

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)241

(Question Serial No. 4584)

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 issue of hillside escalator links and elevator systems, it is noted that the project of escalator link at Pound Lane in Sheung Wan 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 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. Has the Government conducted any related feasibility study?

Asked by: Hon Claudia MO (Member Question No. 62)

Reply:

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.

As regards the Tung Wah Hospital redevelopment project, we understand that the development 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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