

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

TLB023

(Question Serial No. 0222)

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:

The Highways Department is responsible for maintaining all public roads and ancillary facilities to maintain the integrity of road network. In this respect, please inform this Committee of the following:

1. Regarding “road cleanliness and streetscape enhancement and greening of shotcreted slopes”, the estimated expenditure in 2023-24 is \$185.5 million. What is the respective proportion of the expenditures on road cleanliness, streetscape enhancement and greening of slopes?
2. Did the Government adopt applied science and technology in preventing, monitoring and improving road defects and cleanliness? If yes, what are the details? If not, what are the reasons?

Asked by: Hon TSE Wai-chuen, Tony (LegCo internal reference no.: 12)

Reply:

1. The Highways Department (HyD) undertakes (i) cleansing of street furniture, lifts, escalators and highway structures; (ii) beautification of highway structures, laying paving blocks and colour dressing for footpaths; and (iii) planting and hydroseeding for shotcreted slope surfaces under “road cleanliness and streetscape enhancement and greening of shotcreted slopes”. The proportion of the estimated expenditure of \$185.5 million in 2023 for road cleanliness, streetscape enhancement and greening of shotcreted slopes is 53.9%, 45.9% and 0.2% respectively.
2. HyD has all along been striving to adopt innovative technology with a view to improving its services to the public, including road maintenance and cleansing services. For example, in end 2022, HyD completed the development of a road maintenance management system, which digitalises the inspection and supervision procedures. With the system in place, HyD’s staff can manage its maintenance contractors’ road condition inspection and maintenance works more efficiently, and the data collected by the system

can provide information for better planning of HyD's maintenance works. HyD is also developing a system by adopting artificial intelligence technology for automatic detection of road defects such as faded road markings and cracks. Furthermore, HyD has been using small unmanned aircraft for inspecting the condition of highway structures and slope areas with accessibility constraints, which can effectively enhance the efficiency and safety of road and slope inspections as compared with traditional inspection. HyD has also been undertaking research and trial applications of more durable and greener paving materials for use in public roads.

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