

立法會
Legislative Council

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Bills Committee
on Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill 2002

Report of the study tour held on 22 February 2003

Disruption to traffic and inconvenience to the public caused by road excavation works has long been a matter of public concern. The social cost of such disruption in terms of both time and money can be high. In order to enable members to gain a better understanding of the ways the Highways Department conducts regular inspections of utility sites, a site visit was organized on 22 February 2003. A list of members who attended the visit is in **Appendix I**. The itinerary of the visit is detailed in **Appendix II**.

2. This paper sets out the general observations and recommendations of the tour.

Observations

3. During the visit to Queen's Road East, Luard Road, Lockhart Road, Hennessy Road, Electric Road, Java Road and King's Road, members observed that road openings were found almost everywhere and the majority of which were sites carried out by the Highways Department, Drainage Services Department and Water Supplies Department.

4. Throughout the journey, members found a number of unattended sites particularly those carried out by the Water Supplies Department. In some cases, no sign board was erected to explain why the site was left unattended. As a general observation, members also found that some carriageways were coned off for traffic impact assessment prior to actual commencement of works. In the case of excavations along building frontages, access to adjoining premises was found to be affected, causing inconvenience to pedestrians and near-by shop operators. Due to drainage works, a traffic lane on Hennessy Road eastbound outside Sogo and part of the pedestrianway in the vicinity of the area had been converted into works sites. This had resulted in serious traffic congestion and disruption along one of the busiest corridors on Hong Kong Island.

5. Regarding the posting of information on site, members found that the publicity boards did not contain sufficient information to advise members of the public on the

start date and end date of a project including any extensions. For some unattended sites, the reasons for suspension of works and expected idle time were omitted.

6. Traffic signs and traffic cones were found to be misplaced or omitted in some excavation sites. A workman was also found not wearing appropriate eye protection equipment when operating equipment which created projectiles of construction materials.

7. Members were impressed by a number of excavations carried out by the Hong Kong Electric Company Limited where substantial number of workmen were found on site. Adequate safety and precautionary measures were also in place. The site carried out by the Drainage Services Department along Hennessy Road outside Sogo was also maintained in good condition with proper guarding facilities.

Recommendations

8. Members are invited to note the following recommendations made by attending members during the site visit:

- (a) The Highways Department should be invited to step up inspections of utility openings and follow up with utility undertakers to ensure timely completion of excavation works.
- (b) The Drainage Services Department should be invited to review the drainage programme at Hennessy Road outside Sogo with a view to shortening the works period to minimize inconvenience caused to motorists and pedestrians.
- (c) The Water Supplies Department should be invited to strengthen their control on utility openings and avoid leaving excavation sites unattended.
- (d) Temporary decking should be provided as far as practicable to allow re-opening of carriageways/pedestrianways during non-works periods.
- (e) Unattended sites should be avoided as far as possible. Sign boards should be erected on site to explain why a site was left unattended and the expected idle time.
- (f) Publicity boards should be provided for displaying information on the start date and end date of a project, including any future extensions. Complaint telephone hotline should be provided.
- (g) On-street parking spaces should be avoided as far as practicable to facilitate traffic flow. Rather the Administration should provide

incentive bonus plot ratio to property developers to encourage them to provide parking spaces inside their own developments.

- (h) Award schemes should be organized to encourage utility undertakers to complete their excavations in time or even earlier, and to keep the works sites in good condition. Due recognition for good practices should also be carried out.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
6 March 2003

**Bills Committee on
Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill 2002**

Visit on 22 February 2003

Attendance list

Participating Members

Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, JP

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP

Participating Public Officers

Environment, Transport and Works Bureau

Mr C S WAI
Principal Assistant Secretary (Works)

Highways Department

Mr C K WONG
Deputy Director

Mr H C WONG
Assistant Director

Mr S S LO
Senior Engineer

Participating staff

Mr Andy LAU
Clerk to Bills Committee

Mrs Queenie YU
SAS(1)6

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Itinerary of the site visit to excavation sites on 22 February 2003

Major routings

Wing Fung Street/Star Street/Monmouth Path

Johnston Road/Lockhart Road

Hennessy Road near Sogo

Electric Road/Java Road

King's Road

Hennessy Road/Johnston Road

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