

Briefing on the Tung Chung Line Extension

Introduction

This paper aims to brief the Islands District Council (DC) on the latest progress of the Tung Chung Line (TCL) Extension project and listen to the Members' views.

Background

2. The Government has invited MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to proceed with the detailed planning and design of the TCL Extension project.

TCL Extension

3. The TCL Extension is one of the seven recommended railway schemes in the Railway Development Strategy 2014. The TCL Extension mainly comprises Tung Chung West (TCW) Extension and Tung Chung East (TCE) Station. The TCW Extension is a 1.3-kilometre long extension from the existing Tung Chung Station of TCL to a new station at the TCW area; while the TCE Station is a new intermediate station between the existing Sunny Bay Station and Tung Chung Station of TCL with the associated works of the re-alignment of an about 1.2-kilometre long existing TCL track. The project also comprises the construction of the remaining section of the Airport Railway Extended Overrun Tunnel of about 460-metre at the east of Hong Kong Station in order to enable TCL and the Airport Express Line to achieve their maximum design capacities. The railway scheme is shown at **Annex 1**.

4. The main function of TCL Extension is to provide railway services to the TCW area and the new developments in TCE area, which are collectively referred to as the Tung Chung New Town Extension (TCNTE). TCNTE is one of the important, medium-to-long term sources of land supply to meet Hong Kong's housing, economic and social needs. The TCNTE project mainly involves reclamation of about 130 hectares at the TCE area in support of an additional planned population of 126,000, of which the first population intake is 2024. For TCW area, the existing population in Yat Tung Estate and other housing developments commissioned or under construction is about 56,000, while the development under planning will generate a further population of about 26,600 by 2030. The TCL Extension project, including the two proposed stations, will offer direct railway access to the TCNTE in support of the long-term, sustainable growth in population and employment opportunities in that area.

5. The TCE Station will be located at the reclamation area at TCE. The relevant reclamation works, undertaken by Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), commenced in end December 2017. In the detailed planning and design stages, MTRCL will further discuss with the relevant departments including CEDD, Highways Department and Transports Department for the resolution of interfacing issues such as site handing over schedules, provision of accesses, coordination of works areas, provision of road-based public transport, etc.

6. The first batch of new population at TCE area, amounting to around 31,000¹ public housing residents, is expected to move in starting from early 2024. About 50% (i.e. about 63,000 out of 126,000) of the new population of TCE would move in by end 2028. Before the commissioning of the TCL Extension, the Government would endeavour to provide appropriate road-based public transport services to satisfy the need of the community.

¹ The estimated population intake of TCE has taken into account the possible increase in development intensity of Area 99 and 100 public housing sites in TCE, which is still subject to Town Planning Board's approval.

7. Taken into account that about three years would be required for the detailed planning, design, associated statutory procedures (including conducting environmental impact assessment study in accordance with the “Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance” and gazetting in accordance with the “Railways Ordinance”) and public consultation etc. of the project, construction of the two stations and associated railways under the TCL Extension project is expected to commence in 2023 for completion by 2029.

8. According to MTRCL’s Project Proposal, the estimated capital cost of the TCL Extension is about \$18.7 billion (in December 2016 prices). We will further ascertain the cost estimate along with the development of the detailed design as well as any key change in development parameters.

Next Steps

9. MTRCL is going to employ the design consultant and expects to commence the detailed planning and design of TCL Extension in June 2020. We will in due course report the updated progress of TCL Extension project to Islands DC and listen to the Members’ views.

Conclusion

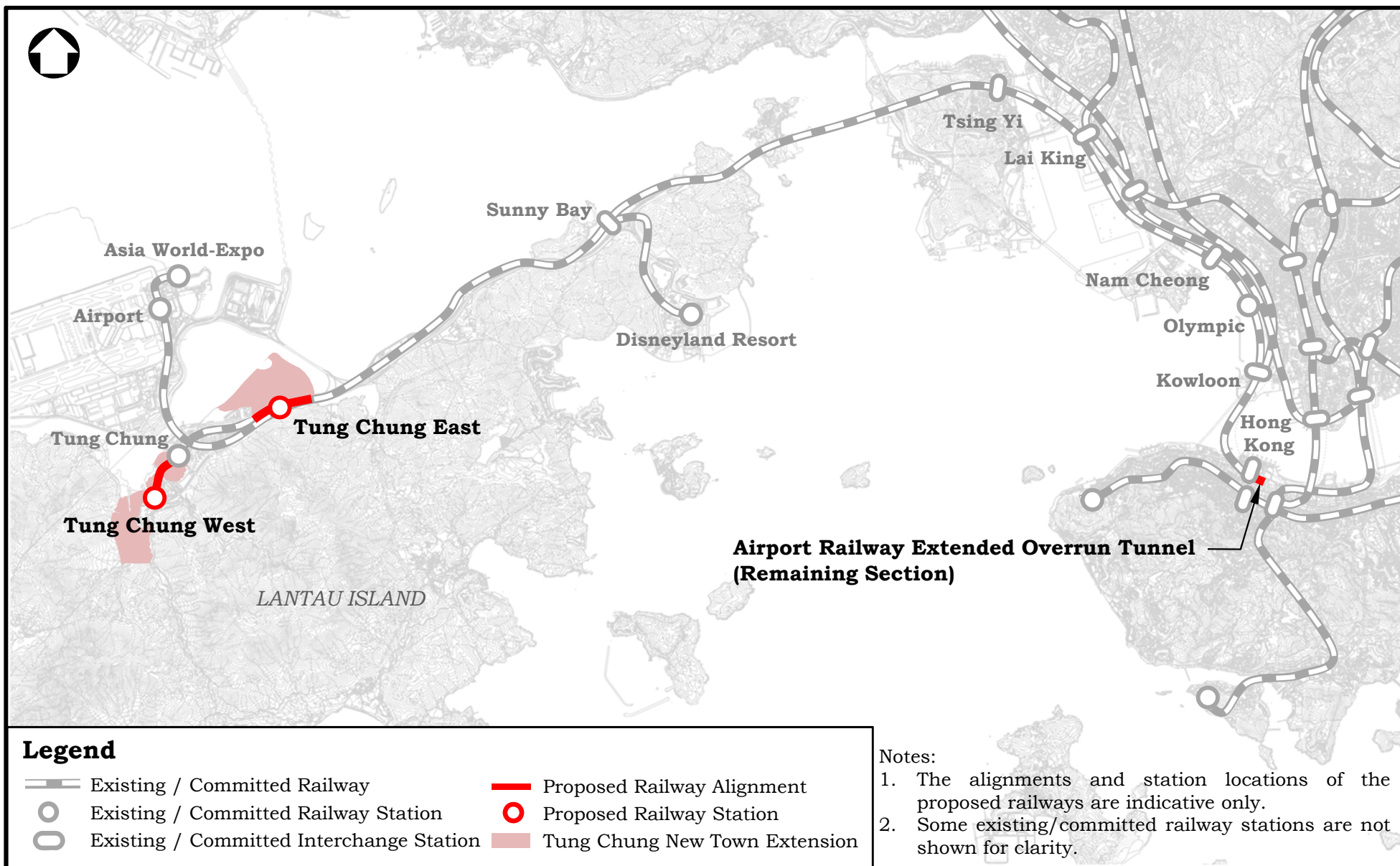
10. Members are invited to note the progress of TCL Extension and offer their views.

Highways Department
June 2020

Enclosure

Annex 1

Railway Scheme of TCL Extension



Annex 1 – Railway Scheme of TCL Extension