

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

**THB(T)025**

Head: 60 – Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational  
(No. & title): expenses

Question Serial No.

0393

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the planning and construction of the South Island Line (East), please inform this Committee of the following-

1. the latest construction cost, commencement date and expected completion date for the South Island Line (East) at this stage;
2. whether the Government will conduct planning for the construction of the South Island Line (West), and if yes, the details about the expenditure and the project.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

1. We plan to start the construction of the South Island Line (East) in 2011 for commissioning no later than 2015. The estimated project cost of the South Island Line (East) exceeds \$7 billion (in 2007 prices). The project cost will be examined further as the design work progresses. We are consulting the public on this project and hope to gazette the railway scheme in mid-2009 to take forward the project further.
2. The South Island Line (West) will serve Aberdeen, Wah Fu Estate and Pok Fu Lam. Serious congestion does not frequently occur along Pokfulam Road and Victoria Road. The implementation of the West Island Line and South Island Line (East) will maintain the traffic situation along these two roads at acceptable level. We will continue to monitor the traffic demand for the Southern District and keep the South Island Line (West) under review.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18 March 2009