Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2015-16

Reply Serial No.

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)241

(Question Serial No. 6050)

<u>Head</u>: (60) Highways Department

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

<u>Programme</u>: (1) Capital Projects

<u>Controlling Officer</u>: Director of Highways (K K LAU)

<u>Director of Bureau</u>: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

(1) What is the progress of the Pound Lane escalator project? Please provide the breakdown of the expenses on this project until now.

- (2) Does the Department plan to launch a public consultation exercise in respect of the enhanced scheme? If yes, what are the detailed work plan and estimated expenses? If no, what are the reasons?
- (3) According to the estimation of the Government, when can a formal decision be made on whether to implement the above project, and to submit the project cost, future maintenance and repair cost and schedule of works; and a decision on whether to submit application to the Finance Committee for the allocation required in respect of the project cost?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Ka-lok, Kenneth (Member Question No. 356)

Reply:

After analysing the public views received on the original scheme of the Pound Lane escalator project, the Highways Department (HyD) developed a preliminary refined scheme to address the public concerns, and consulted the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC) in January 2015. The C&WDC generally supported the preliminary refined scheme, and requested that the public be further consulted on the preliminary refined scheme. The HyD is now arranging a public forum on the way forward for the project. The implementation timetable and the estimated project cost will be worked out when a broad consensus on the way forward is reached.