

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**THB(T)272**

**(Question Serial No. 4396)**

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:

The Highways Department (HyD) stated that it will continue to take forward the study on the proposed railway schemes recommended under the Railway Development Strategy 2014 (RDS-2014) in an orderly manner in 2019-20. In this regard, will the Government advise this Committee of the following -

- (a) What is the current progress in taking forward the study on the proposed railway schemes recommended under the RDS-2014?
- (b) What is the specific timetable for announcing the findings of the above-mentioned study?

Asked by: Hon LUK Chung-hung (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

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 HyD 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.

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.

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