

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 3641)**

Head: (60) Highways Department  
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified  
Programme: (4) Technical Services  
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (YAU Kwok-ting)  
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Logistics

Question:

The Government proposed the establishment of an “electronic centralised approval platform” to simplify the workflow for new railway projects in Hong Kong. Upon the establishment, the workflow will be significantly simplified and the approval progress can be tracked and inspected in real time. What is the progress of the establishment of the said platform? Will the “centralised approval” model be further implemented in other projects of the Northern Metropolis?

Asked by: Hon LAU Man-kwan, Julia (LegCo internal reference no.: 4)

Reply:

By redeploying internal resources, the Highways Department (HyD) has established the Railway Checking Unit (RCU), which is dedicated to handling the approval of building plans for new railway projects. An electronic centralized approval platform has also been set up to facilitate submission of documents and approvals of building plans, thereby enhancing administrative efficiency. The RCU will be responsible for the approvals related to various new railway and mass transit system projects, including the Northern Link, the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Railway (Hung Shui Kiu – Qianhai), and the Smart and Green Mass Transit System projects in Kai Tak and East Kowloon. The relevant electronic centralized approval platform is already in operation.

In addition to the aforesaid electronic centralised approval platform of the RCU, the HyD has also established an electronic platform for the investigation study of the Northern Metropolis Highway. This platform enables government departments, consultants, and relevant organisations to submit and respond to documents, thereby enhancing administrative efficiency.

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