Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2011-12

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)051

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

Question Serial No.

2286

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

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

With respect to keeping the Northern Link under review, will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

a. the progress of the advance work of the aforesaid project;
b. the estimated amount of money to be invested in the project;
c. the expected annual patronage;
d. the expected completion date; and
e. whether the District Councils concerned and local organisations will be consulted; if yes, please provide details.

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

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. We will consult the public in the process of the review.

Signature _____

Name in block letters K K LAU

Post Title Director of Highways

Date 17.3.2011