

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)278

(Question Serial No. 5492)

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, please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) Whether the Government has completed examining the proposal submitted by the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) in July 2017? What are the differences between the proposed alignment of the East Kowloon Line and that mentioned in the Railway Development Strategy 2014? As anticipated by the Government, what are the timings for consulting the public on the railway alignment and commencing the detailed design work of the project with a view to achieving the target of commencing the railway project by 2025?
- (2) What are the work, expenditure and manpower involved for the East Kowloon Line project as anticipated by the Highways Department (HyD) in 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 178)

Reply:

- (1) The MTRCL submitted a proposal for the East Kowloon Line to the Government in end July 2017. The Transport and Housing Bureau (THB), the 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.

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

- (2) As at March 2018, 0.5 Chief Engineer, one Senior Engineer and one Engineer in the HyD are tasked with assisting the THB in the implementation of the East Kowloon Line, with a total estimated staff cost of about \$3.02 million in 2018-19.

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