

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

THB(T)036

Question Serial No.

0396

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:

The Administration has mentioned that the provision for 2012-13 is \$10.1 million higher than the revised estimate for 2011-12 due to the increased provision for review and update of the Railway Development Strategy 2000 in 2012-13. Please provide the scale, the timeframe, the recent progress and the expected completion date of this review.

Asked by: Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply:

The review and update of the Railway Development Strategy 2000 (RDS 2000) started in March 2011. The consultancy study aims to update Hong Kong's long-term railway development blueprint, taking into account the changing needs of the society and latest planning parameters. The study will review the railway proposals identified in the RDS 2000 and other railway suggestions made by the Administration or public.

The consultant is reviewing the latest planning parameters of various railway proposals, making forecasts for future traffic demand, conducting preliminary analysis of possible technical and environmental constraints, and studying ways to tie in with the overall railway network so as to achieve optimum benefits and meet the need for rail transport beyond 2031.

The study was approved by the Finance Committee with a commitment of \$43 million. It is expected to take about 24 months to complete.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: K K LAU

Post Title: Director of Highways

Date: 28.2.2012