

Intro

In every city, wherever there are people, there are roads. This seems only natural, but is in fact the fruit of many people's hard work in silence.

Be it for working hard to earn a living, for taking care of our family, or for pursuing our dreams, every step in our life counts.

The Highways Department (HyD) strives to keep every road unobstructed.

Paving the way for all walks of life.

Part I intro – Achievements

Road construction is essential to city development. The HyD has been striving to implement various transport infrastructure projects, expanding and improving our road network, to meet the transport and development needs of Hong Kong.

When expanding our road network, the HyD often encounters various challenges and hindrances which cause the need to build bridges and tunnels for achieving the goals of time-saving and high efficiency while taking account of cost-effectiveness. During project implementation, the department's professional teams maintain close communications with stakeholders, attending to their needs and concerns while keeping a close eye on the works progress, cost control and construction quality. When necessary, we also engage well-experienced consultants and contractors with relevant expertise to implement the projects together. We attach great importance to site safety as well, and strive to mitigate the impacts of the works on the environment and the public. By adopting suitable construction technologies and temporary traffic arrangements, we carry out the works in a safe and effective manner. For example, we use prefabricated modules to save construction time, and adopt temporary reclamation for tunnel construction, so as to restore the harbour's original appearance as far as possible upon completion of the works.

The HyD fully supports the Government's policy of "Innovation and Technology" and the application of sustainable technologies. We widely utilise Building Information Modelling in the planning, design and construction stages of our projects. This enables our project teams to have an early grasp of the project details within a virtual environment, thus enhancing construction efficiency and quality. The department also takes the initiative to digitalise the works supervision system through the use of smart mobile devices for real-time data collection on site, as well as integration of project information, thus facilitating the monitoring of works progress and compliance. This helps realise the vision of "innovation" and "professionalism" for the construction industry and further enhances site safety.

To optimise road condition, the HyD has introduced air purification systems in some of the new road tunnel projects for eliminating most respirable suspended particulates and nitrogen dioxide.

As major road projects were commissioned successively to serve the general public, more new projects are being planned and designed to support development needs. The HyD will continue our efforts in providing unobstructed access for the public to facilitate the flow of people and goods and help move Hong Kong forward.

(Railway Development)

The HyD is tasked with the mission of planning future railway development and implementing new railway projects. We continue to develop a public transport-oriented system with railway as the backbone.

Through the railway development strategy studies, the HyD maps out the blueprint for Hong Kong's railway development. When formulating the blueprint, we consider various factors such as transport and land use planning, economic returns and other benefits, as well as impacts on the environment and project

feasibility. During the construction of railway infrastructures, the HyD would liaise with other relevant departments to solve planning and construction issues. We also closely monitor the progress of each project to ensure that new railway lines are completed as early as possible.

Railways will continue to be the backbone of Hong Kong's traffic and transport. The HyD will, as always, formulate and implement the railway development strategies for Hong Kong, and devise plans for further expanding our railway network.

Construction, the gateway to Hong Kong's future.

Part II intro – Life

Hong Kong is a densely populated and fast-paced city with heavily used roads. The HyD strives to upkeep the road network to ensure unimpeded travel for the public.

From routine road maintenance, minor road improvement works, to co-ordinating and controlling road excavations and handling road emergencies, they all fall under the purview of the HyD.

(Routine Duties)

The HyD strives to adopt a preventive approach, arranging appropriate repair and maintenance works in a timely manner through regularly inspecting roads and associated facilities, as well as monitoring bridge structures and roadside slopes. While repairing the road pavement, the department also considers repaving the roads with low noise road surfacing materials to alleviate traffic noise impacts.

(LED Public Lighting Installation and Replacement Programme)

Street lamps lighting up our roads at night are one of the vital auxiliary road facilities. To support energy conservation, the HyD launched the LED Public Lighting Replacement Programme in 2018. In view of the life expectancy of existing road lights, we are gradually replacing traditional luminaires in various districts with new LED lights. We have also introduced the Smart Lighting Management System to provide more eco-friendly and reliable illumination for public roads.

When most people rest at night, the HyD forges ahead to keep road facilities in good condition. Apart from regular inspections and repair works, large-scale road rehabilitation works are also carried out at night to enhance pavement quality, while minimising disruptions to traffic.

(Road Works Co-ordination and Control)

The HyD is also responsible for co-ordinating and controlling excavations on public roads. By issuing excavation permits and expressway works permits, road opening works and expressway works can be implemented systematically, reducing disturbance to the public.

(Handling of Emergencies)

During the rainy and tropical cyclone season, the HyD stays vigilant to cope with road emergencies caused by inclement weather, and stands ready to activate the Emergency Control Centre whenever necessary. In case of road blockage caused by landslides, fallen trees or objects blown away by strong wind, the Emergency Control Centre will co-ordinate for prompt clearance work, so as to restore road traffic.

Part III intro – Every Step

(Universal Accessibility Programme)

The HyD cares about every step in your life. In 2012, we launched the Universal Accessibility Programme to install lifts and other barrier-free access facilities at public walkways, providing convenience to the elderly and others in need.

(Providing Covers to Walkways)

To complement the policy of enhancing walking comfort, so as to foster a pedestrian-friendly environment thus facilitating commuting of citizens, the HyD has been proactively implementing walkway cover projects according to local needs.

(Hillside Escalator Links and Elevator Systems)

Many densely populated residential areas in Hong Kong are situated on hillsides. To provide convenient access to these communities, the HyD has constructed a number of Hillside Escalator Links and Elevator Systems. More similar systems are being planned and built to facilitate comfortable and convenient access to hillside areas.

Every day, we are hurrying through this city rush. Let us slow down our pace, and enjoy the scenery along the way.

(Streetscape Enhancement)

The HyD decorates different corners of the city with vegetation along roadside slopes, and aesthetic paving and street facility designs, creating unique streetscapes for different districts.

(Vegetation Replacement and Maintenance)

The HyD maintains vegetation for slopes under its purview and within expressway boundaries to enhance the city's ecological environment. Among these are the "pioneer trees" like Acacia trees extensively planted in the fifties and the sixties to increase slope vegetation. These trees have now reached their senescent stage, and the HyD is gradually replacing the senescent Acacia trees with native seedlings and shrubs.

Stonewall trees are part of Hong Kong's unique cityscape. Many stonewall trees growing along roadsides are maintained by the HyD. While preserving these invaluable trees, we also ensure the safety of road users to achieve true harmony between people and trees.

Ending

Hong Kong, one of the most fast-paced cities in the world. Every second we strive to move forward. Though living in this same city, we have different paths, some on their way to success, some on their way home for their loved ones, and some on their way contributing silently for their dreams.

Wherever there are people, there are roads.

The HyD paves the way for all walks of life.