

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

Reply Serial No.

THB(T)012

Question Serial No.

0777

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:

Regarding the policy of Universal Accessibility (UA), ten prioritised projects will be implemented before the introduction of other projects. Has the Administration assessed the costs of planning and implementing 20 of the aforesaid projects in one go? What is the difference in terms of cost between implementing 20 projects in one go and finishing ten projects before implementing another ten? Will this speed up the number of projects to be completed, shorten the time for the works and help reduce the costs of construction? If so, please provide details, if not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Han-pan

Reply:

The new policy on 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) so as to facilitate access of the public. Under the UA Programme, the Administration has consulted the District Councils 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, including the ten projects mentioned in the question, for retrofitting of BFA facilities to meet the requirements of the Equal Opportunities Commission).

Under both the Expanded and Original programmes, the Administration will carry out planning, design and construction works for over 200 projects in the next few years, and will proceed with implementation of individual projects once they are preliminarily found to be technically feasible. To expedite the delivery of the overall programme, we will take forward these projects by batches under separate consultancies, with appropriate number of projects in each batch, to achieve efficiency and economy of scale.

Name in block letters:	K K LAU
Post Title:	Director of Highways
Date:	5.4.2013