

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)213

(Question Serial No. 2510)

Head: (706) Capital Works Reserve Fund - Highways

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

Programme: (-) Not Specified

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The project of Capital Works Reserve Fund Subhead 6561TH “Widening of Tolo Highway between Island House Interchange and Ma Liu Shui Interchange” was approved in 1998-99 and expected to be completed in 2005 (see <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr98-99/chinese/fc/pwsc/papers/pw071026.pdf>).

Yet, the item still appears in Volume II of the Estimates for 2015-16, with over half of the approved estimate for the item unspent. In this connection, please answer the following questions:

- (1) While no expenses for the project under the estimate were recorded in the first few years, expenses were recorded again in 2013-14. What were the reasons?
- (2) What is the progress of the project? Has it been completed? If not, what are the reasons and the anticipated date of completion? If yes, why there are still expenses up to now?

Asked by: Hon LEONG Kah-kit, Alan (Member Question No. 29)

Reply:

According to Rule 49 of the Finance Committee Procedures, special meetings of the Finance Committee are convened to examine the annual Estimates of Expenditure prepared by the Government in support of the Appropriation Bill.

Expenditure charged to the Capital Works Reserve Fund do **not** form part of the Appropriation Bill. As such, questions relating to expenditure under the Fund are **not** relevant to the examination of the Estimates of Expenditure or the Appropriation Bill.

The scope of the “Widening of Tolo Highway between Island House Interchange and Ma Liu Shui Interchange” project (Public Works Programme (PWP) Item No. 6561TH) generally comprises the widening of the section of Tolo Highway between Island House Interchange and Ma Liu Shui Interchange from a dual three-lane carriageway to a dual

four-lane carriageway, the provision of a closed circuit television (CCTV) system, and the construction of noise barriers for the existing and planned developments in the vicinity.

Construction works of the 6561TH project commenced in March 1999 and were substantially completed in August 2003. After the finalisation of the construction contracts in 2006-07, no expenditure was incurred from 2007-08 to 2012-13.

Under the “Widening of Tolo Highway between Island House Interchange and Tai Hang” project (PWP Item No. 6843TH), an integrated Traffic Control and Surveillance System (TCSS) is being installed for the section of Tolo Highway between Tai Hang and Island House Interchange as well as the section between Island House Interchange and Ma Liu Shui Interchange for targeted completion in 2015. As the existing CCTV system installed under the 6561TH project had to be integrated with the TCSS mentioned above, some works were carried out in 2013-14 for the section between Island House Interchange and Ma Liu Shui Interchange under the 6561TH project to facilitate the integration. Expenditure of \$1.08 million was incurred in 2013-14 accordingly.

Under the 6561TH project, some noise barriers remain to be constructed to align with the programmes of the planned developments in the vicinity (such as the proposed hostels of The Chinese University of Hong Kong at Tai Po Area 39) to mitigate traffic noise impact when such developments materialise in future, according to the requirements set out in the Environmental Permit. In view of the latest programme of the planned developments, the Highways Department will make preparatory work for constructing certain sections of noise barriers. In 2015-16, the estimated expenditure for the preparatory work is \$0.5 million.

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