CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

(Question Serial No. 0149)

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:

The total area of roads maintained in 2019-20 was 25.6 million square metres (m^2) while that in 2020-21 was 26 million m^2. However, the corresponding expenditure has increased by 40%. What are the reasons for that?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 194)

Reply:

The increase in expenditure on highways maintenance in 2020-21 was mainly due to the resumption of some road maintenance works, which could not be carried out in 2019-20 as planned due to repeated occurrence of public order events (POEs) and the outbreak of the COVID-19, additional repairing works arising from the damage caused by POEs, as well as the need to provide additional provisions to cater for projects commissioned in 2019 and 2020 such as the Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai Highway, Widening of Tolo Highway/Fanling Highway between Island House Interchange and Fanling – Stage 2, and Universal Accessibility Programme. More frequent cleansing of pedestrian walkways was also arranged in 2020-21 to enhance public hygiene under the pandemic.

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