

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

TLB021

(Question Serial No. 2304)

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:

1. Regarding the capital projects under design and construction entrusted to the railway corporation or other agencies, please list in detail the respective “projects” and their expenditure estimates in 2025 and 2026. Please also list the annual estimated expenditure for at least the next 5 years.
2. Why did the expenditure on the studies and other tasks carried out by consultants drop significantly from \$731.5 million in 2025 to \$657.6 million? Since a lot of studies and planning works for the Northern Metropolis or the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link will be carried out in the future, why have the study items and expenditures decreased instead of increased?

Asked by: Hon BOK Kwok-ming, Aaron (LegCo internal reference no.: 37)

Reply:

1. The information regarding the capital projects under design and construction entrusted to the railway corporation or agencies by the Highways Department (HyD) are tabulated below:

Projects		Expenditure (\$ million)	
		2025-26 (Revised Estimate)	2026-27 (Estimate)
1	6038TR - West Rail (WR) (phase 1) – Essential Public Infrastructure Works (EPIW) for Tuen Mun section	5.0 (Actual expenditure)	completed
2	6045TR - WR (phase 1) – EPIW for Yuen Long section	1.3 (Actual expenditure)	completed

3	6051TR - Shatin to Central Link (SCL) – design and site investigation	-	1.2
4	6052TR - Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou - Shenzhen - Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL) – design and site investigation	-	0.1
5	6053TR - XRL – construction of railway works	3.5	30.3
6	6056TR - South Island Line (East) (SIL(E)) – EPIW	0.4	2.2
7	6057TR - XRL – construction of non-railway works	14.6	30.2
8	6061TR - SCL – construction of railway works – remaining works	505.5	432.5
9	6062TR - SCL – construction of non-railway works – remaining works	114.9	39.3
10	6063TR - SCL – construction of railway works – advance works	-	0.1
11	6064TR - SCL – construction of non-railway works – advance works	-	0.1

The future expenditures for the above railway projects mainly cover the remaining works and contract payments after commissioning. The relevant estimates depend on the progress of the remaining works and the account finalisation of contracts, and will be reflected in the estimated expenditure for future financial years.

- The Government will, as necessary, engage consultants to assist in new railway projects and Smart and Green Mass Transit System projects, taking into account factors such as their scale, scope, and complexity. The consultancy expenditure varies across projects and fluctuates annually depending on the implementation and progress of the relevant projects. Under the railway development framework, the total estimated expenditure for consultancy studies in 2026 is lower than the actual total amount in 2025. The decrease is mainly due to the completion of 4 studies in 2025. In 2026, 7 studies will continue while 2 new studies will be commenced, the total amount is lower than that of the studies completed in 2025. Overall speaking, both the number and the total amount of the studies in 2026 have decreased compared with 2025.

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