

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

TLB021

(Question Serial No. 0220)

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 Logistics

Question:

Regarding the “road reconstruction, rehabilitation, resurfacing, and joint replacement works”, the estimated expenditure in 2022-23 is \$358 million. However, its actual expenditure has increased substantially to \$688.8 million, which was almost a double of its estimated expenditure. What are the reasons for the increase? What is the respective proportion of the relevant expenditures on road reconstruction, rehabilitation, resurfacing and joint replacement works?

With the relaxation of anti-epidemic measures, Hong Kong is moving steadily towards the path to normalcy in full speed. It is estimated that the overall traffic flow will return to normal level in full speed as well. What major factors did the Government consider when determining the above estimated expenditure of \$647.3 million in 2023-24? What is the respective proportion of the expenditures on road reconstruction, rehabilitation, resurfacing and joint replacement works?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 9)

Reply:

The estimated expenditure of \$358 million in 2022 for “road reconstruction, rehabilitation, resurfacing, and joint replacement works” was prepared on the assumption that the overall traffic volume in 2022 would gradually return to normal level. The quantity of road resurfacing and reconstruction works was estimated to be similar to that in the previous years with similar traffic volume. Owing to the outbreak of the fifth wave of the epidemic with social distancing measures implemented, the overall road traffic volume in 2022 was still low. The Highways Department (HyD) took the opportunity to undertake more large scale resurfacing and reconstruction works for longer sections of busy roads (such as Gloucester Road, Repulse Bay Road, Tai Chung Kiu Road, North Lantau Highway near MTR Siu Ho Wan Depot) including those for preventive maintenance purpose, where temporary road closure for such maintenance works would be difficult to arrange under normal traffic condition. The proportion of the actual expenditure of \$688.8 million in 2022 for road

reconstruction, rehabilitation, resurfacing and joint replacement works is 7%, 11%, 78% and 4% respectively.

When determining the estimate for road reconstruction, rehabilitation, resurfacing, and joint replacement works in 2023, the road condition, maintenance cycle, traffic condition and public expectation had been taken into consideration. The proportion of the expenditure of \$647.3 million in 2023 for road reconstruction, rehabilitation, resurfacing and joint replacement works is 10%, 15%, 67% and 8% respectively. In 2023, HyD plans to focus on more preventive road reconstruction, rehabilitation and joint replacement works, which are expected to bring less disturbance to the traffic as compared with resurfacing works on roads with heavy traffic. The estimate in 2023 has therefore included the expenditure of such works, including reconstruction and rehabilitation works at road sections such as Great George Street, Lai Chi Kok Road and Nathan Road, the joint replacement works at flyovers such as Marsh Road Flyover and Gascoigne Road Flyover, and resurfacing works at localised areas.

- End -