

政府總部
運輸及房屋局
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14 April 2008

Clerk to Public Works Subcommittee
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn : Ms Rosalind MA)

Dear Rosalind,

**Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC)
Follow-up to meeting on 20 February 2008**

I am writing to provide supplementary information in response to your letter dated 28 February 2008 relaying the request of Hon Emily Lau for an open design competition for the noise barriers to be installed along Tuen Mun Road under the proposed "Reconstruction and Improvement of Tuen Mun Road" project (the Project) (Paper PWSC(2007-08)88

The concerned departments are fully aware of the need to minimize the visual impacts of noise barriers on their neighbouring environment. Aesthetic inputs from architects and/or landscape architects are mandatory for the design of noise barriers in all highways projects and noise barrier design proposals are subject to the scrutiny of the Advisory Committee on Appearance of Bridges and Associated Structures (ACABAS)¹, which provides professional advice on the aesthetic issues of highway bridges and associated structures. The proposed noise barriers under the Project were approved by the ACABAS. While meeting the requirements of noise reduction and overcoming site constraints, the structural forms, patterns, shapes, colours and materials for the proposed noise barriers and enclosures have been carefully designed to achieve

¹ The ACABAS is made up of experts from Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Hong Kong Institute of Planners, Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, academic institutions (i.e. representative from either The University of Hong Kong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong or The Hong Kong Polytechnic University) as well as architects, landscape architects and engineers from government departments.

high aesthetic quality. Enclosed at **Annex** are photomontages of selected sections of noise barriers and enclosures of the Project.

We wish to point out that design competitions are usually being conducted for standalone structures. For isolated parts of highways structures, such as noise barriers being part of road embankments, separate design may adversely affect the design process and design quality of a project as a whole. In addition, the competition process will generally take about one year to complete. Considering that the timely implementation of the Project is crucial to improving the overall operation of Tuen Mun Road and the current proposed design of noise barriers under the Project is having high aesthetic quality, we consider it inappropriate and unnecessary to defer the programme of the Project by around one year for holding a competition to re-design the noise barriers.

Despite the above, the Highway Department is always mindful of the need to continue with the improvement of the appearance of noise barriers. An open design competition is being planned to come up with more aesthetically vibrant designs for noise barriers under different cityscape settings for future reference. The Highways Department will consult the industry, universities and professional institutes in the coming months on the implementation plan of the competition.

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

Yours sincerely,



(Kevin LAI)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c. SFST (Attn : Mr Davey Chung)
 SEN (Attn : Mr C W Tse)
 DHy (Attn: Ms Mo Sau)





Existing Road



Layout Plan

Legend:

- █ Proposed Semi Noise Enclosure
- View Point



SCALE	-	DATE	MARCH 2007	
DRAWN	-	DESIGN	-	
DATE	9B905	SCALE	5.3	REV