

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)004

(Question Serial No. 0514)

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 Highways Department will continue to take forward the detailed planning work of the proposed railway projects recommended under the Railway Development Strategy 2014 (RDS-2014). Regarding the East Kowloon Line (EKL) covered in the RDS-2014, please advise this Committee of the planning progress, timetable, alignment, anticipated completion date, estimated expenditure, and the manpower and expenditure involved in overseeing the relevant project.

Asked by: Hon LEE Wai-king, Starry (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

The East Kowloon Line (EKL) would be built in hilly terrains and constrained by the climbing capability of heavy rail, some sections of the EKL have to be built deep underground. It is anticipated that the works would have considerable technical difficulties, mainly in overcoming technicalities arising from the hilly topography.

The Government has offered comments on the EKL proposal submitted by the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) and asked MTRCL to improve the technical design of the proposal. MTRCL is considering our comments and exploring feasible options for the design improvement of the project. The Government will continue to follow up with MTRCL and announce the way forward of the project in due course.

The above work is undertaken by the Highways Department (HyD) using existing resources. As the relevant HyD staff are also responsible for other projects or duties, there is no separate breakdown of expenditure for EKL.

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