

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)044

(Question Serial No. 2889)

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:

Regarding the provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems, the project of escalator link at Pound Lane has sparked a rather significant controversy. What is the current progress of the project? There was a suggestion earlier raised by some organisations that the project be considered jointly with the rebuilding of the Tung Wah Hospital. In other words, to adopt a system of express elevator similar to that of the MTR West Island Line instead of the escalator system to reduce the impact on monuments and the local community, while at the same time balancing the need for providing barrier-free access. Has the Highways Department conducted any related feasibility study or has any plan to do so?

Asked by: Hon MO Claudia (Member Question No. 37)

Reply:

After analysing the public views received on the original scheme of the Pound Lane escalator project, we developed a preliminary refined scheme to address the public concerns, and consulted the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC) in January 2015. The C&WDC generally supported the preliminary refined scheme, and requested that the public be further consulted on the preliminary refined scheme. We are now arranging a public forum on the way forward for the project.

As regards the Tung Wah Hospital redevelopment project, we understand that the redevelopment project is still under preliminary planning, and there is no concrete implementation programme and design. Therefore, we have no plan at this stage to incorporate the Pound Lane escalator project into the Tung Wah Hospital redevelopment project.

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