For Information

Legislative Council Panel on Transport

Footbridge across Po Kong Village Road at the junction with Tsz Wan Shan Road

PURPOSE

This paper informs Members of our proposal to upgrade 152TB – Footbridge across Po Kong Village Road at the junction with Tsz Wan Shan Road to Category A for the construction of a footbridge to provide a convenient and safe passageway for pedestrians and cater for future pedestrian demand.

PROJECT SCOPE AND NATURE

- 2. The scope of **152TB** comprises
 - (a) construction of a four-metre wide covered footbridge with two lifts and an escalator, connecting with the Rest Garden at Tsz Wan Shan Road at the north and the Po Kong Village Road School Village at the south; and
 - (b) associated road, drainage, landscaping and electrical and mechanical (E&M) works.

A site plan with elevation of the proposed footbridge is at the **Enclosure**.

JUSTIFICATIONS

3. The Po Kong Village Road (the Road) is a single four-lane carriageway intersecting with Tsz Wan Shan Road (TWSR) at a signal-controlled junction with at-grade crossing facilities. At present, the road junction is operating close to its capacity, with a reserve capacity¹ (RC) of only 4%.

4. The Road is characterised by a heavy concentration of schools. Three schools, with a total student / staff population of about 3 600, are located along the Road near the junction with TWSR (the Junction). In addition, the Po Kong Village Road School Village (the School Village), located also near the

¹ The performance of a traffic signal junction is indicated by its RC. A positive RC indicates that the junction is operating with spare capacity. A negative RC indicates that the junction is overloaded, thus resulting in traffic queues and longer delay time.

Junction, has commissioned since September 2002. The School Village consists of five schools, including three primary schools, one secondary school and a private independent school. Four of the five schools are operating, though not at full scale, and have accumulated a total population of students and staff of around 3 600². Most of the students and other pedestrians have to use the at-grade crossing facilities at the Junction to cross the Road to reach the Tsz Wan Shan (South) Bus Terminus and other bus stops along the Road. In view of the heavy utilisation of the existing at-grade facilities, we have introduced an interim signalised pedestrian crossing at the Road outside the School Village in September 2002 to ease the pressure on the existing at-grade facilities. However, the pedestrian flow at the Junction remains heavy. According to a recent survey conducted by the Transport Department (TD) in February 2004, the hourly pedestrian flow crossing the Road at the Junction during peak hours is about 1 700 pedestrians.

5. It is expected that with the commissioning of the remaining school in the School Village in September 2004 and the other four schools operating at full scale, the population in the School Village will reach 6 560. TD estimated that the hourly pedestrian flow crossing the Road at the Junction at peak hours will reach 3 000 which will exceed the capacity of the existing at-grade crossing facilities.

6. Providing a safe passageway for pedestrians, and the large number of students in the schools along the Road in particular, is of paramount importance. Taking into account also the anticipated increase in pedestrian flow at the Junction, we need to construct a footbridge, connecting with the School Village, across the Road.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. We estimate the cost of the project to be \$24.0 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices, made up as follows –

² Based on the statistics from the Education and Manpower Bureau as at January 2004.

			\$ million	
(a)	Footbridge		21.5	
	(i) civil works	17.2		
	(ii) E&M works	4.3		
(b)	Roadwork, drainage and landscaping works		0.6	
(c)	Electrical and Mechanical Services Trading Fund (EMSTF) charges ³		0.7	
(d)	Contingencies		2.2	
	Sub-total	-	25.0	(in September 2003 prices)
(e)	Provision for price adjustment		(1.0)	
	Total:	-	24.0	(in MOD prices)

8. We estimate the annual recurrent expenditure upon completion of the project to be \$380,000.

9. We estimate that the proposed works will create about 40 jobs (32 for labourers and another eight for professional/technical staff) providing a total employment of 500 man-months.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

10. We consulted the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Wong Tai Sin District Council (WTSDC) on 22 January 2002. Members supported the project and requested for its early completion. We also consulted the

³ Since the establishment on 1 August 1996 under the Trading Fund Ordinance, the EMSTF charges government departments for design and technical consultancy services for E&M installations provided by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department (EMSD). The services rendered for this project include carrying out the design on all E&M installations and providing technical advice to the Government on all E&M works and their impacts on the project from maintenance and general operation points of view.

representatives of four schools in the School Village and the three schools located along the Road near the Junction on 23 May 2002 and they also supported the early implementation of the project.

11. The then Regional Highway Engineer / Kowloon, under delegated authority from the Secretary for Environment, Transport and Work, authorised the project as minor works under the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance on 6 June 2002.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The project is a non-designated project under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance and will not cause long-term environmental impact. During construction, we will control noise, dust and site run-off nuisances to within established standards and guidelines through the implementation of mitigation measures in the relevant contracts. We estimate the cost of implementing the short-term environmental mitigation measures to be \$140,000 and have included this cost in the overall project estimate.

13. The proposed footbridge construction works will involve removal of four trees including one tree to be felled and three trees to be transplanted elsewhere. All trees to be removed are not important trees⁴. We will incorporate planting proposals as part of the project, including estimated quantities of seven trees and 900 shrubs.

LAND ACQUISITION

14. The proposed works do not require land acquisition.

WAY FORWARD

15. We intend to submit the project to the Public Works Sub-committee and the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council in April 2004 and May 2004 respectively for upgrading the project to Category A.

⁴ Important trees refers to trees on the Register of Old and Valuable Trees, and any other trees which meet one or more of the following criteria –

⁽a) trees over 100 years old;

⁽b) trees of cultural, historical or memorable significance;

⁽c) trees of precious or rare species;

⁽d) trees of outstanding form; or

⁽e) trees with trunk diameter exceeding one metre (measured at one metre above ground level).

Subject to funding approval, we plan to start the construction works in August 2004 for completion in February 2006.

ADVICE SOUGHT

16. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Environment, Transport and Works Bureau March 2004

