

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**THB(T)230**

**(Question Serial No. 3688)**

Head: (60) Highways Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (3) Railway Development  
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Daniel K W CHUNG)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

- (1) What are the implementation timetable, details, expenditure and manpower involved regarding the Railway Development Strategy 2014 (RDS-2014) after the Strategy was published by the Government?
- (2) What are the construction progress and respective completion dates of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) and the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) projects? What are the updated cost estimates for these projects?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Tanya (Member Question No. 517)

Reply:

(1)  
In accordance with the indicative implementation window recommended in the RDS-2014, the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) has invited the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to submit proposals for the implementation of the first batch of railway schemes viz the Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station), the East Kowloon Line and the Tuen Mun South Extension. The MTRCL has submitted the proposals for the Tuen Mun South Extension in end December 2016, and will submit the proposals for the Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station) and the East Kowloon Line later this year. The THB, the Highways Department (HyD) and other departments concerned are currently assessing the contents of the proposal for the Tuen Mun South Extension. The MTRCL is required to provide further details and give supplementary information in respect of the proposal to ensure that the proposal is feasible and most beneficial to the community.

The THB has also invited the MTRCL to submit proposals for the implementation of the Tung Chung West Extension (and Tung Chung East Station) in early January 2017.

In line with established procedures, prior to the finalisation of any new railway schemes, we will consult the public on the detailed alignment, locations of stations, mode of implementation, cost estimate, mode of financing and actual implementation timetable of the scheme.

As at March 2017, there are 1 Chief Engineer, 5 Senior Engineers and 7 Engineers in the

HyD tasked with assisting the THB in the implementation of the new railway projects recommended in the RDS-2014, with a total estimated staff cost of \$13.68 million in 2017-18. A number of staff also provide support to these professionals.

(2)

According to the MTRCL, the progress of construction works, the target commissioning dates and the updated cost estimates of the XRL and SCL projects as at the end of 2016 are tabulated below -

<b>Projects</b>	<b>Actual Progress of Construction Works* (% completed)</b>	<b>Target Commissioning Date</b>	<b>Updated Cost Estimate (\$ billion) (in money-of-the-day prices)</b>
XRL	87	Third quarter of 2018	86.4
SCL	68	Tai Wai to Hung Hom section: mid-2019	79.8 (under review)
		Hung Hom to Admiralty section: 2021	

Note:\* The progress of the above railway projects is expressed in terms of percentage of work done.

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