

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

TLB022

(Question Serial No. 0221)

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 Logistics

Question:

In the 2009-10 Policy Address, the Government proposed to implement pedestrian environment improvement schemes in Causeway Bay, Mong Kok and Yuen Long town centre. The Highways Department will continue the design of the pedestrian schemes in 2023-24. Will the Government inform this Committee of the following:

1. What are the details of the work undertaken by the Government over the past ten years or so since the pedestrian schemes had been proposed? What is the anticipated timetable for completing the pedestrian schemes?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 10)

Reply:

The Government has been developing pedestrian environment improvement schemes (PEIS) in Causeway Bay, Mong Kok and Yuen Long town centre over the past years with a view to better improving the pedestrian environment in business, shopping and leisure areas with heavy pedestrian flow. The implementation progress and latest development of PEIS are as follows -

(i) Proposed Causeway Bay Subway Project

The Highways Department (HyD) commenced the feasibility study on the proposed Causeway Bay Pedestrian Subway System in April 2011 and conducted two rounds of public consultation in 2011 and 2012 respectively. The outcome of the public consultation was reported to the Development, Planning and Transport Committee of the Wan Chai District Council (WCDC) in September 2012. The scheme was further developed from 2015 to 2017 taking into account the "Pilot Study on Underground Space Development in Selected Strategic Urban Areas" undertaken by the Civil Engineering and Development Department and the Planning Department which covered Causeway Bay as one of the selected Strategic Urban Areas (SUAs).

Subsequently, there were several developments within the study area which would bring changes to the pedestrian flow pattern and walking environment in the area. As such, HyD commissioned a study in 2018 to review the proposed pedestrian subway system and explore various options for optimising the proposal so as to establish a comprehensive and coherent pedestrian network in Causeway Bay. Furthermore, the Transport Department has been conducting a trial on the pedestrianisation scheme at Kai Chiu Road which is targeted to complete in mid-2023. HyD will finalise the study upon the completion of the above trial and consult the WCDC in due course.

Meanwhile, with a view to enhancing the pedestrian environment in the district, HyD had implemented some improvement measures including the improvement of pedestrian crossings at Yee Wo Street and Gloucester Road in 2017 and 2021 respectively.

(ii) Proposed Pedestrian Footbridge System in Mong Kok

HyD commissioned an investigation study on the proposed footbridge system in 2013 and conducted public consultation to collect public's views on the preliminary scheme in 2017. Public opinions on the proposed footbridge system were diverse. While some stakeholders supported the proposed footbridge system, others had raised concerns about the scheme's environmental impact, security problems, the lack of direct connection to the MTR station and the prolonged construction period and suggested other proposals for improving pedestrian environment.

Having regard to the public views received, HyD has been reviewing the proposal taking into account the latest developments in the area, including the "Redevelopment of Government Sites at Sai Yee Street and Mong Kok East Station", and examining pedestrian environment, pedestrian and vehicular flow as well as pedestrian flow patterns. Various proposals are being studied to optimise and improve the pedestrian environment in the area with a view to addressing the various concerns raised during the public consultation. Upon finalising the study, HyD will consult the Yau Tsim Mong District Council and relevant stakeholders in due course.

(iii) Proposed Elevated Pedestrian Corridor in Yuen Long Town connecting with Long Ping Station

HyD consulted the Panel on Transport and Public Works Subcommittee of the Legislative Council (LegCo) regarding the project in 2018. In view of concerns from LegCo members and the public about the project cost and the impact of the project on visual, noise and drainage aspects, HyD has been reviewing the proposed elevated pedestrian corridor proposal taking into account the latest developments in the area including the implementation arrangement and hydrological implication of Yuen Long Barrage Scheme and Improvement of Yuen Long Town Nullah projects at the Yuen Long Nullah as proposed by the Drainage Services Department. Upon completion of the review, HyD will consult relevant stakeholders on the project in due course.

In the meantime, HyD has completed various interim improvement measures between 2011 and 2015 including widening of pedestrian crossings and footpaths in the district and enhancing the streetscape along both sides of Fung Yau Street North.

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