

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)277

(Question Serial No. 5479)

Head: (60) Highways Department

Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified

Programme: (1) Capital Projects

Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Daniel K W CHUNG)

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Regarding the provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems (HEL), please inform this Committee of the following:

- (1) What were the details on the planning and investigation for various items of works and their progress in 2017-18?
- (2) Up to now which items are still at the preparation stage and what are the estimated expenditures? (Please provide the anticipated completion dates and costs of these items.)
- (3) What are the number and details of items that must be shelved?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (Member Question No. (LegCo use): 177)

Reply:

The Government established in 2009 a set of objective and transparent scoring criteria for assessing proposals for HEL to determine the priority for conducting preliminary technical feasibility studies for the 20 proposals received at that time. In this regard, the Government consulted the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Transport in May 2009. Upon completion of the assessment, the assessment results were reported to the Panel on Transport in February 2010. Two proposals were screened out initially, and 18 others were ranked. The Government indicated at the time that preliminary technical feasibility studies for the proposals ranked top ten in the assessment would be conducted first by batches, and that the remaining proposals would be followed up after the smooth implementation of the top ten proposals.

Subsequently, following a review on its manpower resources, the Highways Department (HyD) also completed the preliminary technical feasibility studies for the proposals ranked 11 and 12. The current progress of the 18 HEL proposals is summarised at **Annex**.

Of the 18 proposals, three are completed and opened for public use (ranked 1, 13 and 14³), four proposals are under construction (ranked 3, 5, 9 and 11). The cost estimates for these proposals are as follows:

| Rank | Proposal | Cost Estimate (in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices) (\$ million) |
|-----------------|--|--|
| 1 | Pedestrian Link at Tsz Wan Shan | 608.0 |
| 3 | Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Cheung Hang Estate, Tsing Yi | 222.7 |
| 5 | Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Kwai Shing Circuit and Hing Shing Road | 239.4 |
| 9 | Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Waterloo Hill | 116.7 |
| 11 | Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Tai Wo Hau Road and Wo Tong Tsui Street | 249.4 |
| 13 | Yuet Wah Street Pedestrian Linkage | 78.0 |
| 14 ¹ | Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Lai King Hill Road and Princess Margaret Hospital | 13.5 |

Six proposals (ranked 2, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 12) are at different stages of planning, investigation and design. As at March 2018, the total expenditure for the design and study of these proposals is about \$16 million. The construction cost for the “Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Castle Peak Road and Kung Yip Street, Kwai Chung” (ranked 6) is estimated to be \$584.4 million in MOD prices, while the construction cost for other proposals under study and design are pending review.

We will seek funding approval from the Finance Committee of the LegCo within this legislative year for the “Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Castle Peak Road and Kung Yip Street, Kwai Chung” (ranked 6) with a view to commencing the construction of the project as soon as possible.

The taking forward of the HEL projects involves various considerations such as the alignment of the HEL, the flow of the pedestrians, the layout of the structures and the engineering designs, the impact on the surrounding environment, the views of the affected residents, the diversion of underground utilities and the associated land resumption (if needed). The projects can be considerably complex and, in some districts, controversial. The time required for implementing each project varies with the actual circumstances. We are continuing to take forward all the HEL projects ranked.

³ There are two proposals with the same ranking of 14. The one completed is “Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Lai King Hill Road and Princess Margaret Hospital”, which was implemented and completed by the Hospital Authority (HA), and mainly involved the construction of one lift.

Current progress of the proposals of the HEL

| Rank | Proposal | Progress of Project |
|-------------|---|---|
| 1 | Pedestrian Link at Tsz Wan Shan | The pedestrian link is implemented under the Shatin to Central Link project and involves 15 facilities. The construction works commenced in July 2012. The pedestrian link has been opened for public use since October 2017. |
| 2 | Braemar Hill Pedestrian Link | <p>The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed. The HyD has engaged consultants to carry out the investigation and preliminary design.</p> <p>The HyD consulted and obtained the support from the Planning, Works and Housing Committee of the Eastern District Council on the design scheme in September 2016. Prior to gazettal of the works, the HyD further consulted the residents on the design scheme and attended residents' meetings in November and December 2017. The HyD also briefed the Planning, Works and Housing Committee of the Eastern District Council on the project progress in February 2018. In view of the comments recently raised by various parties, the HyD is reviewing the design scheme with a view to obtaining a majority consensus for the project scheme.</p> |
| 3 | Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Cheung Hang Estate, Tsing Yi | The construction works commenced in February 2017 for completion in mid-2019. |
| 4 | Escalator Link and Pedestrian Walkway System at Pound Lane | <p>The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed. The HyD has engaged consultants to carry out the investigation and preliminary design.</p> <p>The HyD consulted the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC) and held a public forum on the refined proposal in 2015. The comments received have been collated and analyzed. In view of the diverse views, the HyD plans to consult the C&WDC further on the project.</p> |
| 5 | Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Kwai Shing Circuit and Hing Shing Road | The construction works commenced in June 2017 for completion in 2020. |

