

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)003

(Question Serial No. 0513)

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: It is included under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2022-23 that the progress of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) will be overseen for its timely completion with the commissioning of North South Corridor (“NSC”) in mid-2022. According to the latest estimation, what is the commissioning date of the SCL “Hung Hom to Admiralty Section”? For how long has the project been delayed from the anticipated commissioning date as recommended in the Railway Development Strategy 2000? What are the detailed reasons for the delay? What is the latest cost estimate?

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 3)

Reply:

According to the latest estimate of the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL), the North South Corridor (NSC) is anticipated to commission in June to July 2022. The Government will urge the MTRCL to commission the NSC as soon as possible subject to the assurance of the railway system in safe and sound condition.

The Railway Development Strategy 2000 (the Strategy) provided an indicative completion window of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL) from 2008 to 2011. The Strategy also pointed out that the actual sequence and timing of the proposed rail projects would be subject to more detailed engineering feasibility studies, having regard to the building up of transport demand, the pace of development of the strategic growth areas, project interfaces, etc. The construction of the SCL project commenced in 2012 and the main factors affecting the progress of SCL included the archaeological discoveries and conservation options for archaeological features at Sung Wong Toi Station from 2012 to 2014; the series of incidents related to the quality of works of the Hung Hom Station Extension revealed in May 2018, and the incidents related to the testing of the new signalling system of the East Rail Line in May 2020.

The latest cost estimate of the SCL project, comprising railway works and non-railway works including their protection and advance works, to be funded by the Government is around \$90,800 million (in money-of-the-day prices).

- End -