin Keng in future.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 27 March 2008