

Harbourfront Commission

For discussion
on 2 May 2013

HC/12/2013

Progress Update on the Shatin to Central Link

PURPOSE

This paper updates the Commission on the works progress of the Shatin to Central Link (SCL).

BACKGROUND

2. The SCL comprises two railway lines with a total length of 17 kilometres: the Tai Wai to Hung Hom section connects with the Ma On Shan Line and West Rail Line to form an east-west strategic railway corridor; and the Hung Hom to Admiralty section extends the East Rail Line to Hong Kong Island to form a north-south strategic railway corridor. Along the SCL, there will be six interchange stations, namely Tai Wai, Diamond Hill, Ho Man Tin, Hung Hom, Exhibition and Admiralty, allowing passengers to interchange conveniently between existing and future railway lines (**Annex A**).

3. The main construction works of SCL commenced in July 2012 after the scheme was authorized by the Chief Executive in Council in March 2012 and its funding approved by the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in May 2012. Works are progressing on all fronts with Tai Wai to Hung Hom section for completion in 2018. The Hung Hom to Admiralty section will interface with other infrastructure projects, including Wan Chai Development Phase II and Central-Wan Chai Bypass. It is expected to be completed in 2020.

PROGRESS OF WORKS RELATED TO HARBOURFRONT AREAS

4. The SCL will improve the connectivity to the harbourfront areas from the hinterland areas. Some parts of the new railway line will run through or be in proximity to the harbourfront areas, in which temporary facilities or permanent facilities for railway operation will be constructed. These include railway facilities in Kai Tak, Hung Hom and Wan Chai North; and the temporary barging facilities and works areas in Kai Tak, Hung Hom and Wan Chai North (**Annex B**).

5. We briefed the Commission on the alignment of the SCL, the temporary works areas to be occupied and design of the key facilities to

be located within harbourfront areas in October 2010. The progress of works is summarised as follows-

To Kwa Wan and Kai Tak Stations

These two stations are within the Kai Tak Development area. Piling works are in progress while excavation will be carried out in the last quarter of 2013 for the construction of the walls and concourse structures, pedestrian subways and entrance of To Kwa Wan Station. To minimise the project's impact on road traffic in the area, a barging point was set up at the runway of the former Kai Tak Airport, so that excavated materials can be directly delivered to the barging point for removal.

Hung Hom Station

A ground level and an underground level platform will be constructed adjacent to the existing Hung Hom Station. Modification will also be made to the existing station concourse. The construction commenced in March 2013.

Following the cessation of operations of freight facilities in Hung Hom in April 2011, the project will utilize the former freight yard to provide train stabling facilities for the SCL. The proposed sidings facilities at Hung Hom are to meet the operational needs of the SCL. The construction commenced in April 2013.

Cross Harbour section

The SCL will extend from Hung Hom Station of the existing East Rail Line to Admiralty Station via a new fourth railway harbour crossing. Its construction will commence in 2015.

Hong Kong Island section

The SCL reaches Hong Kong Island at Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter and then passes under Wan Chai North to arrive at Exhibition Station which will be located underneath the existing Wan Chai Ferry Pier Public Transportation Interchange. It routes between Phases I and II of the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre and heads towards Admiralty via Performing Arts Avenue. The railway facilities within the harbourfront areas include entrances and related facilities of Exhibition Station, and ventilation facilities of the new railway harbour crossing. Opportunity will be taken to reprovide the Harbour Road Sports Centre and Wan Chai Swimming Pool, as well as the Police Officers' Club at Causeway Bay, all of which are affected by the construction. Details of the facilities are set out at **Annex C**.

Harbourfront Commission

HC/12/2013

The preparative works for the reprovisioning of the Wan Chai Swimming Pool and Harbour Road Sports Centre will commence in June 2013. The new facilities are expected to be completed and come into service in the first halves of 2016 and 2017 respectively. The construction of the SCL Hong Kong Island section will start in 2014. The Police Officers' Club will be demolished in 2015 to allow the launching of the tunnel boring machine for the construction of the railway tunnel and the associated facilities.

