

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**THB(T)029****(Question Serial No. 2448)**

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: - (1) Capital Projects
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (K K LAU)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question (Member Question No. 54):

Under Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2014-15 of this Programme, the Administration stated that it will undertake the investigation and preliminary design for the highway projects of Tuen Mun Western Bypass (TMWB), pedestrian footbridge system in Mong Kok and Hiram's Highway Improvement - Stage 2. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Committee of the following:

- (a) - What are the reasons for initiating works to improve the afore-mentioned highways?
- (b) - What are the operational expenditure, staff establishment and estimated salary expenditure for the afore-mentioned matters in the 2014-15 estimates?
- (c) - How will the traffic be improved upon completion of the projects?
- (d) - Have any impact assessments on people's livelihood been conducted in respect of the projects under construction?

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply:

Tuen Mun Western Bypass Project (TMWB)

The proposed TMWB, together with the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link (TM-CLKL), will provide the most direct route between the Northwest New Territories (NWNT) and Lantau, joining Kong Sham Western Highway, the port back-up areas in NWNT, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities, the Hong Kong International Airport and North Lantau. The TMWB will provide a route for relieving the NWNT traffic routing through Tuen Mun Town areas to the TM-CLKL. The Highways Department (HyD) deploys existing staff in the planning of the project in 2014-15. Various impact assessments will be carried out at the design stage.

Mong Kok Footbridge System

The project aims to implement a footbridge system to provide a direct and convenient link for pedestrian movements between Tai Kok Tsui and the central areas in Mong Kok, thus reducing vehicle-pedestrian conflicts and improving the pedestrian environment. Following the completion of the preliminary technical feasibility study, the HyD engaged a consultant in October 2013 to carry out further investigations covering, amongst others, various impact assessments. In 2014-15, the estimated expenditure for the further investigations is about \$7 million. The HyD deploys existing staff to oversee the implementation of the project.

Improvement to Hiram's Highway -- Stage 2

The proposed improvement works aim to increase the traffic capacity of the road corridor concerned to cope with the anticipated traffic demand arising from the current and planned developments. The HyD has engaged a consultant to carry out further investigations covering, amongst others, various impact assessments. In 2014-15, the estimated expenditure for the project is about \$3 million for site investigation works and payment of consultancy fees. The HyD deploys existing staff to oversee the implementation of the project.