

NOTE FOR PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Special Public Works Subcommittee meeting
held on 14 November 2001 –
Follow up**

INTRODUCTION

In considering papers referenced PWSCI(2001-02)36 and 37 at the special meeting held on 14 November 2001, Members sought additional information on –

- (a) the progress of **3371RO** “Open space in Area 14, Tuen Mun” and **3375RO** “District open space in Areas 3 and 8, Tsing Yi”;
- (b) the progress of “Indoor recreation centre-cum-library in Area 17, Tung Chung, Lantau”;
- (c) the status of the proposed “Decking of the Kai Tak Nullah for widening of Choi Hung Road”;
- (d) the programme for **6759TH** “Shenzhen Western Corridor”, and whether a similar approach could be adopted for other capital works projects;
- (e) the progress of the outstanding projects of the former Provisional Municipal Councils (PMC); and
- (f) the simplified tendering arrangements for works contracts under \$50 million each.

/THE

THE ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE

2. The Administration's response to items (a) to (e) above is set out below. We have addressed item (f) in a separate information note referenced PWSCI(2001-02)40.

3371RO "Open space in Area 14, Tuen Mun"

3375RO "District open space in Areas 3 and 8, Tsing Yi"

3. We are in the process of selecting consultants for the detailed design and tender preparation for both projects with a view to commencing detailed design in January 2002. We aim to apply for funding for the two projects in June 2002, invite tenders in July 2002, and commence construction in October 2002. Given the need to address the geotechnical problem for **3371RO** and the site boundary issue for **3375RO**, both projects are under a very tight schedule. We would try to further advance the start dates wherever possible.

Indoor recreation centre-cum-library in Area 17, Tung Chung, Lantau

4. This is one of the projects covered by the accelerated programme for the provision of leisure and cultural facilities. Taking into account the time required for the pre-construction work for a building project with joint users, our current aim is to apply for funding in the 2003-04 legislative session and to commence construction in late 2004. We will continue to explore possibilities for speeding up the implementation process, including securing greater private sector involvement in the project delivery process.

Decking of the Kai Tak Nullah for widening of Choi Hung Road

5. The Environmental Protection Department (EPD) considers that the best way forward is to tackle the pollution at source, rather than to deck the Nullah for the purpose of hiding pollution. According to EPD, in the past few years, the water quality of the Kai Tak Nullah in general as reflected by the water quality index has improved from "very bad" and "bad" to "fair", showing that the existing control measures are effective. Hence, EPD considers that there is no need for decking the Nullah solely for environmental protection purposes.

6. On the traffic front, traffic flow along Choi Hung Road has been declining and the predicted traffic situation in the near future does not warrant the decking of a section of the Kai Tak Nullah for widening Choi Hung Road. The

/Administration

Administration has therefore concluded that from both the environmental and transport angle, there is no urgency to proceed with the Choi Hung Road widening project. We have briefed the Legislative Council in a case conference in November 2001 and the Wong Tai Sin District Council in June 2001.

6759TH “Shenzhen Western Corridor” (SWC)

7. A flow chart showing the project delivery of **6759TH** is at the Enclosure. We consider that the fast-tracked programme of SWC may not be applicable to other capital works projects because –

- (a) with extensive feasibility works carried out under the Crosslinks Further Study completed by Planning Department in September 2000, the Preliminary Design stage for SWC was dropped;
- (b) given that the nature of the project is to construct a viaduct over Deep Bay, the risk of modifying the conceptual design after the completion of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) seems low. Moreover, investigation, planning, detailed design, and procedures in compliance with EIA Ordinance and Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance can be carried out in parallel;
- (c) a relatively short Detailed Design stage is assumed since the design does not involve any interfaces with adjacent developments and land resumption/clearance;
- (d) SWC requires no land resumption but only clearance of oyster beds under government licences; and
- (e) the majority of the works could be carried out at various locations concurrently in Deep Bay.

8. It should be noted that in view of the urgency of the project, we are committed to make every endeavour to complete SWC in 2005, but the actual completion date may be later in view of the very tight programme.

/Outstanding

Outstanding former PMC projects

9. We have carefully reviewed the 169 projects which had not received all the necessary approvals from the two former PMCs upon their dissolution on 31 December 1999, and reported our findings / progress of projects to the “Subcommittee to follow up the outstanding capital works projects of the former municipal councils” of the Legislative Council. In brief, the progress of these 169 projects to date is as follows –

