

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

THB(T)042

Question Serial No.

2533

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:

Please provide the expenditure, manpower, work details and progress of the following projects of the Highways Department:

- a) review and update the Railway Development Strategy 2000;
- b) co-ordinate with the Mainland authorities on cross-boundary infrastructure developments; and
- c) facilitate the detailed design of the Shatin to Central Link.

Asked by: Hon. WONG Sing-chi

Reply:

- (a) The consultancy study for reviewing and updating the Railway Development Strategy 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 Railway Development Strategy 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 in order to attain optimal efficiency and satisfy the society's transport demand after 2031.

Funding approval of \$43 million was obtained from the Finance Committee (FC) for the whole study, which will take approximately 24 months. The Highways Department (HyD) deploys in-house staff to monitor the consultancy study.

