

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

THB(T)029

Question Serial No.

2014

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 'continue to review and update the Railway Development Strategy 2000' mentioned under the Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2012–13,

- (a) what is the recent progress of the consultancy study for the review and update of the Railway Development Strategy 2000?
- (b) when will the consultant submit interim report as requested by the Government?
- (c) has the possible overcrowding induced by the growth in passenger volume of East Rail Line in the coming years be included in the scope of consultancy study?
- (d) the Government mentioned 'We will consult the public in the process of the review,' (Reply Serial No. THB(T)1430) during the examination of Estimates of Expenditure last year. When will be the expected commencement of the consultation? What is the amount of resources reserved in the financial year 2012-13 to handle the work concerned?

Asked by: Hon. CHENG Kar-foo, Andrew

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.

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 (including the impact on existing railways due to the completion of railway projects which are now under construction and implementation) in order to attain optimal efficiency and satisfy the society's transport demand after 2031.

Signature: _____

Name in block letters: K K LAU

Post Title: Director of Highways

Date: 28.2.2012