

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**TLB015**

**(Question Serial No. 1166)**

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 Logistics

Question:

Regarding the railway projects mentioned under the Programme, including continued supervision of the detailed planning and design of Tung Chung Line Extension, Tuen Mun South Extension, Northern Link, Hung Shui Kiu Station and Oyster Bay Station, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. What is the latest commissioning date of the Northern Link and for how long has Northern Link been delayed from the anticipated completion date as recommended in the Railway Development Strategy 2000?
2. For how long has the full commissioning of the Tuen Mun South Extension been delayed from the original commissioning date?
3. When will the construction works for the Tung Chung Line Extension, Tuen Mun South Extension and Northern Link commence and what are the anticipated completion dates?
4. What are the construction progress and completion timetable of Hung Shui Kiu Station of the West Rail Line?
5. What are the latest construction progress, latest timetable and completion date of the East Kowloon Line?
6. What are the latest construction progress, latest timetable and completion date of the South Island Line (West)?
7. What are the future development and timetable regarding the Strategic Study on the Railway beyond 2030?
8. The Department has increased the provision for the coming year by 26.4%. How much of it will be allocated to implement the abovementioned development projects and studies? Could the progress of the abovementioned projects be expedited with the additional resources? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon LAM Kin-fung, Jeffrey (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

**(1) - (6):**

As pointed out in the Railway Development Strategy 2014 (RDS-2014), the implementation of individual projects is subject to the outcome of detailed engineering, environmental and financial studies for the respective project, as well as the latest demand assessment and availability of resources. Furthermore, for railway projects for mainly complementing new development areas (NDAs) and new housing developments, the implementation timetable for the relevant NDAs and new developments is an important planning parameter for the railway projects. Therefore, the implementation timetable of individual railway projects may be adjusted considering the above factors after the promulgation of RDS-2014.

The expected works commencement and completion dates of Tung Chung Line Extension, Tuen Mun South Extension, Northern Link and Kwu Tung Station, Tuen Ma Line Hung Shui Kiu Station, South Island Line (West) and East Kowloon Line are set out as follows:

<b>Railway Project</b>	<b>Expected Date for Works Commencement</b>	<b>Expected Completion Date</b>
1. Tung Chung Line Extension	Mid-2023	2029
2. Tuen Mun South Extension	2023	2030
3. Northern Link and Kwu Tung Station	<u>Kwu Tung Station</u> 2023  <u>Northern Link Main Line</u> 2025	<u>Kwu Tung Station</u> 2027  <u>Northern Link Main Line</u> 2034
4. Tuen Ma Line Hung Shui Kiu Station	2024	2030
5. South Island Line (West)	Planning work is ongoing taking into account the redevelopment programme of Wah Fu Estate and the demographic change of relevant areas. According to the information provided by the Housing Department, it is anticipated that existing residents will gradually move from Wah Fu Estate to the reception estates at Pok Fu Lam South starting from 2027-28. After the first batch of residents are relocated and the existing building blocks are demolished for freeing up the required space, construction works of the relevant railway facilities will follow.	
6. East Kowloon Line	The Government is exploring an elevated trackless rapid transit system as an alternative to the original heavy rail scheme, and the technical feasibility study is planned to be completed in mid-2023.	

**(7):**

Three railway schemes, viz. Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link (Hung Shui Kiu – Qianhai), Central Rail Link and Tseung Kwan O Line Southern Extension, were recommended under the Strategic Study on Railways beyond 2030. Public consultation exercise for the Study commenced in December 2022 for completion in end March 2023. We will carefully study the views received and conduct preliminary engineering technical assessments with a view to enhancing the recommended schemes and formulating the Major Transport Infrastructure Development Blueprint for Hong Kong in Q4 2023.

**(8):**

The increase in financial provision in the coming financial year is mainly attributed to the estimated expenditure for “Strategic Study on Railways beyond 2030”, “Stage 2 Study of Hong Kong – Shenzhen Western Rail Link (Hung Shui Kiu – Qianhai)”, consultancy studies on independent checking of financial arrangements of railway projects as well as staff cost provision for additional posts in the Railway Development Office for implementing the proposed railway projects in the Northern Metropolis.

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