

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

THB(T)137

Head: 706 – Highways
Infrastructure
Transport - Roads

Subhead 6694TH
(No. & title): Route 8 between Cheung Sha
Wan and Sha Tin

Question Serial No.

2396

Programme: -

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The revised estimate for 6694TH in 2008-2009 is HK\$313,487,000 as against the original estimate of HK\$128,604,000. Please provide reasons for the significant increase.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

The approved project estimate of 6694TH is \$6,759.7 million. The project comprises four main works contracts, namely Lai Chi Kok Viaduct, Eagle's Nest Tunnel, Sha Tin Heights Tunnel and Traffic Control and Surveillance System.

The increase in expenditure in 2008-09 was mainly due to the increase in the payment for additional works required prior to the opening of this section of Route 8 in March 2008, including enhancement of traffic signage, improvement of the tunnel ventilation system to meet the latest safety requirements especially on fire fighting, and modification of the traffic control and surveillance system to meet the up-to-date traffic management requirements. The price fluctuation payment for works paid in the period was also higher than expected due to higher construction price indices than originally envisaged.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways** _____

Date _____ **18 March 2009** _____