

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**THB(T)232**

**(Question Serial No. 4660)**

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:

Regarding the East Kowloon Line (EKL), please provide a breakdown of the expenditures for the study and the anticipated total project expenditure.

Asked by: Hon KWOK Ka-ki (Member Question No. 164)

Reply:

Having regard to transport demand, cost-effectiveness and the development needs of New Development Areas, the Railway Development Strategy 2014 (RDS-2014) recommends that 7 new railway projects, including the EKL, be taken forward. While the approved cost for the entire RDS-2014 consultancy study is \$43 million, there is no separate breakdown of cost for individual railway projects (including the EKL).

In respect of the implementation of the EKL project, the Government has invited the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to submit proposals for the project. The MTRCL will submit the proposals later this year for our subsequent assessment. The taking forward of the EKL project is subject to the outcome of the detailed engineering, environmental and financial studies of the project, as well as the updated assessment of passenger transport demand and availability of resources. 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.

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