

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 2872)

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:

Regarding the implementation of the railway development strategy, please advise this Committee on the following:

1. What are the respective expenditures of the preliminary studies on projects under the Three Railways and Three Major Roads (Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link, Central Rail Link, Tseung Kwan O Line Southern Extension, Northern Metropolis Highway (Tin Shui Wai - Kwu Tung Section), Shatin Bypass and Tseung Kwan O - Yau Tong Tunnel) and the Two Railways and One Major Road (Northern Link Eastern Extension, Northeast New Territories Line and Northern Metropolis Highway (New Territories North New Town Section)) from the commencement of the Strategic Studies on Railways and Major Roads beyond 2030 to the promulgation of the Hong Kong Major Transport Infrastructure Development Blueprint?
2. It is anticipated that a total of 12 studies and other tasks will be carried out by consultants in 2024-25. Please list the major contents of the tasks and the approved estimates of the projects. The estimated expenditures increased significantly by over 50% from \$396.2 million to \$607.3 million. What are the reasons?
3. The Highways Department will provide railway planning support to 126 transport and planning studies anticipated to be carried out in 2024. What are the contents and relevant expenditures of these studies?

Asked by: Hon ZHANG Xinyu, Gary (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

1. Both the Three Railways and Three Major Roads and the Two Railways and One Major Road advocated in the Hong Kong Major Transport Infrastructure Development Blueprint are proposed in the Strategic Studies on Railways and Major Roads beyond 2030. The estimated expenditures of the preliminary studies on those parts of railways and major roads are about \$64.9 million and \$27.5 million respectively.

2. The studies that will be carried out by consultants under the Programme of Railway Development in 2024 and their estimates are as follows:

| | Studies carried out by consultants | Approved project estimate / approved amount of commitment (\$ million) |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Studies commenced before 2024 | 1. Shatin to Central Link (SCL) - Monitoring and Verification for Construction, Testing and Commissioning Phase - Investigation | 275.6 |
| | 2. Shatin to Central Link (SCL) Professional Services in connection with the Service Concession for the Operation of the SCL - Investigation | 9.37 |
| | 3. Strategic Study on Railways beyond 2030 | 64.90 |
| | 4. Consultancy study on Checking Design for Tung Chung Line Extension Project | 9.84 |
| | 5. Consultancy study on Independent Checking of the Financial Arrangement of Tuen Mun South Extension Project - Investigation | 4.16 |
| | 6. Stage 2 Study of Hong Kong - Shenzhen Western Rail Link (Hung Shui Kiu - Qianhai) | 9.90 |
| | 7. Consultancy study on Independent Checking of the Financial Arrangement of Kwu Tung Station on East Rail Line - Investigation | 4.40 |
| | 8. Consultancy study on Independent Checking of the Financial Arrangement of Hung Shui Kiu Station Project - Investigation | 4.79 |
| Studies to be commenced by 2024 | 9. Consultancy study on Independent Checking of the Financial Arrangement of Northern Link Main Line Project - Investigation | 9.93 |
| | 10. Consultancy Services for Risk Assessment in relation to Project Supervision, Monitoring and Checking for Tuen Mun South Extension, Northern Link Phase 1 Kwu Tung Station and Hung Shui Kiu Station Projects - Investigation | 11.68 |
| | 11. Consultancy Services for Risk Assessment in relation to Project Supervision, Monitoring and Checking for Tung Chung Line | 11.86 |

| | Studies carried out by consultants | Approved project estimate / approved amount of commitment (\$ million) |
|--|--|---|
| | Extension, Oyster Bay Station and Airport Railway Extended Overrun Tunnel Projects - Investigation | |
| | 12. Smart and Green Mass Transit System in East Kowloon - Investigation and Design | 190.90* (subject to tender and funding application results) |

* Anticipated to seek funding approval from the Public Works Subcommittee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in the first half of this year.

The estimated total contract value of the studies and other tasks carried out by consultants in 2024-25 is higher than the actual total contract value in 2023-24. It is mainly due to the addition of four studies in 2024.

- The Highways Department (HyD) will provide technical support related to railway planning for the planning and engineering studies carried out by various Bureaux and Departments. The 126 studies that are expected to be supported by the HyD in 2024 mainly involve the development and infrastructure planning carried out in different districts of Hong Kong, including the planning studies on new development areas, the investigation and engineering studies on new infrastructure, the engineering studies on road improvement, etc. Since the relevant support task is carried out by existing manpower of different ranks from the Railway Development Office and the Northern Metropolis Railways Office of the HyD with part of their time, there are no breakdown figures of manpower and salary expenditures for this particular task.

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