

16 September 2022

Dear Editor,

We refer to Mr Alastair Murray's letter ("Roadwork completion date must not be moving target", 19 August 2022) expressing concern about the changes of the anticipated and planned completion dates shown on the publicity board for the construction works near a roundabout on Hiram's Highway at the junction with Hing Keng Shek Road in Sai Kung.

The works concerned are taken forward under the "Dualling of Hiram's Highway between Clear Water Bay Road and Marina Cove and Improvement to Local Access to Ho Chung" project, which aims at improving two sections of Hiram's Highway between Clear Water Bay Road and Pak Wai, as well as the existing Ho Chung Road and Luk Mei Tsuen Road, thereby relieving the traffic congestion on the road section near Marina Cove, enhancing the safety of the road section and improving the local access to Ho Chung and Luk Mei Tsuen.

With the construction works of the project commenced in stages since March 2016, the major road widening works for the two sections of Hiram's Highway between Clear Water Bay Road and Pak Wai have already been completed. The widened road sections between Clear Water Bay Road and Ta Ku Ling, and between Nam Pin Wai Roundabout and Pak Wai were open to the public in December 2019 and February 2021 respectively, while the remaining ancillary works continued thereafter.

The Highways Department (HyD) attaches great importance to the project progress, amongst others, and has been working closely with the site supervisory staff in monitoring the progress of the construction works. The HyD sees the importance of keeping stakeholders abreast of the latest progress of the project. To keep the public informed of the schedule of the ongoing stage of works, publicity boards are updated at the commencement of each new stage of works to show the planned completion date (referred to as "original completion date" on the publicity boards) of that stage, with the anticipated completion date updated at appropriate junctures to reflect the latest works progress. The HyD has also been attending meetings on the construction works arrangement with the locals from time to time, and regularly reporting the works progress to the Sai Kung District Council through working group meetings and progress reports. In addition, contact information is displayed on the publicity boards on site to facilitate public enquiries about the construction works.

Currently, the remaining ancillary works including local utility connection are being carried out near the roundabout at the junction with Hing Keng Shek Road. The HyD will continue to closely co-ordinate with all relevant parties, including the utility undertakers, in order to complete this final stage of remaining works by the end of this year as planned.

Jenny Lam  
Senior Engineer/Public Relations  
Highways Department