

18 March 2009

Dear Editor,

Construction arrangement for the road works
on Tseung Kwan O Road

We refer to the email of Mr. Ross Higgins published in your forum on 6 March 2009, concerning the construction arrangement for the road works on Tseung Kwan O Road (TKOR). We wish to provide relevant project information for the reference of your readers.

Highways Department is now carrying out retrofitting noise barriers and laying low noise road surfacing on TKOR to mitigate excessive road traffic noise being experienced by nearby residents. The carriageways of the road are reconstructed at the same time. Construction works commenced in January 2008 and is anticipated to complete by this year end. Upon completion, about 3,800 dwellings along the road will be benefited.

TKOR is a major road carrying busy traffic to and from Tseung Kwan O (TKO) during peak hours on weekdays. It is a challenge to construct the roadworks while maintaining reasonable peak-hour traffic flow and least construction noise nuisance to nearby residents. To achieve the best result, we have, in consultation with transport authorities and relevant District Councils, developed and agreed a temporary traffic arrangement (TTA) scheme and construction programme accordingly.

According to the agreed TTA scheme and works programme, we carry out works on site from around 08:30 to 17:30 on weekdays and Saturday, so as not to affect busy peak-hour traffic and confine construction noise nuisance to acceptable hours in the daytime (that is why work is not seen before 08:30 and after 17:30). As for the works, we have to first build foundations for the noise barriers. Squeezing construction space to a minimum, we maintain 2 traffic lanes each for eastbound (ie. TKO bound) and westbound (ie. Kowloon bound) of TKOR. We observe that motorists of eastbound TKOR need about 5 to 6 minutes more for traveling during the evening peak period (18:30 – 19:45). For the rest of the day, traffic flows along TKOR are normal and smooth.

At the end of January this year, we commenced reconstruction of the westbound TKOR carriageway. As there are only 2 existing westbound carriageways, we have

to divert one downhill lane to the opposite bound and introduce a “contra-flow” arrangement when carrying out the works. We once observed some congestion to the westbound traffic after vehicles leaving the tunnel tollbooths, and swiftly adjusted the merging arrangement to improve. Currently, works progress on site is satisfactory and we expect to lift the “contra-flow” arrangement upon the completion of westbound carriageway reconstruction in early April 2009.

We are moving on schedule and have completed the foundation works along the footpath facing Tsui Ping South Estate. By end July 2009, we will complete the remaining foundation works along the central divider on TKOR near Hing Tin Estate, as well as the eastbound carriageway reconstruction. We will then re-open all the traffic lanes on TKOR during the evening peak to provide further traffic relief thereat. The noise barriers will have all been erected by the end of the year.

Should you or members of public have any further enquiries on this project, please feel free to contact our Senior Engineer, Mr. C. Y. WONG on 2762 3583 at any time.

Thank you for your attention.

K M BOK
Chief Engineer, Highways Department