

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)015

Question Serial No.

0531

Head: 60 - Highways Department Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Please list out in detail the location, amount of money involved and respective progress of each project under the policy of Universal Accessibility.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Kam-lam

Reply:

The new policy on Universal Accessibility (UA) announced by the Administration in August 2012 retrofits barrier-free access (BFA) facilities such as lifts to existing public walkways (i.e. footbridges, elevated walkways and subways maintained by the Highways Department (HyD)) so as to facilitate access of the public. Under the UA Programme, the Administration has consulted the District Councils (DCs) in the first quarter of 2013 on proposals suggested by the public involving about 250 public walkways (referred to as the Expanded Programme) on the priority for implementation, and will proceed to conduct preliminary technical feasibility studies for the selected priority projects. In parallel, we will continue to pursue the Original Programme (consisting of about 170 projects for retrofitting of BFA facilities to meet the requirements of the Equal Opportunities Commission).

The present position of the UA Programme is as follows -

Projects	Current Position
Original Programme	Construction works of ten projects are underway. The construction works of another 24 projects have just commenced. The remaining some 140 projects are at planning / design stage.
Expanded Programme	The HyD has just completed the consultation with the 18 DCs on the priority of implementation. Each DC has been invited to select three priority projects. The HyD will start preliminary technical feasibility study of the selected priority projects within 2013-14. The detailed design and construction of the projects preliminarily found to be technically feasible will be taken forward as soon as possible.

For the ten projects of the Original Programme with construction works underway, a funding of \$292.1 million in money-of-the-day prices to cover the costs of construction of ten projects as well as the design for other projects in the Original Programme was approved under PWP Item No. 6167TB by the Finance Committee (FC) of the Legislative Council in July 2011. With the approval of the FC in January 2013, a new block allocation Subhead 6101TX – Universal Accessibility Programme has been created for taking forward the UA Programme, including the Expanded Programme and the remaining projects of the Original Programme. An allocation of \$187.272 million for 2013-14 was approved by the FC. We will follow the established practice of other block allocation subheads and apply to the FC every year an allocation on a lump-sum basis in accordance with the estimated expenditure for the projects of the UA programme in the coming years.

Name in block letters:	<u>K K LAU</u>
Post Title:	<u>Director of Highways</u>
Date:	<u>5.4.2013</u>