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ACE Paper 1/2009

For information on 9 January 2009

MTR Corporation New Railway Projects

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the strategic planning of the upcoming railway projects, in particular their environmental aspects.

BACKGROUND

2. In conjunction with the Government decisions, the MTR Corporation has embarked on the planning and design of several new railway projects to be constructed in the next few years. The projects include –

- (a) Express Rail Link;
- (b) Shatin to Central Link;
- (c) South Island Line (East); and
- (d) Kwun Tong Line Extension.

Express Rail Link

3. The Hong Kong section of Express Rail Link will be a 26-km long underground rail line on a dedicated track running from a terminus in West Kowloon to the boundary at Huanggang, where it will connect with the Express Rail Link Mainland section. There will be stabling sidings and an emergency rescue station at Shek Kong. The construction will commence in late 2009 for

completion in 2015.

4. Major environmental concerns include ecology in the northern section of the Express Rail Link and noise from the Shek Kong Stabling Sidings and the emergency rescue station.

Shatin to Central Link

5. The Shatin to Central Link consists of two sections, namely –

- (i) Tai Wai to Hung Hom section – an 11-km extension of the Ma On Shan Line from Tai Wai Station to connect with the West Rail Line at the Hung Hom Station that form the east-west rail corridor; and
- (ii) Cross Harbour Section – a 6-km extension across the harbour from Hung Hom Station of East Rail Line to Admiralty forming the north-south corridor.

6. Most of the Shatin to Central Link will be underground except an at-grade section at Hin Keng. The construction of the section from Tai Wai to Hung Hom is expected to commence in 2010 and complete in 2015, while the section from Hung Hom to Admiralty is expected to complete in 2019.

7. Major environmental concerns include cultural heritage at Tai Hom Village and Longjin Bridge at Kai Tak, water quality of Victoria Harbour and ground borne noise at some sensitive performing venues along the alignment during construction of the Project.

South Island Line (East)

8. The 7-km South Island Line (East) will run from South Horizons, via Lei Tung, Wong Chuk Hang and Ocean Park, to Admiralty. The construction of the railway extension is expected to commence in 2011 for completion in 2015.

9. Major environmental concerns include ecology at Nam Fung area and Wong Chuk Hang nullah and water quality at the Aberdeen Channel.

Kwun Tong Line Extension

10. The Kwun Tong Line Extension will extend from Yau Ma Tei Station of the existing Kwun Tong Line, via Ho Man Tin station which interconnects with the Shatin to Central Line to Whampoa. Construction of the 3-km extension is expected to commence in 2011 and be completed in 2015.

11. The key environmental consideration is land contamination in Hung Hom.

ADVICE SOUGHT

12. Members' views are sought on the proposed strategic plan and the environmental aspects of the above four railway projects.