Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2009-10

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)020

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No.

0051

Head: 60 – Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title): 000 Operational expenses

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the assessment of proposals on the Northern Link, please give reasons for the slow progress since the beginning of such work. Is the Government considering the abandonment of the Northern Link project? If not, please provide details about the latest progress in respect of the most up-to-date alignment, construction costs, commencement date and expected completion date at this stage.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The current proposal of the Northern Link (NOL) is a railway line connecting the existing Kam Sheung Road Station of the West Rail Line to the Lok Ma Chau Station at the boundary, with a station at Chau Tau for interchanging with the Spur Line. It will therefore link the West Rail Line and the East Rail Line in the north of the New Territories, and will provide cross boundary rail service for the Northwest New Territories.

The planning of the NOL needs to take into account the planning parameters for the New Territories New Development Areas. It is anticipated that preliminary study results regarding the land use and population/employment data will be available in early 2010. We will then review the NOL project regarding its proposed alignment, the locations of the railway stations and the implementation timetable.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18 March 2009