Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2010-11

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)061

Question Serial No.

2876

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. 8 title)

(No. & title): Expenses

000 Operational

<u>Programme</u>: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

According to the indicators, the number of railway planning studies carried out by consultants will be reduced from 7 in 2009 to 5 (estimated number) in 2010. However, the estimated expenditure increases sharply from \$47.7 million to \$148 million. Is this an over-estimation by the Administration? Please explain about the items which involve the highest expenditure.

Asked by: Hon. TONG Ka-wah, Ronny

Reply:

The increase in the estimated expenditure 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 follows:-

Planning studies carried out by consultants in 2009

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

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

Planning studies to be carried out by consultants in 2010

Title	2	Description	Estimated
		-	Expenditure of
			the study
			(\$million)
1 Hong Kong section	of XRL	To carry out monitoring and verification	23.3
Monitoring and Ve	rification for	on MTRCL's design and site investigation	
Design and Site Inv	estigation	works.	
Phase – Investigation	on (Note)		
2 Independent Design		To carry out an independent design	18.5
Hong Kong section	of XRL E&M	review for the E&M systems of the Hong	
System – Investigat	tion (Note)	Kong section of XRL to ensure proper	
		interface and interoperability of the	
		railway systems between the Hong Kong	
		section and Mainland section.	
3 Hong Kong section	of XRL	To carry out monitoring and verification	Consultancy not
Monitoring and Ve	rification	on MTRCL's construction, testing and	yet awarded
Consultancy for Co	nstruction,	commissioning works.	
Testing and Comm	issioning		
4 Independent Check	ing of the	To carry out an independent assessment	Consultancy not
Funding Arrangem	ent of the SIL	of the financial arrangement of the SIL	yet awarded
(East) based on det	ailed design	(East) project based on detailed design	
and updated inform	ation	and updated information.	
5 Independent Check	ing of the	To carry out an independent assessment	Consultancy not
Funding Arrangeme	ent of the	of the financial arrangement of the KTL	yet awarded
Kwun Tong Line (I	KTL)	Extension project.	
Extension			

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