

TLB037

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0116)

Head: (60) Highways Department

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

Programme: (3) Railway Development

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (YAU Kwok-ting)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Logistics

Question:

Among the transport infrastructure expenditures reserved for the Northern Metropolis by the Government, what are the budget allocations for the relevant planning works of the “Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Railway” and “Northern Link Spur Line”? Does the budget involve the expenditure requirements for the relevant human resources or consultancy services related to cross-boundary cooperation? Would the current expenditure be affected if there are advancements or delays in these cross-boundary planning and development projects?

Asked by: Hon LAU Chi-pang (LegCo internal reference no.: 13)

Reply:

Regarding the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link (Hung Shui Kiu – Qianhai) ('HSWRL'), the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council approved a funding of \$303.8 million (in money-of-the-day prices) in June 2025 for commencing the investigation and design of the Hong Kong Section. The scope includes support for communication and coordination with the relevant Mainland authorities on different aspects of the HSWRL, including financial arrangements, design standards, cross-boundary patronage forecasts, technical details, operational and maintenance requirements on both sides, the design for interface with the control point in Shenzhen, temporary traffic arrangements for the cross-boundary traffic during station construction in Shenzhen Bay Port, as well as a series of cross-boundary legal matters such as contract procurements and design entrustment arrangements. Should any adjustments to the implementation timetable of the HSWRL are required during the investigation and design stage, it is expected that no additional funding will be required in general case.

The Northern Link (NOL) project is being implemented by the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) under the ownership approach, whereby the MTRCL is responsible for the financing, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the new railway project, and ultimately owns the railway. On this basis, the planning and design work for the NOL Spur Line is undertaken by the MTRCL and does not involve government funding.

- End -