

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

THB(T)060

Question Serial No.

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

0654

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the co-ordination with Mainland authorities on cross-boundary infrastructure developments, please explain the co-ordination mechanism between the Highways Department and Mainland authorities and describe the contents involved. Will the commencement of cross-boundary infrastructure projects bring about an increase in manpower in 2010-11? If yes, please provide details. If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

As regards the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, a Project Coordination Committee has been set up to facilitate the implementation of this cross-boundary project. It is co-ordinated by the Director General of the Development & Planning Department of the Ministry of Railways from the Mainland and the Director of Highways of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government (HKSARG).

For the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line, the relevant authorities of Hong Kong and Shenzhen has set up the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Express Line Co-operation Joint Task Force to steer the planning for a possible rail link between the Hong Kong International Airport and Shenzhen Airport. It is jointly led by the Vice Mayor of Shenzhen Municipal People's Government and Secretary for Transport and Housing of HKSARG.

The co-ordination work for these two rail links has been dealt with by the existing staff of the Highways Department and we do not intend to apply for additional staff resources in 2010-11. We will ensure such work be carried out effectively and arrange for internal staff redeployment as and when necessary.

Signature _____

Name in block letters WAI CHI SING

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 15.3.2010