| Rank | Proposal | Progress of Project |
|-------------|---|--|
| 6 | Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Castle Peak Road and Kung Yip Street | <p>The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed. The HyD has engaged consultants to carry out the detailed design.</p> <p>The HyD consulted and obtained the support from the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Kwai Tsing District Council on the design scheme in April 2016. The Government published the notice of authorization to execute the proposed works under the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance (Cap. 370) in November 2017.</p> <p>The Government will strive to seek funding approval from the Finance Committee of the LegCo in 2017-18 legislative year with a view to commencing the construction of the project as soon as possible.</p> |
| 7 | Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Lai Cho Road and Wah Yiu Road | The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed. The HyD has engaged consultants to carry out the investigation and preliminary design. |
| 8 | Pedestrian Link near Chuk Yuen North Estate | <p>The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed. The HyD has engaged consultants to carry out the investigation and preliminary design.</p> <p>The HyD consulted and obtained the support from the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Wong Tai Sin District Council on the preliminary design in July 2016 and on the revised design in January 2018. The HyD is currently following up on the suggestions and views regarding the revised design of the project further raised by relevant stakeholders and is making preparation for the gazettal of the works.</p> |
| 9 | Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Waterloo Hill | The construction works commenced in December 2016 for completion in mid-2019. |
| 10 | Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Lai King Hill Road and Lai Cho Road | It was revealed in the preliminary technical feasibility study that the project involved two dangerous private slopes. The owners of the slopes have completed the repair works for the slopes in February 2018. The HyD is revisiting this proposal. |
| 11 | Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Tai Wo Hau | The Government obtained funding approval from the Finance Committee of the LegCo in December 2017. The advance works for diversion of utilities |

| Rank | Proposal | Progress of Project |
|----------------------|--|--|
| | Road and Wo Tong Tsui Street | commenced in January 2018. The main works are scheduled to commence in the fourth quarter of 2018 for completion in the fourth quarter of 2021. |
| 12 | Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Luen On Street | <p>The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed. The HyD has engaged consultants to carry out the investigation and preliminary design.</p> <p>The HyD consulted and obtained support from the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Kwai Tsing District Council on the preliminary design scheme in February 2018. As the proposal needs to span across private lots and is in close proximity to existing buildings, the HyD will consult the relevant residents as suggested by the Kwai Tsing District Council.</p> |
| 13 | Yuet Wah Street Pedestrian Linkage | To complement the Kwun Tong Town Centre Redevelopment, the Civil Engineering and Development Department commenced construction for this project in April 2013. The Linkage has been completed and opened for public use since October 2015. |
| 14 (same ranking) | Escalator Link System between Hong Sing Garden and Po Hong Road | The Transport Department (TD) is working on the scope of the project. When this is determined, the HyD will carry out the preliminary technical feasibility study. |
| 14 (same ranking) | Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Lai King Hill Road and Princess Margaret Hospital | The HA commenced works in November 2015. The works have been completed and the facility has been opened for public use since January 2017. |
| 16 | Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Saddle Ridge Garden and Sai Sha Road | The TD is working on the scope of the project. When this is determined, the HyD will carry out the preliminary technical feasibility study. |
| 17 | Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Hing Shing Road and Tai Wo Hau Road | The TD is working on the scope of the project. When this is determined, the HyD will carry out the preliminary technical feasibility study. |
| 18 | Escalator Link System between Sha Tin Sui Wo Court and MTR Fo Tan Station | Since the proposal involves complicated land issues, the TD will liaise with relevant departments on the land matters. |

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