

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)026

(Question Serial No. 2059)

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:

Under Programme (3) Railway Development in the 2020-21 Budget, the Government mentioned that it will continue to take forward the railway schemes recommended under the Railway Development Strategy 2014 (RDS-2014) in an orderly manner, including carrying on with the detailed planning for the Tuen Mun South Extension, the Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station), the East Kowloon Line (EKL), the Tung Chung West Extension (and Tung Chung East Station) and the North Island Line. Will the Government advise this Committee of the following:

- (1) What is the specific timetable for commencing the detailed planning for the EKL? What is the anticipated time for commencement of the consultation exercise?
- (2) What are the expenditures and staff establishment involved, as well as their duties?

Asked by: Hon OR Chong-shing, Wilson (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

Upon the invitation of the Transport and Housing Bureau, the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) had submitted a proposal for the implementation of EKL under RDS-2014 to the Government. Upon receipt of MTRCL's proposal, relevant bureaux/departments have evaluated the proposal and requested MTRCL to provide additional information and supplement details. MTRCL is considering the comments and exploring feasible options for the design improvement for this project.

When the details of a proposed railway scheme, such as the alignment, location of station(s) and implementation timetable, are available, the Government will consult the public, including the Legislative Council and the relevant District Councils, in line with established procedures.

The above work is undertaken by existing staff of the Highways Department.

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