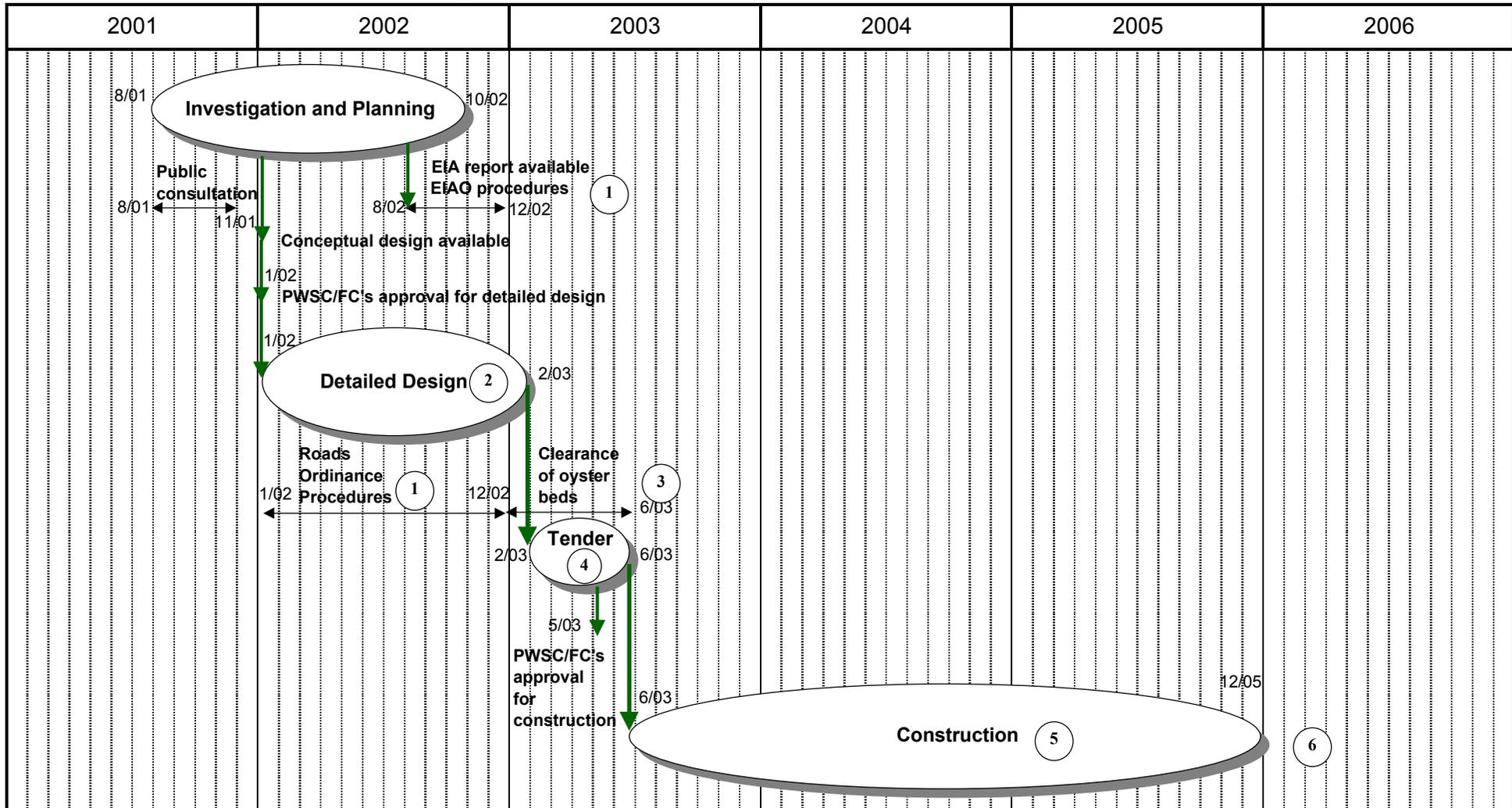
- (a) we have earmarked funding for the implementation of 81 projects, including some 60 projects involving leisure and cultural facilities included in the accelerated programme. The first of these 81 projects – **5236RS** “Provision of a multi-purpose grass pitch on Sai Tso Wan former landfill” – was upgraded to Category A in January 2001. The latest understanding from the departments concerned is that three projects are expected to start works in 2001-02, 16 in 2002-03; 26 in 2003-04, 17 in 2004-05, 18 in 2005-06 and beyond. We are regularly reviewing the scope for expediting implementation of the other projects in the pipeline.
- (b) we have decided not to proceed with 10 projects having regard to such considerations as diminishing needs (e.g. a plant nursery) and sites having been allocated for other recreational uses. We have reported our decision to the aforesaid Subcommittee; and
- (c) we are reviewing the remaining 78 projects owing to limited investigative work done at former PMC times.

10. We shall continue to report the recommendations of our review and progress of projects to the said Subcommittee.

Environment and Food Bureau
Home Affairs Bureau
Transport Bureau
Works Bureau

December 2001

Shenzhen Western Corridor (SWC) - Project Implementation Flowchart



Notes

- ① EIAO requirements are to be processed in parallel with Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance procedures.
- ② We have dropped the Preliminary Design stage because extensive feasibility works had been carried out under the Crosslinks Further Study completed by Planning Department in September 2000, and allowed a relatively short duration for Detailed Design because the design does not involve any interfaces with adjacent developments and land resumption/clearance.
- ③ SWC requires no land resumption but only clearance of oyster beds.
- ④ We will proceed with prequalification and invite tenders prior to approval of funding.
- ⑤ The majority of the works of SWC is in Deep Bay where works could be carried out at various locations concurrently.
- ⑥ In view of the urgency of the project, Highway Department is committed to make every endeavour to complete it in 2005 although the actual completion date may be later than this as the programme is very tight.