

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2012-13
**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)174

Question Serial No.

0638

Head : Capital Works Reserve Fund
Head 706 - Highways

Subhead (No. & title) :

6025TC –
Replacement of
conventional traffic
signals with light
emitting diode
(LED) traffic signals
in Hong Kong

Programme :

Controlling Officer : Director of Highways

Director of Bureau : Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question :

The accumulated expenditure on the project has fallen short of expectation as stated in the proposal - PWSC(2007-09)87 – approved by the Finance Committee in that the actual expenditure on the project together with the estimate for 2012-13 amounts to less than 50% of the approved project estimate. Given that the Administration stated on 22 February 2011 at the meeting of Panel on Development that the project would be completed in the 3rd quarter of 2012 (CB(1)1308/10-11(05)), will the Administration inform this Committee the following:

- (a) the reasons for lower-than-expected expenditure on the project for 2011-12 and 2012-13;
- (b) the latest progress of the project, including a breakdown of the number of LED traffic signals has been installed in Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories so far;
- (c) the latest estimate of the completion date of the project; and
- (d) whether measures will be adopted to expedite the project?

Asked by : Hon. SHEK Lai-him, Abraham

Reply :

- (a) There has been a downward trend in prices of LED products due to keen market competition in the last few years, and the lowered prices were reflected in the tender price of the project. The estimated total project cost has therefore been reduced to about \$80 million, which is lower than the approved project estimate of \$140.3 million. The estimated expenditures in 2011-12 and 2012-13 have also been adjusted downward accordingly.

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(b) The latest progress of LED traffic signals installation is shown below:

Region	No. of LED traffic signal junctions		% Completed
	To be installed	Installation completed	
Hong Kong Island	400	400	100%
Kowloon	640	640	100%
New Territories	780	470	60.3%

(c) We estimate that the whole project will be completed in the 3rd quarter of 2012 as scheduled.

(d) We will continue to monitor work progress closely to ensure that the project would be completed on schedule.

Signature

Name in block letters

Post Title

Date

K K LAU

Director of Highways

28.2.2012