

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

**THB(T)021**

Head: 60 – Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational  
(No. & title): expenses

Question Serial No.

0052

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the key performance measures under this programme, the target cumulative progress for the item “formulating, negotiating and agreeing on detailed implementation plans for the Shatin to Central Link” for 2009-10 is only 5% higher than that of the previous year. What is the reason for setting the target like this? Please provide details about the latest progress in respect of the most up-to-date route, construction cost, commencement date and expected completion date at this stage.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The cumulative percentage completion up to 2008 for the formulating, negotiating and agreeing on detailed implementation plans for the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) was 90%. We are now planning to finalise the SCL scheme for gazettal in late 2009. Base on the work involved, the cumulative percentage completion in 2009 is targeted at 95%. The authorisation of the SCL scheme and the commencement of construction are scheduled for 2010.

There are two sections in the SCL - Tai Wai to Hung Hom section and the cross harbour section. The Tai Wai to Hung Hom section is an extension of the Ma On Shan Line from Tai Wai, via Diamond Hill, Kai Tak, To Kwa Wan, Ma Tau Wai, Ho Man Tin to Hung Hom. We are also working towards including a station at Hin Keng in Shatin in the forthcoming gazettal. The cross harbour section will extend the existing East Rail Line from Hung Hom to Admiralty with an intermediate station at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

The estimated cost for the SCL is \$37.4 billion (in 2007 prices).

Subject to the approval of the Finance Committee, the current target is to commence construction of the SCL in 2010. The Tai Wai to Hung Hom section will be completed in 2015, while the cross harbour section is expected to be completed around 2019 due to the complex programme interfaces with the Wan Chai Development Phase II reclamation and the Central-Wan Chai Bypass.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18 March 2009