ADVICE SOUGHT

6. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

**Highways Department
MTR Corporation Limited
April 2013**

SCL ALIGNMENT

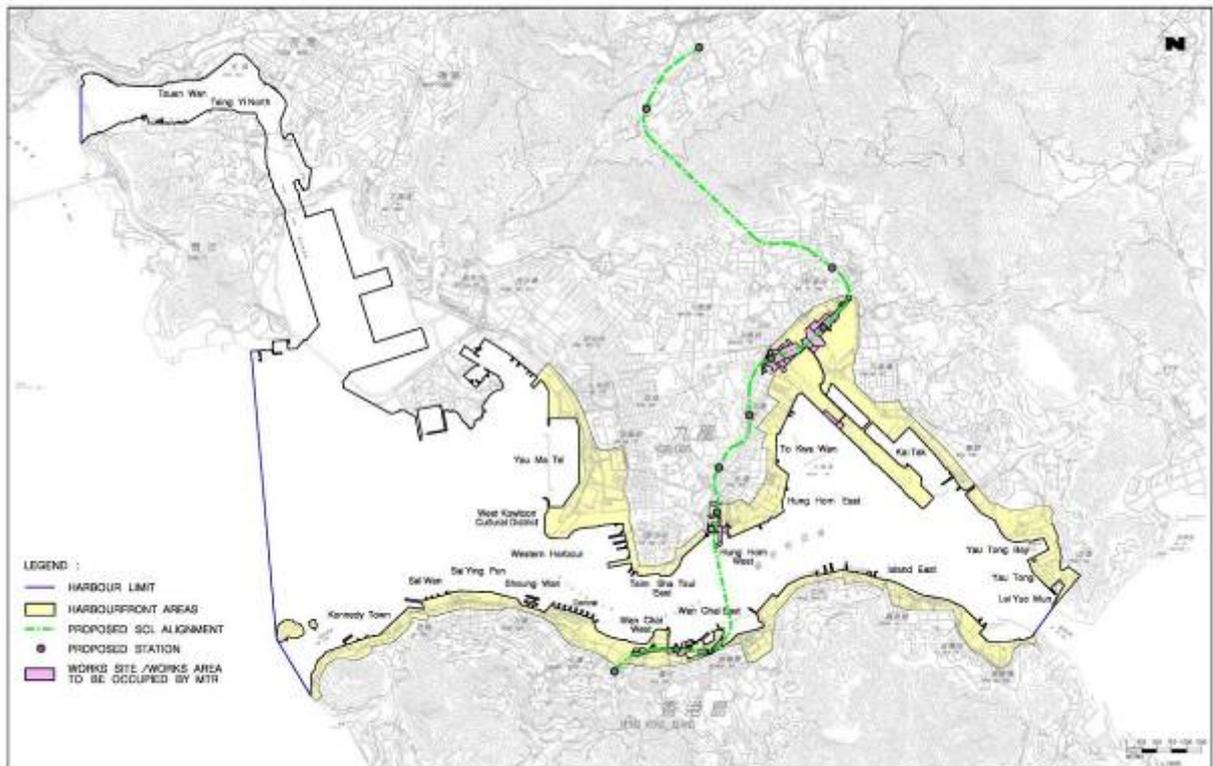


Harbourfront Commission

HC/12/2013

Annex B

OVERALL VIEW OF FACILITIES AND TEMPORARY WORKS AREAS WITHIN THE HARBOURFRONT AREAS



Annex C

PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY FACILITIES WITHIN HARBOURFRONT AREAS ON HONG KONG ISLAND

Exhibition Station will be an underground station located underneath the existing Wan Chai Ferry Pier Public Transport Interchange, Harbour Road Sports Centre and Wan Chai Swimming Pool. It will serve as the interchange station for the SCL and the future North Island Line. The Station will have two entrances with one to be located at Fleming Road and the other at the existing Harbour Road Sports Centre.

The connection of Exhibition Station to the adjoining area is generally the same as the proposal presented to the Commission in 2010, which has been planned to enhance pedestrian connection to the harbourfront. The two station entrances would be connected to the podium of Great Eagle Centre and Harbour Centre respectively. The pedestrian connection between the Harbour Centre to the existing Wan Chai Ferry Pier and the harbourfront will be maintained at all times during and after the SCL construction.

To make way for the construction of Exhibition Station and its associated facilities, the existing Harbour Road Sports Centre and Wan Chai Swimming Pool will be permanently relocated to a new 5-storey complex, which will be built at the existing public hourly car park in the south. The new Harbour Road Sports Centre and Wan Chai Swimming Pool will also connect to the existing footbridge system to enhance its accessibility and pedestrian flow. The existing facilities will be demolished when the replacement is completed.

Ventilation facilities for the SCL's cross harbour railway tunnels will be provided near the portal of the Cross Harbour Tunnel. The Police Officers' Club will be removed to allow space for the tunnel construction. A replacement will be reprovided at the existing location after completion of the SCL works.

In designing these facilities, the MTR Corporation Limited has taken into account the harbour planning principles and guidelines and the surrounding harbour-front setting. The Station and railway facilities will be designed in a manner which integrates with the surrounding environment and urban context. Green walls and green roofs will be incorporated into the landscape design of Exhibition Station facilities and the new Harbour Road Sports Centre and Wan Chai Swimming Pool. We will continue to seek opportunities to maximize the greening of our

Harbourfront Commission

HC/12/2013

facilities to provide a pleasant environment for public enjoyment.

As for the temporary facilities / works areas, while the construction of the new railway works will occupy some of the harbour-front areas, these areas will be reinstated and returned to the Government after completion of construction. To alleviate the impact on the harbour-front area and the neighbourhood, the MTR Corporation Limited has worked out the construction timetable carefully so that such facilities will only be used at a minimum period of time. We will also implement various mitigation measures to reduce nuisance to the neighbourhood during the construction periods.