

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)222

(Question Serial No. 3509)

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:

- (a) What is the progress of the Pound Lane escalator project? Please provide the breakdown of the expenses on this project until now.
- (b) Does the Department plan to launch a public consultation exercise in respect of the enhanced scheme? If yes, what are the detailed work plan and estimated expenses? If no, what are the reasons?
- (c) According to the estimation of the Government, when can a formal decision be made on whether to implement the above project, and to submit the project cost, future maintenance and repair cost and schedule of works; and a decision on whether to submit application to the Legislative Council Finance Committee for the allocation required in respect of the project cost?

Asked by: Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok (Member Question No. 161)

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 information sought is provided below:

The Pound Lane escalator project is currently under investigation. After analysing the public views received on the original scheme of the Pound Lane escalator project, the Highways Department (HyD) developed a preliminary refined scheme to address public concerns, and consulted the Central and Western District Council in January 2015 and held a public forum in April 2015. The consultant has been reviewing the comments received.

In the meantime, a pedestrian survey was conducted in the Pound Lane area in end January 2016 to assess the latest pedestrian flow situation after the opening of the Sai Ying Pun MTR Station. The consultant is analysing the results of the survey. The Government remains open to the views of the public and would take into account all relevant information before deciding on the way forward for the project.

The implementation timetable and the estimated project cost will be worked out when a broad consensus on the way forward is reached.

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