

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

ENB155

Question Serial
No.

1203

Head: 60 – Highways Department Subhead:

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding the retrofitting of noise barriers projects to be carried out for the implementation of traffic noise mitigation measures, please provide details about:

- (a) the number of noise barriers projects scheduled for 2009 and the estimated expenditure involved; and
- (b) the level of noise to be reduced (in decibel) in general for buildings located nearest to the roadside upon erection of noise barriers; the number of cases in which no significant difference will be made; and the measures to be taken to enhance the effectiveness of the noise barriers.

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

- (a) According to the latest programme, there will be seven retrofitting of noise barriers projects (for eight road sections in total) under construction by the Highways Department at a total estimated expenditure of \$311 million in the year of 2009. Among these seven projects, five have been approved by the Finance Committee (FC). For the remaining two, we plan to seek FC's approval within this Legislative Council session.
- (b) The effect of noise barriers depends on various factors, such as the barrier height, the relative location between the barrier and the noise sensitive receiver, topographical conditions and other site situations. Generally, noise barriers erected on roads can reduce the traffic noise at adjoining buildings by 1 to 15 dB(A) and similar noise reduction was achieved in past cases. To enhance the noise reduction effect, suitable types of noise barriers including vertical barriers, cantilevered barriers and noise enclosures, and using absorptive panels as appropriate would be adopted under different site situations.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **WAI CHI SING**

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways**

Date _____ **18 March 2009**