

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

SV-THB(T)02

(Question Serial No. SV016)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Daniel K W CHUNG)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Below is a follow-up question on Reply Serial No. THB(T)025:

For part (2) of the question, the annual expenditure on highways maintenance for the Hong Kong section of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) in 2018-19 amounts to \$269.6 million even when it has not yet commissioned. What are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen

Reply:

The Highways Department (HyD) is responsible for maintenance of public roads. The HyD engages contractors to undertake routine inspections and, where necessary, arrange appropriate maintenance works to public roads, so as to keep them in safe and serviceable conditions for road users. The same applies to the road systems on the HZMB Hong Kong Link Road (HKLR) and the Hong Kong Port (HKP).

HKLR is a 12km-long strategic link with expressway standard connecting the HKP with the HZMB Main Bridge at the boundary of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Maintenance of HKLR cannot be directly compared with other ordinary roads in Hong Kong as some marine viaducts of the HKLR have unprecedentedly long span structures (up to 180m span). Also, there are over 150 viaduct piers (with some of them situated at nearly 50m above sea water level). The maintenance cost of the HKLR covers daily inspection and cleansing of road carriageways, routine maintenance of the marine and land viaducts, regular monitoring of the structural health of the viaducts, electricity cost for highways depots for the HKLR, etc.

As for the HKP, its maintenance cost covers the management, operation and maintenance of most of the common facilities on the 130 ha-HKP, including the Passenger Clearance Building with an area of over 90 000 m². The cost also includes general traffic and crowd control on the HKP, cleansing, maintenance of the landscape area, electricity cost for several ancillary buildings of the HyD, etc.

The maintenance cost covers that for normal wear-and-tear maintenance. There is no breakdown on this.

The commissioning date of the HZMB will be announced once confirmed. As the commissioning date is not yet determined when preparing the estimates for the financial year 2018-19, a twelve-month operation of HZMB HKLR and HKP has been assumed for budgetary purpose. Against this background, the maintenance cost for the HZMB HKLR and the HKP in 2018-19 is \$143.9 million and \$125.7 million respectively.

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