

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

THB(T)138

Question Serial No.

Head: 706 – Highways
Infrastructure
Transport -Railways

Subhead
(No. & title): 6046TR East Rail
Extension – essential
public infrastructure
works for the Sheung
Shui to Lok Ma Chau
Spur Line

2397

Programme: -

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The revised estimate for 6046TR in 2008-2009 is HK\$36,913,000 as against the original estimate of HK\$64,736,000. Please provide reasons for the significant decrease. Will the progress of the project be affected because of the decrease?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

The Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line was completed and started operation in August 2007. The original estimate for 2008-09 includes payment to settle outstanding contractual claims with the contractors arising from the construction works for the project. The resolution of these claims has taken longer time than originally anticipated because of the complexity involved and the claims were not settled in 2008-2009 as originally scheduled. The decrease in the revised estimate will not affect the operation of the railway.

Signature _____

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

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways**

Date _____ **18 March 2009**