

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**THB(T)005**

**(Question Serial No. 0502)**

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 Housing

Question:

Regarding the Universal Accessibility (UA) Programme:

1. What is the total number of project sites being included in the UA Programme since its implementation? How many projects under the Programme are completed? Based on the completed projects, what is the average time required for each project from planning to conduction of study to completion? What is the average expenditure required? Are there time and costs overruns?
2. How many of the relevant projects are currently underway? How many contractors are responsible for these projects?
3. Under the UA Programme, how many project sites are currently under study? How many project sites were deemed infeasible as a result of study over the past years? How many consultants were responsible for carrying out advance works studies for these projects? What is the average time required to carry out advance works study for each project? What is the average expenditure for carrying out feasibility study and what is its percentage of the total expenditure of the Programme?
4. How many project sites are not included in the UA Programme due to non-compliance with the Department's requirements? What are the main reasons for such non-compliance?

Asked by: Hon LI Sai-wing, Stanley (LegCo internal reference no.: 2)

Reply:

1. The Highways Department (HyD) has been pressing ahead with the implementation of 401 items under various phases of the Universal Accessibility (UA) Programme. As at end February 2022, the number of items completed under the UA Programme was 179, while 93 items were under construction. The HyD is pressing ahead with the planning and design of the remaining 129 items. For the completed items, the

average overall duration for investigation, design and construction is about five years. The average expenditure for each completed item is \$26.8 million. Among the 179 completed items, all of them have been completed within budget and only one item has not been completed within the contract period due to insufficient resources provided by the Contractor.

2. The 93 items under construction are being implemented by ten contractors.
3. Under the UA Programme, we have engaged consultants to carry out investigation, design and construction supervision. There are currently a total of 129 items under the investigation and design stage. In the past, ten items had been found to be infeasible and were not taken forward under UA Programme upon completion of investigation.

The current investigation and design works are being carried out under seven consultancy agreements involving three consultants. The average duration of the investigation and design works for individual items is about two years. In general, the average expenditure of the investigation and design works per item (including the site investigation works) is about \$0.5 million. The whole expenditure for investigation and design works accounts for about 0.8% of the overall expenditure of the UA Programme.

4. Because of vast public acceptance and strong demand, the Government had expanded the coverage and scope of the UA Programme in different phases since it was launched so that more walkways (including footbridge, elevated walkway and subway) could be included into Programme to benefit a wider community. There are 19 walkways previously proposed by the public which could not be included into the UA Programme for such reasons as they are not spanning across public roads maintained by the HyD, not opened for public access at all times, privately owned, or the proposed retrofitting works are objected by owners under the Special Scheme.

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