

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

TLB014

(Question Serial No. 0262)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (1) Capital Projects
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (YAU Kwok-ting)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Logistics

Question:

In recent years, the construction industry in Hong Kong has faced a contraction in workload. The construction sector's unemployment rate hits a record high. The Government announced that the latest unemployment rate has reached a high of 6.9%, the highest among all industries in Hong Kong. Although the Budget indicated an increase of the estimated expenditures on capital works in 2026-27 to approximately \$128 billion, this is far from enough to offset the overall decline in project quantity.

1. The current progress of the following projects and list the commencement schedules and anticipated completion dates;
 - a. Northern Metropolis Highway Project;
 - b. Route 11 (section between Yuen Long and North Lantau) project, especially Tsing Lung Bridge;
 - c. Tuen Mun Bypass project;
 - d. Widening of Yuen Long Highway (section between Lam Tei and Tong Yan San Tsuen);
 - e. Improvement of Lion Rock Tunnel; and
2. The investigation, design works and construction of the Hillside Escalator and Elevator System (HEL) Projects.
Please list the item names under the Projects, their implementation schedules and completion dates respectively.

Asked by: Hon BOK Kwok-ming, Aaron (LegCo internal reference no.: 31)

Reply:

1. The implementation progress is tabulated as follows:

| | Project | Project progress, schedule and anticipated completion date |
|----|---|---|
| a. | The Northern Metropolis Highway (NMH) | The Highways Department (HyD) is pressing ahead with the investigation studies on the NMH. Under the “holistic planning and staged implementation strategy”, priority is given to the NMH (San Tin Section), with the targets to have it technically ready for tendering the main construction works next year and strive for commissioning by 2036. As for the other road sections, the Government will formulate a more specific schedule taking into account factors such as traffic demands of New Development Areas, existing and on-going transport infrastructure projects, overall cost effectiveness, public resource arrangements etc. |
| b. | Route 11 (section between Yuen Long and North Lantau) | The HyD is currently conducting investigation studies on the Route 11 project. The project has been gazetted in accordance with the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance (Chapter 370) and relevant works scheme has been authorized. Route 11 will be implemented in stages. Review is being conducted to have the Tsing Lung Bridge, the southern section of the Route 11, to be constructed first, so as to divert traffic from the existing major roads (including Tuen Mun Road (Sham Tseng Section) and Ting Kau Bridge, thereby alleviating traffic congestion. |
| c. | Tuen Mun Bypass | <p>The HyD is currently conducting investigation studies on the Tuen Mun Bypass project. The project has been gazetted in accordance with the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance (Chapter 370) and relevant works schemes have been authorised to proceed. In order to optimise the project, the HyD is currently seeking opinions from independent experts to review the preliminary design of the Tuen Mun Bypass, including how to optimise the detailed layout of the Middle Ventilation Building and the arrangement of its exhaust outlet, and the Temporary Traffic Arrangements during construction to minimise the impacts on the nearby environment.</p> <p>The Government will constantly review the cost-effectiveness of the project and implement the project in a timely and orderly manner according to the priority and urgency of the project.</p> |
| d. | Widening of Yuen Long Highway (section between Lam | The HyD invited tenders for the works in December 2025. The project was proposed to be tabled for consultation with the Legislative Council in the second/third quarter in 2026, with the target of completing the works approximately 5 |

| | Project | Project progress, schedule and anticipated completion date |
|----|---------------------------------|---|
| | Tei and Tong Yan San Tsuen) | years upon obtaining funding approval from the Finance Committee. |
| e. | Improvement of Lion Rock Tunnel | The project is currently under design stage. The Government will continue to review the cost-effectiveness of the project and implement the project in a timely and orderly manner according to priority and urgency. |

2. The information of items under the Hillside Escalator Links and Elevator Systems (HEL) Projects that are under construction is tabulated as follows:

| Item name | Commencement date | Anticipated completion date |
|---|--------------------------|--|
| Braemar Hill Pedestrian Link | August 2021 | To be completed in stages starting from mid 2026 |
| Pedestrian Walkway System between Hing Shing Road and Tai Wo Hau Road | July 2023 | Third quarter of 2026 |

Regarding the items under the HEL Projects that are under planning, their required construction times depend on the individual condition of each item, such as ground conditions, land ownership, complexity of works etc. The Government will continue to review the cost-effectiveness of projects, prioritise them according to urgency, and implement the relevant projects in a timely and orderly manner. The relevant item implementation progress is as follows:

| Item name/proposed alignment | Implementation Progress |
|--|--|
| From Smithfield along Pokfield Path to Pokfield Road | Advance works for the preliminary technical feasibility study are underway |
| From Yue Fai Road to Yue Kwong Road | |
| Pedestrian Link near Chuk Yuen North Estate | Investigation studies and design are underway |
| Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Kung Lok Road | |
| Pedestrian Link Walkway System between Po Lam Road North and Po Hong Road, Tseung Kwan O | |

| Item name/proposed alignment | Implementation Progress |
|---|---|
| From Wood Road to Queen's Road East near St. Joseph's College Primary School | Investigation studies and design are underway |
| From Sai Wan Ho Street to Holy Cross Church in Sai Wan Ho | |
| From Healthy Street East to Pak Fuk Road | |
| From Ching Cheung Road footbridge near Mei Foo MTR Station to Lai King Hill Road near Ching Lai Commercial Centre | |
| Escalator Link System between Sha Tin Sui Wo Court and MTR Fo Tan Station | |
| From the footway near Greenview Garden to Sha Tin Tau Road | |
| From Kwok Shui Road Park to Kwok Shui Road | |
| From Shek Yam Road near Kam Shek Building to Tai Pak Tin Street | Tendering is underway |
| From Lau Sin Street to Tin Hau Temple Road | |
| Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Lai King Hill Road and Lai Cho Road, Kwai Chung | |
| From Wah Sing Street to Castle Peak Road – Kwai Chung Escalator Link System | |

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