

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

THB(T)019

Question Serial No.

Head: 60 – Highways Department

Subhead

(No. & title):

000 Operational
expenses

0050

Programme: (2) District and Maintenance

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Provision for 2009-2010 under this programme is \$51.8 million higher than the revised estimate for 2008-2009. Please set out the increased provision for and provide details about the proposed additional maintenance works, the vacancies filled in 2008-2009 and the creation of four posts in 2009-2010.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The increase in the provision under Programme (2) District and Maintenance is made up as follows –

- (a) increased provision of \$29.0 million for meeting the higher prices of maintenance works ordered under the new term contracts for the New Territories West and Kowloon regions which will be in effect starting from 1 April 2009 ;
- (b) increased provision of \$10.0 million for the maintenance of additional electrical and mechanical structures (e.g. lifts, escalators, pump rooms, etc.);
- (c) filling of 33 vacancies in 2008-2009 for the maintenance of new roads taken over and for the administration and operation of excavation and road works permits with additional salary provision of \$4.0 million in 2009-2010;
- (d) provision of \$1.4 million for creation of four posts (1 Electrical and Mechanical Engineer/ Assistant Electrical and Mechanical Engineer, 1 Assistant Inspector of Works, 1 Technical Officer/Technical Officer Trainee (Civil) and 1 Works Supervisor I) in 2009-2010 for the maintenance of the Shenzhen section of the Shenzhen Bay Bridge (formerly known as the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor); and
- (e) the remaining \$7.4 million of the increase in provision is to meet salary increments, additional energy consumption and other operating expenses of the Highways Department.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 19 March 2009