

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**THB(T)049**

**(Question Serial No. 1145)**

Head: (60) Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The key performance measures of the Highways Department (HyD) for “ensuring timely completion of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) by 2020 (cumulative % completed)” is based on the full length of the SCL. Since the SCL also includes the Hung Hom to Hong Kong Island section, the construction of which has not commenced yet, the cumulative percentage of completion of the Shatin to Hung Hom section which is currently under construction cannot be accurately reflected. In this connection, please provide the information on the cumulative percentage of completion and the anticipated commissioning date of the Shatin to Hung Hom section. Can the Shatin to Hung Hom section and the Hung Hom to Hong Kong Island section commence commissioning according to the original plan, the original timetable and the original budget? If no, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (Member Question No. 42)

Reply:

The SCL consists of the following two sections: (a) Tai Wai to Hung Hom section: this is an extension of the Ma On Shan Line from Tai Wai via Southeast Kowloon to Hung Hom, where it will join the West Rail Line; and (b) Hung Hom to Admiralty section: this is an extension of the East Rail Line from Hung Hom across the Victoria Harbour to Wan Chai North and Admiralty. The original target commissioning date for the Tai Wai to Hung Hom section is December 2018 while that for the Hung Hom to Admiralty section is December 2020.

The actual cumulative progress of the SCL up to end 2014 was 23% in terms of percentage share of the estimated expenditure on the project.

For the Tai Wai to Hung Hom section of the SCL, the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) estimated that there would be a minimum delay of 11 months and an additional cost of at least \$4.1 billion arising from the archaeological and conservation works at To Kwa Wan

Station. The current target is to commission the Tai Wai to Hung Hom section of the SCL in 2019.

For the Hung Hom to Admiralty section of the SCL, the commissioning date will very likely be deferred to 2021 to allow flexibility for the topside development of the convention centre at Exhibition Station, and to cater for the reclamation works under the Wan Chai Development Phase II as well as the tunnel works of the Central-Wan Chai Bypass.

The MTRCL is conducting a cost review for the entire SCL for submission to the HyD for scrutiny. As the current contingency of the SCL will not be sufficient to meet the additional expenditure arising from the archaeological and conservation works, we will seek additional funding from the Legislative Council in due course.

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