

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

THB(T)279

(Question Serial No. 3600)

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:

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 works items and their progresses in 2018-19?
- (2) Up to now which works 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 works items that must be shelved?
- (4) There are views from the districts that other departments like the Housing Department should be included in the project, e.g. in the provision of elevators to connect Pak Fung House of Choi Wan Estate to Clear Water Bay Road. Will the Highways Department conduct a review and jointly consider these cases?

Asked by: Hon WU Chi-wai (LegCo internal reference no.: 54)

Reply:

(1) - (3)

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, and 18 others were ranked. The Government indicated at the time that preliminary technical feasibility studies for the proposals ranked top 10 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 10 proposals.

At present, of the 18 ranked HEL proposals, three are completed and opened for public use (ranked 1, 13 and 14¹); five proposals are under construction (ranked 3, 5, 6, 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
6	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Castle Peak Road and Kung Yip Street	584.4
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

Eight proposals are at various stages of investigation and design (ranked 2, 4, 7, 8, 12, 14², 16 and 17). As at February 2019, the total expenditure for the design and study of these proposals is about \$19 million. One proposal is in the preliminary technical feasibility study stage (ranked 10); and one proposal is having its scope determined for subsequent preliminary technical feasibility study (ranked 18). The current progress of the 18 hillside escalator links proposals is summarised at **Annex**.

The taking forward of the HEL proposals 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 proposals can be considerably complex and, in some districts, controversial. The time required for implementing each project thus varies. When a proposal has progressed to a mature stage after completion of its investigation and detailed design, we

¹ 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.

² There are two proposals with the same ranking of 14. The one is engaging consultants to carry out the investigation and preliminary design is “Escalator Link System between Hong Sing Garden and Po Hong Road”.

will arrange to seek funding approval from the LegCo for commencing the construction works of the proposal as early as possible. We are continuing to take forward all the HEL projects ranked.

(4)

The Transport Department (TD) commenced a consultancy study in December 2017 to review and improve the assessment mechanism on HEL proposals established in 2009. Based on the revised assessment mechanism, TD will carry out screening, shortlisting and prioritisation of 114 HEL proposals received in the past few years (including the one connecting the green minibus terminus at Clear Water Bay Road to Pak Fung House of Choi Wan Estate). On 14 December 2018, the Administration consulted the LegCo Panel on Transport on the proposed revised assessment mechanism and the way forward for the assessment of the 114 proposals. The consultancy study is expected to be completed by 2020.

Current Status of the Ranked HEL Proposals

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 Highways Department (HyD) consulted and obtained the support from the Planning, Works and Housing Committee (PWHC) of the Eastern District Council (EDC) on the design scheme in September 2016. Prior to gazettal of the works, HyD further consulted the residents on the design scheme and attended residents' meetings in November and December 2017. In view of the comments raised by various parties, HyD reviewed the scheme with a view to obtaining a majority consensus for the project scheme.</p> <p>HyD attended the PWHC meeting in February 2018, arranged site visits with EDC members, LegCo members and residents in March 2018, held a public meeting in April 2018 and conducted focus group meetings with schools and residents in May and June 2018 to introduce the revised design scheme and discuss with various stakeholders.</p> <p>In view of the comments from various stakeholders, HyD consulted PWHC again on 19 June 2018. HyD presented various design revisions under study and the recommended revised design scheme, and obtained the support of the majority of PWHC members. HyD is now carrying out the detailed design, and preparing for the gazettal of the project scheme under the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance.</p>
3	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Cheung Hang Estate, Tsing Yi	The Government obtained funding approval from the LegCo in May 2016. The construction works commenced in February 2017 for anticipated completion in mid-2019.

Rank	Proposal	Progress of Project
4	Escalator Link and Pedestrian Walkway System at Pound Lane	HyD consulted the Central and Western District Council (C&WDC) and held a public forum on the refined proposal in 2015. In view of the diverse views received and the many issues involved, HyD plans to consult the C&WDC further on the project.
5	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Kwai Shing Circuit and Hing Shing Road	The Government obtained funding approval from the LegCo in May 2016. The construction works commenced in June 2017 for anticipated completion in 2020.
6	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Castle Peak Road and Kung Yip Street	The Government obtained funding approval from the LegCo in June 2018. The advance works for ground investigation commenced in January 2019. The tender for the main works was invited on 22 February 2019. It is targeted to commence the main works in the second quarter of 2019 for anticipated completion in the second quarter of 2023.
7	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Lai Cho Road and Wah Yiu Road	The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed. HyD has engaged consultants to carry out the investigation and preliminary design.
8	Pedestrian Link near Chuk Yuen North Estate	HyD consulted and obtained the general support from the Traffic and Transport Committee (T&TC) of the Wong Tai Sin District Council on the preliminary design in July 2016 and March 2017. However, some schools and some of the residents in the district subsequently raised objections. After consideration of their objections, HyD revised the design and consulted the T&TC again in January 2018; the support from the T&TC was obtained. In the first half of 2018, HyD and other relevant government departments received different views from the stakeholders. Transport Department (TD) and HyD are now collating and analysing the relevant views and actively reviewing the details of the proposal. Relevant stakeholders and the T&TC will then be consulted on the latest developments.
9	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Waterloo Hill	The Government obtained funding approval from the LegCo in May 2016. The construction works commenced in December 2016 for anticipated completion in the third quarter of 2019.

Rank	Proposal	Progress of Project
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 completed the repair works for the slopes in February 2018. HyD has resumed the preliminary technical feasibility study for the project.
11	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Tai Wo Hau Road and Wo Tong Tsui Street	The Government obtained funding approval from the LegCo in December 2017. The advance works for diversion of utilities commenced in January 2018. The main works also commenced in February 2019 with the scheduled completion in the fourth quarter of 2021.
12	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Luen On Street	HyD consulted and obtained support from the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Kwun Tong District Council (KTDC) 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, HyD consulted the relevant residents and stakeholders in the fourth quarter of 2018 as suggested by the KTDC. Most of the comments requested realignment of the project and suggested an alternative alignment within Kung Lok Road Playground and Kwun Tong Garden Estate. HyD and TD are now liaising with relevant stakeholders on the feasibility of the alternative alignment.
13	Yuet Wah Street Pedestrian Linkage	To complement the Kwun Tong Town Centre Redevelopment, Civil Engineering and Development Department commenced construction for this project in April 2013. The Linkage has been opened for public use since October 2015.
14 (same ranking)	Escalator Link System between Hong Sing Garden and Po Hong Road	The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed and the project is considered technically feasible. HyD is now preparing to commence the next phase of the pre-construction stage.
14 (same ranking)	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Lai King Hill Road and Princess Margaret Hospital	The Hospital Authority commenced the project in November 2015. The works have been completed and the facility has been opened for public use since January 2017.

Rank	Proposal	Progress of Project
16	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Saddle Ridge Garden and Sai Sha Road	The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed and the project is considered technically feasible. HyD is now selecting consultants to carry out the investigation and preliminary design. It is targeted to award the consultancy contract in April 2019.
17	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Hing Shing Road and Tai Wo Hau Road	The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed and the project is considered technically feasible. HyD is now selecting consultants to carry out the investigation and preliminary design. It is targeted to award the consultancy contract in April 2019.
18	Escalator Link System between Sha Tin Sui Wo Court and MTR Fo Tan Station	The proposed item involves works of relatively large scale and is rather complex as a substantial part of the proposed alignment runs through lots held by the Hong Kong Housing Authority and private owners. TD is actively following up on the proposal with a view to determining its scope as soon as possible, so as to allow the relevant department to commence the preliminary technical feasibility study.

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