

Legislative Council Panel on Development

**The Administration's response to the motion passed
under agenda item V "PWP Item No. 786CL – Tung Chung New Town
Extension – Reclamation and Advance Works"
at the meeting on 25 April 2017**

At its meeting on 25 April 2017, the Panel on Development passed the motion moved by Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun –

“While the reclamation works for about 130 hectares of land at Tung Chung East (“TCE”) aim to accommodate a new population of 120 000 and create 40 000 new jobs, 30 000 out of the 70 000 working population in TCE still need to look for jobs outside TCE. At the same time, with the creation of 150 000 new jobs upon the commissioning of the third runway in Lantau and the completion of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (“HZMB”) and various large-scale commercial developments such as the North Commercial District (“NCD”) after 2030, there is a pressing need for the Government to provide seamless transport connectivity. Besides, as the Government places emphasis on the development of Tung Chung into a “livable town” where its residents can get employment nearby, it is necessary to provide good transport links for the additional 30 000 working population to commute between Tung Chung and the third runway, HZMB and NCD. Regarding the reclamation plan for TCE, this Panel urges the Government to expeditiously explore with the Transport and Housing Bureau the implementation of the “TCE Rail Link” between 2023 and 2030, thereby making use of the idle time of the Airport Express Line to provide train services between TCE station and the airport island, so as to encourage Tung Chung residents to take up local employment and save time in commuting to work, as well as to tie in with the first population intake of TCE.”

2. The Administration's response to the motion is set out below.

3. According to the Railway Development Strategy 2014, the existing Tung Chung Line is planned for extension westward with a Tung Chung West (TCW) Station, with an indicative implementation window from 2020 to 2024 for planning purpose. As for the proposed Tung Chung East (TCE) Station, according to the Tung Chung New Town Extension Study, it is anticipated to be in operation by 2026. To this end, the Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) has invited the MTR Corporation Limited in early January 2017 to submit a proposal for the implementation of the TCW Extension and TCE Station, and will evaluate the proposal upon receiving it in due course.

4. On internal connectivity, we take note of the requests from the local community for the provision of a railway linkage between Tung Chung and the Airport Island. In this connection, the Airport Authority Hong Kong has embarked on a consultancy study in June 2016 to review the technical feasibility, financial viability and operation strategy for a shuttle service running between TCE and the Airport Island using the spare capacity of the existing AEL tracks. Besides, the connectivity between Tung Chung, the Airport Island and the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (HKBCF) Island is also being explored under the Planning, Engineering and Architectural Study for Topside Development at HKBCF Island of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge – Feasibility Study. These studies are currently in progress, and we are working closely with THB and relevant departments during the study process. Upon completion of these studies, we will follow up on the study findings and the way forward.

Development Bureau
Civil Engineering and Development Department
May 2017