

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY**

**(Question Serial No. 3279)**

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:

It was mentioned in the “Matters Requiring Special Attention in 2026-27” that the Government would continue to make Hong Kong more “walkable”, including supervising the implementation and review of various works projects related to “walkability” improvements (for example the Hillside Escalator Links and Elevator System (HEL), “Universal Accessibility” Programme and pedestrian schemes). In this connection, will the Government advise this Committee on the following:

1. Which HEL projects are expected to commence or remain under construction? What are the specific provision amounts reserved for them?
2. Did the Government conduct any surveys on the utilisation rates of the completed HEL projects? Will the relevant data be used as a reference for planning future projects of the same type?

Asked by: Hon CHAN Pui-leung (LegCo internal reference no.: 40)

Reply:

1. The details of the Hillside Escalator Links and Elevator System (HEL) projects that are under construction are tabulated below:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Commencement date</b>	<b>Anticipated completion date</b>	<b>Approved Project estimate<sup>1</sup> (\$ million)</b>
Braemar Hill Pedestrian Link	August 2021	Staged completion starting from mid-2026	682.6
Pedestrian Walkway System between Hing Shing Road and Tai Wo Hau Road	July 2023	Third quarter of 2026	192.5

Note 1: Money-of-the-day prices

Regarding the HEL projects that are under planning, 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 details of the HEL projects expected to commence in 2026-27 are as follows:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Implementation progress</b>
Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Lau Sin Street and Tin Hau Temple Road	Tendering is underway. The project estimates are yet to be confirmed.
Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Lai King Hill Road and Lai Cho Road, Kwai Chung	
Wah Sing Street to Castle Peak Road – Kwai Chung Escalator Link System	

2. The Government constantly attaches great importance to the accessibility in hillside areas and enhances pedestrian connectivity between hillside and downhill areas through the HEL. Under the assessment mechanism<sup>2</sup>, the Transport Department conducts independent scoring based on both “social benefits” and “cost-effectiveness” when planning the HEL projects, before carrying out comprehensive considerations. It is to ensure that the projects implemented deliver concrete benefits to local communities and gain recognition, while being cost-effective. The assessment mechanism evaluates the numbers of the HEL’s beneficiary by predicting the change in travel patterns and diversions after the commissioning of the proposed HEL, with a view to anticipating the usage of the HEL.

Note 2: An assessment mechanism that the Government reported to and was agreed by the Subcommittee on the Hillside Escalator Links and Elevator Systems of the Legislative Council at the end of 2019.

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