

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**THB(T)024**

**(Question Serial No. 2462)**

Head: (60) Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Jimmy P M CHAN)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

The original daily design capacity of the Lion Rock Tunnel (LRT) is 78 500 vehicles but the average daily traffic flow of the LRT has significantly exceeded its capacity several years ago. To my understanding, the Highways Department (HyD) has proposed to carry out improvement work at the LRT. Will the Department inform this Committee of the details of the work? After preliminary assessment, what are the traffic impacts?

Asked by: Hon LAM Cheuk-ting (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

The two existing tunnel tubes of the LRT have been in service for more than 40 years. The HyD plans to rehabilitate and improve the tubes to the latest standards and extend their service life. Opportunity will also be taken to increase the capacity of the LRT with a view to alleviating traffic congestion in the tunnel and the roads in the vicinity.

The HyD will commence an investigation study in Q2 2019 to identify improvement measures. The investigation study aims to work out the feasible options for rehabilitation of the two existing tunnel tubes of the LRT and the associated road improvement works, as well as conduct preliminary design for the selected option. The scope of the study includes traffic modelling, traffic impact assessment, environmental impact assessment, utility impact assessment, associated ground investigation works, and providing technical advice and support during public consultation and gazettal of the proposed road scheme under the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance (Cap. 370) and in resolving objections (if any), etc. The investigation study will take about 30 months to complete.

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