

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

THB(T)033

Head: 60 – Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): expenses

Question Serial No.

1205

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Government announced at the end of last year that the maintenance works for the Lion Rock Tunnel would commence in two years. Please advise -

- (1) The Highways Department's expenditure on consultant's fee may cover the cost of commissioning a consultancy firm to re-compile the design data of the Lion Rock Tunnel as the department concerned may have lost the original layout plan of the Tunnel. If this is the case, what is the expenditure involved?
- (2) Apart from keeping the original layout plans of major projects in the departments concerned, will the Government consider forwarding a copy to the Government Records Service for retention?
- (3) When will the study on the maintenance works of the Lion Rock Tunnel commence and when will it be completed?
- (4) Regarding the traffic congestion problem to be caused by the partial closure of the Lion Rock Tunnel during maintenance, is there any assessment conducted on the problem in conjunction with relevant departments?

Asked by: Hon. CHEUNG Hok-ming

Reply:

- (1) The Lion Rock Tunnel (LRT) was constructed more than 30 years ago. The maintenance work for the tunnel as a result of "wear and tear" is becoming more and more demanding. The Highways Department (HyD) therefore employed a consultant to formulate a set of rehabilitation and improvement works for the tunnel. The consultancy is a lump sum package of about \$1.5 million. Although some of the original design calculations are not available, we are in possession of the engineering drawings. Under the consultancy, we will conduct a review of the existing conditions of the tunnel against today's prevailing standards, and if necessary, carry out improvements to meet these standards as far as practicable. There is no need to re-compile the original design.

- (2) The records of major projects can be broadly classified as non-engineering and engineering. Non-engineering records, such as general correspondence and payment accounts are kept in HyD and destroyed 13 years after completion of the project, unless there are special reasons for keeping them longer. Engineering records, such as drawings and design calculations, are kept in HyD permanently. As drawing records are now digitalised and managed by a sophisticated computer system maintained by HyD, it is considered not warranted to duplicate the records and store them in the Government Records Service.
- (3) The consultancy started in November 2007. Construction is expected to commence in mid-2010 for completion in mid-2013.
- (4) The LRT forms part of a major strategic route with heavy traffic flow. We will endeavour to minimise the traffic impacts during maintenance. At present, we only envisage partial closure of the LRT during night time. HyD, as supported by the consultant, will coordinate with concerned departments to carry out measures to further minimise the impacts as and when necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 18 March 2009