

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

TLB014

(Question Serial No. 2545)

Head: (60) Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (YAU Kwok-ting)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Logistics

Question:

The Highways Department (HyD) stated that it would commence/continue with the planning of certain road projects, including the Northern Metropolis Highway (NMH). In this connection, will the Government please advise this Committee on the following:

- (1) What is the progress of the planning study of the NMH at present? What is the anticipated completion date of the study? What is the estimated expenditure of the study? What are the details of the relevant project costs involved in the completed planning study?
- (2) The preliminary alignment of the NMH is about 23 kilometres in length. It consists of 4 road sections, including Tin Shui Wai Section, San Tin Section, Kwu Tung Section and New Territories North New Town Section. Currently, the Government indicates that it will prioritise the completion of the investigation works for the San Tin Section (including the optimisation of alignment and interchange locations, carrying out the Environmental Impact Assessment study and the gazettal procedures) and complete site investigation works, other impact assessments and the preliminary design works of the San Tin Section in parallel, with a view to expediting the implementation of the project. What are the estimated expenditures of the study, investigation and design works of the San Tin Section? What are the anticipated construction commencement dates and target completion dates of other road sections?

Asked by: Hon LAU Kwok-fan (LegCo internal reference no.: 38)

Reply:

- (1) The Highways Department (HyD) has already commenced the investigation for the Northern Metropolis Highway (NMH) in March 2025. The plan is to first complete the investigation study of the NMH (San Tin Section) within 25 months and the target is to have the San Tin Section technical ready for tendering in 2027 so that funding approval can be sought from the Legislative Council as and when necessary for the carrying out of the advance works and detailed design works, as well as commencing

the main construction works of the San Tin Section, with a view to commissioning the San Tin Section in or before 2036. The estimated cost of the investigation for the NMH is \$688.3 million in money-of-the-day prices. Before the commencement of the investigation for the NMH, relevant specific planning studies on the NMH were conducted by HyD personnel without involving any extra works expenditures.

- (2) The said investigation includes conducting various impact assessments for the entire NMH in order to analyse the overall planning of the trunk road in a macroscopic point of view, thereby obtaining an overall and comprehensive conclusion in an effective manner. Therefore, we do not have an independent breakdown of the investigation cost of the San Tin Section.

Regarding the remaining road sections of the NMH, we will co-operate with the relevant departments closely, carry out traffic impact assessments according to the latest planning parameters of the new development areas, as well as consider the existing traffic infrastructure and the traffic infrastructure under implementation (including factors such as the carrying capacities of roads and railways, overall cost effectiveness, the allocation of public resources etc.), with a view to formulating a more specific implementation timetable and striving to complete the remaining road sections in stages 3 to 4 years after the commissioning of the San Tin Section.

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