

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)040

(Question Serial No. 1518)

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:

Under Programme (3) Railway Development in the 2018-19 Budget, the Government states that it will continue to take forward the proposed railway schemes recommended under the Railway Development Strategy 2014 (RDS-2014), and to proceed with the planning for the East Kowloon Line, the Tung Chung West Extension (and Tung Chung East Station) and the North Island Line. Will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- (1) What are the detailed timetables for commencing the planning for the East Kowloon Line, the Tung Chung West Extension (and Tung Chung East Station) and the North Island Line respectively?
- (2) What are the expenditures and staff establishment involved, as well as their duties?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 29)

Reply:

- (1) Having regard to the indicative implementation window recommended in the RDS-2014, the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) invited the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to submit proposals for the implementation of the first batch of railway projects (i.e. the Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station), the East Kowloon Line and the Tuen Mun South Extension). The MTRCL submitted a proposal for the East Kowloon Line to the Government in end July 2017. The THB, the Highways Department (HyD) and relevant bureaux/departments are evaluating the proposal and have requested the MTRCL to provide additional information and supplement details. In carrying out the evaluation, our main focus is to ensure that the proposal is practically feasible and can bring maximum benefits to the community.

Moreover, the THB invited the MTRCL to submit proposals for the Tung Chung West Extension (and Tung Chung East Station) and the North Island Line in January 2017 and June 2017 respectively. The MTRCL submitted a proposal for the Tung

Chung West Extension (and Tung Chung East Station) in end January 2018, which is under evaluation by the THB, the HyD and relevant bureaux/departments.

- (2) As at March 2018, there are one Chief Engineer, two Senior Engineers and three Engineers in the HyD tasked with assisting the THB in taking forward the East Kowloon Line, the Tung Chung West Extension (and Tung Chung East Station) and the North Island Line, with a total estimated staff cost of \$6.79 million in 2018-19.

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