

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Head: 60 – Highways Department

Subhead:

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for the Environment

Question: Regarding the retrofitting of noise barriers, the Administration has, in recent years, retrofitted some highways that were built according to old standards with noise barriers. Have the Administration carried out any studies on retrofitting trunk roads in Kowloon West (including West Kowloon Corridor) with noise barriers? If yes, what are the results? If not, please give reasons. What mitigation measures will the Administration take to minimise the impact of road noise on residents for the roads concerned?

Asked by: Hon. FUNG Kin-kee, Frederick

Reply:

The Environmental Protection Department and the Highways Department have conducted studies on the feasibility of provision of noise barriers on major roads in Kowloon West. The studies include Western Kowloon Corridor and Tai Po Road (Sham Shui Po section) near Cronin Garden. The provision of noise barriers on the former is found not feasible mainly due to insufficient space or obstruction to fire fighting. Preliminary study has indicated that provision of noise barriers at Tai Po Road is feasible. We are planning to carry out retrofitting works at this road section. Apart from noise barriers, low noise road surfacing materials will also be adopted where appropriate to mitigate the traffic noise impact on neighbouring residents at the above road sections.

Signature _____

Name in block letters _____ **WAI CHI SING**

Post Title _____ **Director of Highways**

Date _____ **26 March 2008**