

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

THB(T)037

Head: 60 - Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Question Serial No.

1109

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please advise this Committee of the following:

- a. the progress of the planning work for the Northern Link, as well as the manpower and expenditure concerned; and
- b. the expected commencement date of the Northern Link project.

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

Reply:

The planning of the Northern Link (NOL) needs to tie in with the findings of the planning of the New Territories New Development Areas (NDAs). Currently, the Planning Department and the Civil Engineering and Development Department are carrying out a study on the NDAs, which will address issues related to the overall planning of the NDAs, the development programme, the planned population and employment in the planning areas. The study is expected to be completed in 2011.

The Highways Department will also commence a consultancy study to review and update the Railway Development Strategy 2000 in the second quarter of 2011 to meet the need for rail transport up to 2031, which will look at expansion needs for the railway network including the proposed NOL. The in-house team responsible for management of the review study involves two professional officers working part time.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ K K LAU

Post Title _____ Director of Highways

Date _____ 17.3.2011