

政府總部
香港下亞厘畢道
中區政府合署



Government Secretariat
Central Government Offices
Lower Albert Road
Hong Kong
電話號碼 Tel. No.: 2810 2087
傳真號碼 Fax No.: 2121 1468

本函檔號 Our Ref. : TC 22/24/10/5
來函檔號 Your Ref. :

By Fax : 2869 6794

18 February 2008

Clerk to the Public Works Subcommittee
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn : Mr Anthony Chu)

Dear Mr Chu,

**Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC)
Follow-up to meeting on 30 January 2008**

In response to the questions raised by Members when discussing the proposed enhancement of footbridges in Tsim Sha Tsui East (Paper PWSC(2007-08)73) during the Public Works Subcommittee meeting on 30 January 2008, we have sought inputs from relevant bureaux and departments and their advice is set out below -

1. Policy of consulting the relevant committees/organizations representing the interest of people with disabilities on all capital works proposals

New road/footbridge projects are designed to standards which take full cognizance of the requirements for access for the disabled. For projects where existing access for disabled persons will be affected and reprovisioned in other manner, the Administration will consult the Sub-committee on Access under the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee. In particular, the design proposals for capital works road/footbridge projects should also be passed to the Sub-committee for comments.

- 2 -

All building projects of the Architectural Services Department are required to comply with the established standards under the prevailing legislation on the provision of facilities for the disabled, including Reg 72 of Building (Planning) Regulations (Cap 123F), and the Design Manual for Barrier Free Access 1997.

Only in special circumstances will deviations from the established standards be considered. In such cases, the Director of Architectural Services will consider such deviations, based on the justifications and special circumstances of each individual project, and consult the Advisory Committee on Barrier Free Access established under the Buildings Department. The membership of the Advisory Committee on Barrier Free Access comprises representatives from user groups of the disabled.

In addition to the above consultation practice, various organizations for the disabled are represented in the Working Group on Access to Public Transport by People with Disabilities under the Transport Department. The results of the deliberations in this regular forum will be taken into account in updating standards, such as the relevant parts of the Transport Planning and Design Manual, adopted in civil engineering projects.

2. Preliminary plan for carrying out the lift retrofitting works for footbridges in different locations across the territory

According to the Highways Department, there were about 150 footbridge structures in the territory without disabled access as at December 2001. Most of these footbridge structures were completed before 1990s. The Highways Department conducted a preliminary investigation on these structures in 2001 and consulted the rehabilitation associations on the priorities of retrofitting in 2002 and 2006. Among these footbridge structures, 60 have been identified as suitable for carrying out retrofitting works while the remaining ones are either located near to alternative crossing facilities for the disabled or technically infeasible for retrofitting.

As at 1 February 2008, out of the 60 identified footbridge structures, 16 have already been retrofitted with lifts; 5 are having the retrofitting works in progress; 8 are under design; and 31 are having their works under detailed investigation. It is anticipated that the retrofitting works for all the 60 selected footbridges will be

- 3 -

completed by 2012. The Administration will continue to review the need and feasibility of retrofitting lifts for other footbridges in the territory.

3. Details of the proposed footbridge network in Kowloon Bay

The Administration has received a proposal from a private developer to fund, design, build, manage and maintain a footbridge system linking Mass Transit Railway Kowloon Bay Station to the various lots along Lam Fung Street, Wang Chiu Road, Wang Tai Road and Sheung Yuet Road. The proposed footbridge system intends to link up various lots in Kowloon Bay and to provide landing facilities, with lifts or escalators, at public footpaths adjacent to building premises. The conceptual layout of the system was circulated to the Kwun Tong District Council in May 2007. Members did not raise in-principle objection to the scheme. The footbridge proposal is being finalized by the private developer in consultation with relevant Government departments. The Administration will continue to provide advice on and examine the proposed system as appropriate.

I should be grateful if you would convey the above information to Members of the Public Works Subcommittee for their reference.

Yours sincerely,



(Mrs Winifred Chung)

for Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development

c.c. SFST (Attn : Mr Davey Chung)
STH (Attn : Miss Trinky Chan)
SDEV (Attn : Mr K C Lam)
DH_y