

HONG KONG - ZHUHAI - MACAO BRIDGE (preliminary study)



Client / Employer Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region
Infrastructure Development Office

Service Preliminary Design by CONSULASIA, LDA.

Investment Approx. MOP 4,500 Million

Contract Price MOP 1,345,000

Time Schedule February 2003 to December 2003

Description of the Project The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge is a giant proposed series of bridges and tunnels that would connect the west side of Hong Kong with Macao and the neighbouring city of Zhuhai, situated on the west side of the Pearl River Delta, and part of mainland China's southern industrial powerhouse.

The proposed 29 kilometer (18 mile) bridge is expected to cost US \$2 billion to \$3.7 billion.

The study analyses the current situation of transport linkage between Hong Kong, Macao and Pearl River West, existing problems and deficiencies; it also forecasts the passenger and freight traffic flow between Hong Kong and Pearl River West. The report points out that the current transport linkage between Pearl River West and Hong Kong is weak and land transport involves an increase in transport time and cost. The report also predicts the passenger traffic flow between the eastern and western banks of the Greater Pearl River Delta (PRD) in 2020 will reach 180-240 million and freight traffic 169-220 million tons. Of these traffic volumes, the passenger and freight traffic flow between Hong Kong and the western bank of the PRD will significantly increase. Increases of the passenger flow of the bridge and cargo demand are also anticipated.

The study has considered three alignments linking the two banks of the Pearl River. Fieldwork and seminars have been conducted, and views and analyses from various sources have been taken into consideration. The result of the study is that the Hong Kong (Lantau)-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge proposed by the HKSAR Government, a link connecting the three places under the "one country two systems", is the most urgent one and bears significant political and economic implications.

The study points out that the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge will alter the present passive condition of the transport linkage between Hong Kong and Pearl River West which relies mainly on water transport. It is expected to shorten the distance from Hong Kong to Macao and Zhuhai from 60 km to 30 km, and reduce the journey time to within half an hour.