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Highways Department Technical Circular No. 9/2003

Preservation of Granite Kerbs

This Circular provides guidance on the preservation and use of granite kerbs in HyD's roadworks.

2. Granite kerbs according to HyD Standard Drawing No. H4101 have been used in Hong Kong for many years. They are no longer manufactured locally and have been replaced by precast concrete kerbs in new works. However, granite kerbs are durable and of high aesthetic value, and should be re-used as far as possible when they are affected by HyD's roadworks. Granite kerbs in surplus after the completion of roadworks should be sent to the respective Regional Offices and stocked for re-use in future projects.

3. Designs of footpath and carriageway reconstruction works should take into account the re-use of existing granite kerbs. During the design process, if some existing granite kerbs are identified to be no longer usable, the Project Office should check with the Regional Offices on whether they have suitable replacement granite kerbs in stock. If no suitable granite kerb can be found, the Project Office should review the design so as to re-use the remaining usable granite kerbs at suitable locations. In reviewing the design, it is preferable to use the same type of kerb along a continuous section of footpath to maintain a uniform appearance.

4. Where existing granite kerbs are deemed not suitable for use in streetscape enhancement works, e.g., in projects where the existing footpaths are to be reconstructed with clay pavers and therefore requiring a straight kerb backing, the existing granite kerbs can be replaced by precast concrete kerbs or imported machine cut granite kerbs.

5. During construction the granite kerbs should be removed with care and properly stored for re-laying in the works. Granite kerbs with minor chips can be re-dressed by hammering and for partially damaged granite kerbs, the undamaged portion with a reasonable size can be saw cut and re-used. Only seriously damaged portions of granite kerbs should be disposed of.

6. With immediate effect, each Regional Office should keep stock of surplus granite kerbs received and maintain records of the quantities, types, and shapes (straight/curved) available and locations at which the kerbs are stored.

7. As the existing granite kerbs may be affected by roadworks carried out by other departments or utility undertakings, the responsible Regional Office should request the departments or utility undertakings at early planning stage of their works to take all necessary measures and care to preserve existing granite kerbs.

(MAK Chai-kwong)
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