

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**THB(T)029**

**(Question Serial No. 2155)**

Head: (60) Highways Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (3) Railway Development  
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Jimmy P M CHAN)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding railway development,

- (a) the construction of the Northern Link was originally scheduled to commence in 2018. However, there has not yet been any information. What is the progress of the Northern Link project? Whether the Government has drawn up a timetable for the project and reserved any provision for taking forward the project? If so, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?
- (b) apart from the Northern Link, the Government recommended in the Railway Development Strategy 2014 that six new railway projects, including the Tuen Mun South Extension, the East Kowloon Line, the Tung Chung West Extension, Hung Shui Kiu Station, the South Island Line (West) and the North Island Line, be implemented in or before 2026. Please provide the current progresses and the anticipated completion dates of the above-mentioned projects in table form.

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 28)

Reply:

The progress of the railway projects recommended in the Railway Development Strategy 2014 (RDS-2014) is tabulated below -

Railway Project	Progress
Tuen Mun South Extension	Having regard to the indicative implementation window recommended in the RDS-2014, the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) had invited the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to submit proposals for the implementation of the Tuen Mun South Extension, Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station), East Kowloon Line, Tung Chung West Extension (and Tung Chung East Station) and North Island Line. The MTRCL submitted proposals for these five railway projects to the Government in end December 2016, end March 2017, end July 2017, end January 2018 and end July 2018 respectively. The THB, the Highways Department and relevant bureaux/ departments have evaluated the proposals and requested the MTRCL to provide additional information and supplement details. In carrying out the evaluation, our main focus is to ensure that the proposals are practically feasible and can bring maximum benefits to the community. Due to the tight housing supply and the potential housing supply that may be brought about by railway development, the Government is also reviewing the proposals submitted by the MTRCL in this light.
Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station)	
East Kowloon Line	
Tung Chung West Extension (and Tung Chung East Station)	
North Island Line	
Hung Shui Kiu Station	
South Island Line (West)	

Railway projects involve huge capital investment, and the Government has to plan in a prudent manner. The new railway projects proposed in the RDS-2014 have different degrees of complexities. As clearly stated in the RDS-2014, the taking forward of individual proposed railway projects set out in the Strategy will be subject to the outcome of detailed engineering, environmental and financial studies relating to each project, as well as updated demand assessment and availability of resources. Moreover, for railway projects which are mainly intended to complement new development areas and new housing developments, the implementation timetable for the development areas and new housing developments in question will be an important planning parameter for the railway projects. Therefore, the indicative implementation windows recommended in the RDS-2014 may be adjusted having regard to any change in circumstances.

In line with established procedures, prior to the finalisation of any new railway scheme, we will consult the public, including the Legislative Council and the relevant District Councils, on the details of the scheme.

- End -