

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

THB(T)135

Question Serial No.

Head: 706 – Highways
Infrastructure
Transport-
Interchanges/bus terminal

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

2684

Programme: -

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The approved estimate for the East Rail Extension — essential public infrastructure works for the Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line is \$656 million. After deduction of the actual expenditure for the year ended 31 March 2008 and the revised estimate for 2008-09, there is still a balance of \$220 million. Please explain the low estimate of \$39 million for 2009-10 and the reasons for not being able to expedite the progress of project?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Sau-shing, Patrick

Reply:

The Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line was completed and started operation in August 2007 and the essential public infrastructure works under 6046TR were substantially completed in 2008. The balance of about \$220 million after deducting the actual expenditure for the year ended in March 2008 and the revised estimate for 2008-09 from the approved project estimate is mainly attributable to the lower tender prices of the then KCRC contracts awarded in 2003. The \$39 million provision for the year 2009-2010 is to finalise the contractual payments with the contractors arising from the construction works for the project. The resolution of these claims has taken longer than originally anticipated because of the complexity involved, but this 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