

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)011

(Question Serial No. 3134)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Jimmy P M CHAN)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Provision for 2019-20 is \$754.2 million (40.9%) higher than the revised estimate for 2018-19. This is mainly due to the increased provision for highways maintenance, general departmental expenses and workshop services for newly commissioned projects, filling of vacancies as well as creation of 30 posts in 2019-20. Under the Operating Account of the Highways Department, the estimated expenditure on highways maintenance is \$1.4 billion this year, which is a significant increase of \$400 million over the revised estimate of \$1 billion in 2018-19. Will the Administration advise this Committee of the following -

- (1) What is the additional estimated expenditure on highways maintenance for newly commissioned projects in 2019-20? Please also list out the estimated maintenance expenditure on newly commissioned projects for 2019-20.
- (2) Regarding the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) Hong Kong Section, what is the recurrent expenditure involved in 2018-19? What is the estimated recurrent expenditure for 2019-20?
- (3) Regarding the HZMB Hong Kong Section, what is the non-recurrent expenditure involved in 2018-19? What is the estimated non-recurrent expenditure for 2019-20?
- (4) What is the maintenance expenditure for the HZMB Main Bridge contributed by Hong Kong in 2018-19?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Chi-chuen (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

(1)

The estimated increase in expenditure on highways maintenance is mainly due to increase in the cost of works and additional provisions for the projects commissioned in 2018-19 or scheduled to be commissioned in 2019-20 as tabulated below:

Projects	Estimated Increase in Expenditure on Highways Maintenance in 2019-20 (\$ million)
HZMB Hong Kong Link Road	14.4
HZMB Hong Kong Port	4.4
Tuen Mun - Chek Lap Kok Link	87.7
Central - Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link	29.6
Roads connecting to Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point and associated works	68.4
Roads connecting to Hong Kong Section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link including the essential public infrastructure works	33.1
Universal Accessibility Programme	108.3
Other new roads, public transport interchanges, footbridges, walkways and cycle tracks	41.5
Total	387.4

(2) and (3)

The recurrent expenditure for the Hong Kong Section of the HZMB (i.e. Hong Kong Port and Hong Kong Link Road) in 2018-19 is \$207.2 million and that for 2019-20 is estimated at \$539.2 million. There is no non-recurrent expenditure for the Hong Kong Section of the HZMB both in 2018-19 and in the estimates for 2019-20.

(4)

Since the HZMB Main Bridge is situated in Mainland waters, its construction works and daily management are implemented in accordance with the Mainland laws and regulations. According to the agreement of the three governments, the HZMB Authority, as a non-profit-making public institution, is responsible for the construction, operation, management and maintenance of the Main Bridge. Therefore, the maintenance cost of the HZMB Main Bridge will be borne by the HZMB Authority.

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