

CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY

TLB023

(Question Serial No. 1719)

Head: (60) Highways Department
Subhead (No. & title): (-) Not Specified
Programme: (2) District and Maintenance Works
Controlling Officer: Director of Highways (YAU Kwok-ting)
Director of Bureau: Secretary for Transport and Logistics

Question:

Over the past 10 years, it's not less than four number of traffic accidents happened at the North Lantau Highway caused by road works. The matters requiring special attention within this year include the supervision of safety measures for road works. Will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

- 1) Please provide a breakdown by District Council of the numbers of accidents caused by road works over the past 5 years, the details and whether casualties are involved.
- 2) Did the Government conduct surprise inspections of the road repair works on expressways to ensure contactors' compliance with the "Code of Practice for the Lighting, Signing and Guarding of Road Works". If yes, what are the numbers of surprise inspections conducted in the past 3 years and the estimated numbers for this year?
- 3) Does the Government have any improvement plans for the roads with higher traffic accident rates, such as the North Lantau Highway and Lung Cheung Road? If yes, what are the details and the amounts involved?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Hok-fung (LegCo internal reference no.: 30)

Reply:

- 1) Traffic accidents involve multiple causes. The Transport Department (TD) does not maintain a breakdown for the number of traffic accidents involving road works.
- 2) When any Government departments and public or private organisations engage their contractors to carry out works on expressways, clear instructions shall be provided to drivers in order to safeguard road users. The relevant persons responsible for the road works shall follow the Code of Practice for the Lighting, Signing and Guarding of Road Works (hereinafter referred to as "COP") to plan carefully and execute properly the temporary traffic arrangements measures. These include the implementation of appropriate lighting, signing, guarding measures etc. (such as traffic cones, barriers, shadow vehicle, etc.) according to the type of works and providing sufficient working

time and space for implementing, maintaining and removing the said measures, with a view to reducing the risk of works area being hit by vehicles and at the same time reminding drivers to pay extra attention to the road works ahead. The temporary traffic arrangement measures throughout the works period shall also obtain prior agreement from relevant traffic management departments.

When Highways Department (HyD) carries out road works on expressways, the HyD would deploy its staff to conduct site inspections for monitoring the progress and quality of works, etc. which includes checking on the temporary traffic arrangements measures implemented by the contractors in accordance with the COP. Similarly, other departments and organisations shall also monitor their works on expressways during the construction stage.

According to Cap. 374G Road Traffic (Traffic Control) Regulations, the Hong Kong Police Force (HKPF) would allocate appropriate resources for inspection of road works based on operational needs, giving instructions to the persons responsible for the road works to rectify the deficiency identified. In addition, the HyD's Audit Inspection Team conducts random audits to the lighting, signing, and guarding measures implemented in association with the excavation works on carried out public roads in accordance with the COP. For any non-compliances identified, the HyD would inform the persons responsible for the relevant road works and request them to rectify the situation promptly. Based on the actual circumstances, the HyD would also take appropriate follow-up actions with the responsible persons for any breaching of relevant regulations. The numbers of audit inspections on expressways in 2023, 2024 and 2025 are 1 028, 1 125 and 1 367 respectively. This inspection strategy is expected to continue in 2026.

- 3) TD analyses the traffic accident data of traffic accident black spots and other places with a higher traffic accident rate, studies in details whether there are obvious patterns and common causes of accidents, and formulates target-oriented improvement measures. Generally speaking, most traffic accidents are attributed by driver-related factors such as inattentive driving, following too close to the vehicle in front, and changing lanes negligently. To address these issues, the TD constantly collaborates with the HKPF and the Road Safety Council to raise drivers' awareness on road safety through education campaigns and stricter enforcement. The TD and the HKPF will also continue to make the best utilization of new technologies to improve traffic management and enhance road safety.

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