

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

THB(T)046

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): Expenses

Question Serial No.

1413

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The Highways Department's estimated expenditure on planning studies carried out by consultants for 2010 is \$148 million, which is three times the actual expenditure in 2009 (\$44.7 million). Please inform this Committee of the reasons for the increase and provide a breakdown of the expenditure of the studies.

Asked by: Hon. IP LAU Suk-ye, Regina

Reply:

The increase in the estimated cost for planning studies for 2010 is primarily attributed to the need to monitor and verify the construction, testing and commissioning of the Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL).

The information about the planning studies is tabulated as follow:-

Planning studies carried out by consultants in 2009

	Title	Description	Estimated Expenditure of the study (\$million)
1	Restructuring and Enhancement of the Railway Development Study Model	To enhance and update the existing model by adopting the updated transport parameters.	1.3
2	Hong Kong section of XRL Monitoring and Verification for Design and Site Investigation Phase - Investigation	To carry out monitoring and verification on the MTR Corporation Limited's (MTRCL's) design and site investigation works.	23.3
3	Consultancy for Checking of MTRCL's On-cost of Hong Kong section of XRL	To conduct an independent assessment on on-cost of the Hong Kong section of XRL proposed by MTRCL.	0.4
4	Independent Design Review of Hong Kong section of XRL Electrical & Mechanical (E&M) System - Investigation	To carry out an independent design review for the E&M Systems of the Hong Kong section of XRL to ensure proper interface and interoperability of the railway systems between the Hong Kong section and Mainland section.	18.5

5	Consultancy Study on Impact of Hong Kong section of XRL on Hong Kong Economy	To provide independent consultancy advice on the impact of XRL on Hong Kong Economy.	0.6
6	Constructability of West Kowloon Station	To assess the constructability and engineering issues arising from the construction of the West Kowloon Terminus.	1.1
7	Independent Checking of the Funding Arrangement of the South Island Line (SIL) (East)	To carry out an independent assessment of the financial arrangement of the South Island Line (SIL) (East) project based on preliminary design.	2.5

Planning studies to be carried out by consultants in 2010

	Title	Description	Estimated Expenditure of the study (\$million)
1	Hong Kong section of XRL Monitoring and Verification for Design and Site Investigation Phase – Investigation ^(Note)	To carry out monitoring and verification on MTRCL's design and site investigation works.	23.3
2	Independent Design Review of Hong Kong section of XRL E&M System – Investigation ^(Note)	To carry out an independent design review for the E&M systems of the Hong Kong section of XRL to ensure proper interface and interoperability of the railway systems between the Hong Kong section and Mainland section.	18.5
3	Hong Kong section of XRL Monitoring and Verification Consultancy for Construction, Testing and Commissioning	To carry out monitoring and verification on MTRCL's construction, testing and commissioning works.	Consultancy not yet awarded
4	Independent Checking of the Funding Arrangement of the SIL (East) based on detailed design and updated information	To carry out an independent assessment of the financial arrangement of the SIL (East) project based on detailed design and updated information.	Consultancy not yet awarded
5	Independent Checking of the Funding Arrangement of the Kwun Tong Line (KTL) Extension	To carry out an independent assessment of the financial arrangement of the KTL Extension project.	Consultancy not yet awarded

Note: This is an ongoing study continued from 2009.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ WAI CHI SING _____

Post Title _____ Director of Highways _____

Date _____ 17.3.2010 _____