

NOTE FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

Supplementary Information on 90WC – Replacement and rehabilitation of water mains, stage 1 phase 1

INTRODUCTION

When considering PWSC(2001-02)68 on 90WC "Replacement and rehabilitation of water mains, stage 1 phase 1" at the Public Works Subcommittee meeting on 31 October 2001, Members requested and the Administration undertook to provide supplementary information on the preliminary arrangements for and timing of works to be carried out in Yuen Long.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE

2. In implementing a systematic water main replacement programme, we will make the best effort to alleviate disturbance and inconvenience to the public through well-coordinated road opening works, close monitoring of the contractor's performance and liaison with relevant authorities and local groups. Once a contract for the works is awarded, we will require the contractor to liaise with relevant authorities and local groups, to prepare and submit temporary traffic arrangement (TTA) proposals for approval and to obtain road opening permits from relevant authorities prior to commencement of works.

3. Since December 2000, we have been carrying out the replacement of aged water mains in some parts of Sheung Shui and Tai Po and the works are progressing smoothly. We will take into account the experience we have gained from the replacement works in these areas in working out the arrangements for the works in Yuen Long.

/Preliminary

Preliminary arrangements for works in Yuen Long

4. The works in Yuen Long comprise the replacement of about nine kilometres of fresh water mains. To minimize the disturbance and inconvenience to the public at any one time, we will divide the works into small portions so that they may be carried out in phases. During each phase of the replacement works, we will require the contractor to implement the following measures –

- (a) During the planning and execution of the TTA, the contractor shall liaise and coordinate with all relevant authorities such as the Transport Department, the Hong Kong Police Force, the Highways Department, District Office/Yuen Long and representatives of local groups to determine measures for alleviating disturbance to the public. Temporary traffic measures may include interim relocation of bus stops, mini-bus stops and taxi stands as well as detour of bus and mini-bus routes.
- (b) The contractor shall obtain licences/permits from relevant authorities for road opening works. For the works in Yuen Long, the length of carriageway occupied at any time for one section of trench work by the contractor shall not exceed 50 metres (m) unless agreed with the relevant authorities. The occupied length will be limited to 30 m at junctions to improve visibility of opposing and minor road traffic. The minimum distance between any two sections of trench work for mainlaying shall be 400 m.
- (c) The contractor will not carry out any construction works during festive events, rural functions or any period designated by the relevant authorities and will cover excavated trenches by steel plates to maintain the vehicular flow during such events or functions.
- (d) A Traffic Management Liaison Group involving relevant government departments and representatives from the West Rail project will be established. This can ensure co-ordination between the TTAs arising from the water main replacement works and the West Rail construction works.

5. In addition, we will minimize disturbance to the public by -

- (a) maintaining adequate site supervision to ensure that the road opening works comply with the approved TTA;

/(b)

- (b) monitoring the progress of the replacement works closely to ensure that the contractor reinstate sections of the roads affected within a reasonable time;
- (c) conducting effective liaison with relevant authorities and local groups to seek their advice and suggestions on the road opening works; and
- (d) holding regular meetings with the contractor and concerned parties to expeditiously deal with any problems/complaints.

Timing of Works

6. The preliminary timing of the water main replacement works in Yuen Long is as follows -

Activities	Date
Invitation of Tender	January 2002
Award of Contract	April 2002
Preparation and submission of TTA for approval	May 2002
Application for road opening permit	May 2002
Completion of 30% of works	December 2003
Completion of 65% of works	December 2004
Completion of 100% of works	December 2005

7. We will require the contractor to submit a detailed programme showing the sequence and timing of the replacement works after the award of contract.

Works Bureau
November 2001