

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)022

(Question Serial No. 2460)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (Jimmy P M CHAN)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Housing

Question:

Under Programme (2), the revised financial provision for 2018-19 decreased substantially by 21.1% to \$1.85 billion. However, the estimated provision for the next financial year has rebounded to \$2.6 billion while the estimated expenditures on “road cleanliness” and the like have dropped to \$101 million. As it is necessary to better understand the situation, please also advise on the following –

- (a) What are the reasons for the decrease in the expenditure on “road cleanliness”. Will it involve reduction in the frequency of cleansing?
- (b) To my understanding, the frequency of regular cleansing of some footbridges and subways, where appropriate, have increased to more than once per quarter after repeated urging in recent years. What are the details of the relevant locations on Hong Kong Island? What was the amount of additional expenditure involved in 2018-19?
- (c) At present, is there any established mechanism provided for the District Councils or the public to submit requests for increasing the frequency of additional cleansing mentioned in item (b)? If not, what measures will be adopted by the Department to decide what kind of opinions should be accepted so as to improve environmental hygiene of footbridges or subways?

Asked by: Hon LAM Cheuk-ting (LegCo internal reference no.: 35)

Reply:

Under Programme (2), District and Maintenance Works, the revised provision of \$1.85 billion in 2018-19 has been decreased by \$490 million as compared with the original estimate of \$2.34 billion. The reduction mainly reflects the latest commissioning schedule of the new road works and related projects such as Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Link Road and Hong Kong Port, Universal Accessibility Programme and Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Boundary Control Point.

The estimated increase in expenditure under District and Maintenance Works in 2019-20 is mainly due to the increase in the cost of works and additional provisions to cater for the projects commissioned in 2018-19 or scheduled to be commissioned in 2019-20. The estimated expenditure on road cleanliness in 2019-20 is \$55 million, which is slightly higher than the \$54.7 million in 2018-19.

Generally speaking, the Highways Department (HyD) is responsible for the structural maintenance of the footbridges and subways under its ambit. To maintain these structures in a good condition, the HyD will conduct overall cleansing of the footbridges and subways at least once every quarter. On Hong Kong Island, the number of footbridges and subways with increased cleansing frequency is shown in the table below –

District	No. of Footbridges and Subways
Wanchai	10
Central and Western	7
Eastern	18
Southern	5

In order to further enhance cleanliness, the HyD will make reference to the usage of footbridges and subways, the past complaint records and the views of the public and District Councils when deciding on the frequency of cleansing for the concerned footbridges and subways.

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