

# \$300m HK-China road link planned

**A LOCAL construction company has drawn up plans for a \$300 million highway linking Canton and Hongkong.**

Usually reliable sources in the industry told The STAR the company had submitted copies of the plans to the appropriate authorities for their views.

The managing director of the company named by the sources would not comment when contacted.

But sources said this was only natural as China would not respond favourably if businessmen talked too much publicly of their plans before being given an answer.

The sources said the company, already involved in building numerous Government highway projects, started working on the plan a year ago.

With its already available knowledge of Hongkong road conditions, the terrain, and that of nearby Guangdong, it assigned engineers to carry out a feasibility study.

Initial studies revealed a highway of not less than six lanes could be built to link the two cities at a cost of about \$300 million.

The highway could be useful and, with efficient border procedures, could cut travelling time between Canton and Hongkong considerably.

"Travelling by road could be much faster than the present express train that runs once a day," the sources said.

Except for a limited number of goods vehicles, most traffic from Hongkong to Canton goes by rail.

Minibus services ply between Macau and Canton but those which use the route said they are equivalent to "third class roads" in Western countries.

The company expects China to open its border to road traffic soon, hence its study on the highway.