

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

THB(T)048

Question Serial No.

2574

Head: 60 - Highways Department Subhead 000 Operational
(No. & title): Expenses

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

It is mentioned in paragraph 21 that the Highways Department will “facilitate the detailed design work of the Shatin to Central Link”. With regard to the above, please provide information on:

- (a) the estimated expenditure of the above project;
- (b) the number of jobs to be created by the above project for professional staff, technical staff and labourers;
- (c) the completion date of the detailed design work;
- (d) the expected completion date of the project; and
- (e) the number of consultations with local organisations and residents.

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

(a)

In March 2008, the cost of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) project was estimated to be about \$37.4 billion (in April 2007 prices) based on a preliminary proposal of the railway scheme. Following the extensive consultations conducted since 2008, we are reviewing the scope and design of the project in response to the public views received. The estimated cost will be updated upon finalization of the railway scheme and completion of the detailed design.

(b)

We estimate that the design work, which is being carried out by MTR Corporation Limited, will create about 890 jobs (180 labourers and another 710 professional/technical staff).

For (c), (d) and (e)

In conjunction with the preliminary design of SCL, over 150 public consultation activities have been conducted, covering all the seven districts that SCL will pass through. These public consultation activities include presentations to and discussions with relevant District Councils, public forums, stakeholders forums and residents meetings, briefings for various professional bodies and roving exhibitions.

The public has raised different views on certain parts of the SCL alignment and also some concerns that will affect the construction programme of the project, such as the availability of temporary works areas and the extent of excavation for the train stabling sliding. The implementation programme will only be available when the railway scheme is finalised upon completion of the public engagement exercise.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 17.3.2010