

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

**THB(T)031**

Question Serial No.

1331

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:

Regarding the 'Northern Link', will the Administration inform this Committee of:

- a. the progress of the advance works for the above project;
- b. the estimated cost;
- c. the estimated annual throughput;
- d. the scheduled date of completion; and
- e. whether the district council and local groups will be consulted; and if so, what the details are.

Asked by: Hon. IP Wai-ming

Reply:

The consultancy study for reviewing and updating the Railway Development Strategy 2000 (RDS 2000) started in March 2011. It aims at updating Hong Kong's long-term railway development blueprint in view of the latest development of the society and the updates in the planning parameters. The study will review the railway proposals identified in the RDS 2000, and other railway proposals raised by the Government or the public, including the Northern Link.

The consultant is currently reviewing the latest planning information of various development proposals and at the mean time assessing the needs for future traffic. It is also conducting the initial analysis on the possible restrictions in respect of technology and environment, and the way to tie in with the overall railway network in order to attain optimal efficiency and satisfy the society's transport demand after 2031.

The study will take about 24 months to complete. We plan to consult the public of the interim study findings around the second quarter of 2012.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters:                     K K LAU                    

Post Title:                     Director of Highways                    

Date:                     28.2.2012