

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**TLB012****(Question Serial No. 0417)**Head: (60) Highways DepartmentSubhead (No. & title): (-) Not SpecifiedProgramme: (1) Capital ProjectsControlling Officer: Director of Highways (YAU Kwok-ting)Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and LogisticsQuestion:

The directorate posts in the Highways Department (HyD) will be reduced from 40 to 35 in the next financial year. In addition, the HyD did not meet the target “capital projects with expenditure incurred in the scheduled year” over the past four consecutive years. The percentage of target declined constantly from 98% in 2021 to 87% in 2024. Please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What are the respective projects or service items of the HyD undertaken by the five deleted directorate posts?
2. Please list out all the projects that were not implemented as scheduled; and
3. Under the circumstances of manpower reduction, what measures will the HyD adopt in order to catch up with the progress of those capital projects that were behind schedule over the past four years?

Asked by: Hon LAM Siu-lo, Andrew (LegCo internal reference no.: 11)Reply:

1. The Highways Department (HyD) will delete five directorate posts in 2025-26. The projects involved are tabulated below:

No. of directorate post	Major projects undertaken
1	The proposed Hong Kong Island West-Hung Shui Kiu Rail Link and the possible rail links for the longer term under the studies related to the artificial islands in the Central Waters
4	To strengthen management and support in taking forward projects under the policy initiative of “Walk in Hong Kong”. The relevant posts have not been officially created. The HyD shall deploy existing resources to continue taking forward relevant projects.

2. Between 2021 and 2024, the majority of the works contracts under the ambit of the HyD commenced as scheduled. In 2021, 2022 and 2024, 100% of the works contracts commenced in accordance with agreed programmes. In 2023, 88% of the works contracts commenced in accordance with agreed programmes while one item (i.e. the Improvement works at Tsuen Tsing Interchange) has not commenced in accordance with agreed programmes.
3. Under the circumstances of manpower reduction, the HyD will proactively adopt effective mitigation measures (such as rescheduling of works sequence) to catch up with the progress in case of any delay. At the same time, the HyD will enhance the planning and management of public works projects by applying digital technologies (such as “Building Information Modelling”, “Smart Site Safety System”, “Digital Works Supervision System”, etc.) actively to catch up with the works progress that falls behind schedule. The HyD will continue to supervise the progress of works rigorously. It is expected that the manpower reduction will not affect the progress of the projects.

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