



# Road Maintenance

In September 2021, Hong Kong's road network consisted of 2,190km of roads and 3,102 highway structures. The maintenance of these roads and highway structures is one of the important functions of Highways Department.

Highways Department employs approximately 2,400 professional, technical and other staff. Out of this establishment, about 450 professional and technical staff are directly involved in road maintenance. These staff carry out daily road inspections, plan and manage the road maintenance programme, supervise maintenance works and handle public complaints.

## Road Inspection

All public roads are inspected by maintenance staff at regular frequencies. Expressways which are roads carrying fast and the largest volume of traffic are inspected daily. Trunk roads, other than expressways, and other primary roads are inspected weekly. Other roads and footpaths are inspected at half yearly intervals.

These inspections identify road defects for rectification. Road inspections also determine the surface and structural condition of roads. The information is then used to prioritise long term rehabilitation and improvement programmes.

## Road Maintenance Works

Road maintenance works can be broadly classified into corrective repairs and programmed works.

Corrective repairs are rectification of defects identified by road inspections particularly those defects posing an imminent danger to traffic or pedestrians. Some corrective repairs are carried out in response to public complaints. Examples of corrective repairs are patching of pot holes, sealing of cracks in pavements, re-fixing damaged traffic signs, etc.

Programmed maintenance works are usually of a larger scale. These works, mainly consisting of road re-surfacing, rehabilitation or reconstruction, are more costly, require better planning but eventually provide a more long lasting improvement to a road. In recent years, Highways Department is developing a range of computerised management tools which help maintenance engineers to compare different road deteriorating conditions and determine programme priorities more effectively.

## Effects of Road Maintenance Works

Road maintenance works inevitably occupy road space. Due to high traffic demand, a large proportion of maintenance works in urban roads are now carried out within non-rush hours or during night time in order to minimise disruption to traffic.

Maintenance works also generate dust and noise. In recent years, a lot of measures, such as temporary curtains and quieter construction equipment, are used or being developed in order to keep dust and noise pollution to minimum.

## Maintenance Funding

Maintenance of public roads in Hong Kong is funded by public revenue. In the government financial year 2020/21, a total of \$1,420 million was spent on road maintenance.



重鋪道路  
Road reconstruction