

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**THB(T)032**

**(Question Serial No. 0097)**

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 point 7 under Programme (1), the Highways Department (HyD) will seek funding approval in 2016-17 for three hillside escalator links and elevator systems (HELs) at Tsing Yi, Kwai Chung and Kowloon City with a view to commencing construction progressively in the fourth quarter of 2016.

- (a) What are the details of the three projects mentioned above? What is the estimated number of residents to be benefitted therefrom?
- (b) Is there a need to apply funding for the three projects from the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council (LegCo)? If so, how will the HyD respond in case funding cannot be granted as scheduled?

Asked by: Hon IP Kwok-him (Member Question No. 49)

Reply:

According to Rule 49 of the Finance Committee Procedures, special meetings of the Finance Committee are convened to examine the annual Estimates of Expenditure prepared by the Government in support of the Appropriation Bill. Expenditure charged to the Capital Works Reserve Fund does not form part of the Appropriation Bill. As such, questions relating to expenditure under the Fund are not relevant to the examination of the Estimates of Expenditure or the Appropriation Bill. Nonetheless, the details of the three HELs are provided below:

- (a) Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Cheung Hang Estate, Tsing Yi

The project will involve construction of a lift tower at Tsing Yu Street, construction of a covered elevated walkway connecting the above lift tower to the footpath along the southbound carriageway of Tsing Yi Road West, construction of a lift tower at

the eastern side of the existing footbridge across Tsing Yi Road West, and widening of a section of footpath along the southbound carriageway of Tsing Yi Road West between the proposed elevated walkway and the existing footbridge across Tsing Yi Road West. The project will form a lift and pedestrian walkway system for the existing footbridge across Tsing Yi Road West, the proposed lift tower at Tsing Yu Street and the elevated walkway. This system will connect the Cheung Hang Estate area and Tsing Yu Street and directly connect to Tsing Yi Hui / Tsing Yu New Village. At the same time, barrier-free access facilities for the existing footbridge and for the entire pedestrian walkway system will be provided. The estimated cost of the project is \$222.7 million. The area currently accommodates about 44 200 residents (including about 7 400 elderly).

(b) Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Kwai Shing Circuit and Hing Shing Road, Kwai Chung

The project will involve construction of a lift tower adjacent to Hing Shing Road, construction of a covered elevated walkway to connect the above lift tower, widening of the southern footpath along Kwai Shing Circuit between Shing Fuk Street and Hing Shing Road, and widening of the western footpath along Ko Fong Street. The project will provide a convenient, direct and comfortable access connecting Kwai Shing Circuit and Hing Shing Road. The estimated cost of the project is \$239.4 million. The area currently accommodates about 23 800 residents (including about 4 100 elderly).

(c) Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Waterloo Hill

The project will involve construction of a lift tower at Waterloo Road and construction of an elevated walkway connecting the above lift tower to Man Fuk Road Garden. The project will provide a convenient and barrier-free access for commuting between Waterloo Road and Man Fuk Road. The estimated cost of the project is \$116.7 million. The area currently accommodates about 19 300 residents (including about 3 700 elderly).

We will seek funding approval from the LegCo within this legislative session to implement the three projects. If the funding approval cannot be obtained within this legislative session, the commencement of the construction works will be delayed.

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