

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)038

Question Serial No.

2214

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 receiving and assessing of proposals on the Northern Link, the percentage completed in the past two financial years was only 2% per year. What are the reasons for the extremely slow progress? What is the expected date of completion? What was the expenditure for the past two years (2011-12 and 2012-13)? Does it duplicate with the work of the Review and Update of the Railway Development Strategy 2000 (RDS-2U)?

Asked by: Hon. WU Chi-wai

Reply:

The task of "receiving and assessing proposals on the Northern Link" from 2011 onwards mainly covers the review of the Northern Link under the RDS-2U study which commenced in March 2011. We anticipate that the RDS-2U study will be completed in 2013 and the Government will report the study findings to the public in 2014.

We deploy in-house resources for the assessment of proposals on the Northern Link in conjunction with the consultants employed for the RDS-2U study. There is no duplication of work.

Name in block letters:

K K LAU

Post Title:

Director of Highways

Date:

3.4.2013