

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)037

(Question Serial No. 0151)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Capital Projects
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Jimmy P M CHAN)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

In "Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2019-20", the Administration states that it will commence the feasibility study under the third phase of "Universal Accessibility" (UA) Programme, and review whether there is scope for further expansion of the Programme. In this connection, will the Administration inform this Council the resources and manpower involved for completion of the said feasibility studies as well as the necessary procedures.

Asked by: Hon SHEK Lai-him, Abraham (LegCo internal reference no.: 34)

Reply:

As the UA Programme has been widely supported by the community, the Government announced in the 2018 Policy Address that we would carry out a feasibility study on lift retrofitting proposals for some 120 remaining walkways in various districts under the current ambit of the Programme with a view to taking forward the feasible items expeditiously so as to benefit the elderly and people in need (referred to as the "Third Phase"). We will engage consultants in the second quarter of 2019 to carry out investigation and design work for the "Third Phase". The estimated expenditure for the feasibility study on lift retrofitting proposals under the "Third Phase" is about \$12 million and we will deploy one Senior Engineer and three Engineers/Assistant Engineers (supported by a Clerical Assistant) in 2019-20 to oversee the study.

Upon completion of the study for individual proposals under the "Third Phase", the Highways Department (HyD) will brief District Councils (DCs) concerned on the findings of the investigation and the preliminary schemes of the proposals. For those schemes confirmed to be technically feasible and supported by the respective DCs, we will commence the detailed design work afterwards. We aim to commence the construction works progressively starting from 2021.

We are also conducting a review to explore whether there is any scope for further expansion of the UA Programme. The HyD is deploying existing staff resources to conduct the

review on the ambit of the UA Programme. There is no separate breakdown of manpower for this task. We will report to the Legislative Council Panel on Transport upon completion of the relevant work.

- End -