Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

**THB(T)063**

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

Question Serial No.

0396

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the continuation with the investigation and preliminary design for the Central Kowloon Route project, will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

a. the latest estimated cost for such work, and whether any changes have been made;
b. the time at which the investigation results and layout plan will be submitted to the Legislative Council; and
c. the anticipated completion date of the project.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Kwok-kin

Reply:

We have completed the investigation and preliminary design of the Central Kowloon Route (CKR) in December 2010. In the course of the investigation study, we reported to the Panel on Transport of the Legislative Council in May 2008 and February 2009 respectively on the study progress, in particular the selection of preferred alignment for CKR, which Members generally supported; and on the progress of the preliminary design and impact assessments.

The latest Approved Project Estimate for the consultants' fees for the design of CKR and the associated site investigation as approved by the Legislative Council in April 2007 is $192.3 million. As at end February 2011, the expenditure on the investigation and preliminary design of CKR (including consultancy fees and site investigation) was about $81 million. We have no plan to seek further amendments to the Approved Project Estimate.

We plan to start the detailed design consultancy of CKR in mid 2011 and to commence public consultation in respect of the detailed design at end 2011/early 2012. We will also formulate the implementation programme for the project in this detailed design stage. We will consult the Legislative Council after a recommended detailed design is available.

Signature _____

Name in block letters K K LAU

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 17.3.2011