

By Fax : 2869 6794

4 June 2009

Clerk to Panel on Development
Legislative Council Secretariat
3rd floor, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road, Central
Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Anita SIT)

Dear Anita,

Panel on Development
Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link
(the Trunk Road)
Follow-up on Request Made by Members at the Meeting on 26 May 2009

I write to provide supplementary information at **Enclosure** in response to the request made by Members at the above meeting for more information on the measures for minimizing the impact on the traffic during construction of the Trunk Road (LC Paper No. CB(1)1634/08-09(03)). I should be grateful if you would distribute the supplementary information to Members of the Panel on Development and the Public Works Subcommittee for their reference.

Yours sincerely,

(Eric TANG)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c. SFST (Attn: Ms Phoebe NG)
DHy (Attn: Ms Sau MO)

**PWP Item 579TH –
Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link
(the Trunk Road)**

**Measures for Minimizing the Impact on the Traffic
During Construction of the Trunk Road**

The construction of the Trunk Road is scheduled to start at the end of this year, and will be completed in early 2017. Details of the measures to be adopted to minimize traffic impact during the construction are as follows –

- (a) we shall conduct traffic impact assessment on the temporary traffic arrangements (TTAs) of the project. For the major TTAs, especially those that involve lane closures, relevant District Councils (DCs) will be consulted before their implementation. A traffic management liaison group (TMLG) comprising representatives of the Highways Department, the Police, the Transport Department (TD) and other concerned Government departments will be set up to assess the TTAs to be proposed by the contractors ;
- (b) the same number of traffic lanes in each direction of the Island Eastern Corridor (IEC) will be maintained between 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. throughout the construction period to minimize the traffic impacts caused by the construction of the IEC Link. For this purpose, a temporary vehicular bridge for traffic diversion will be provided during the modification works of the IEC and the construction sequence of the IEC Link will be carefully planned. To facilitate the safe demolition of the existing central divider of the IEC for traffic diversion, lane closures will be implemented at night time or during non-working days. We will minimise the lane closures as far as practicable ;
- (c) under the TTAs, the contractors are required to designate the routes for towing and emergency vehicles to ensure their early arrival at the scene in case of traffic incidents. The contractors are also required to arrange standby towing vehicles at strategic locations to facilitate timely removal of broken-down vehicles so that normal traffic can be resumed as soon as practicable ;

- (d) the contractors are also required to prepare Traffic Management Contingency Plans (TMCPs) in the event of incidents leading to partial or full closure of roads within the works areas and the existing IEC road networks. The TMCPs will set out the possible traffic incident scenarios, preparation of associated contingency traffic management measures, accident/incident reporting procedures and proposed allocation of resources of rescue teams. To facilitate the implementation of the contingency traffic management measures, the contractors will also be required to have relevant information signages and traffic signs ready on site. The TMCPs will be submitted to the TMLG for comments and approval before the commencement of works. Public consultations on the TMCPs through the relevant District Councils will also be conducted when necessary ; and
- (e) in case of traffic incidents within the works areas, the incident reporting procedures will be followed and depending on the extent of impacts to the road networks, the following actions will be taken –
 - (i) TD will maintain close dialogue with the relevant public transport operators and request the railway operator to reinforce the MTR services when necessary;
 - (ii) TD will consider using variable message signs installed at Gloucester Road to disseminate to motorists real-time traffic information;
 - (iii) depending on the situation, TD will advise motorists to take alternative routes and encourage the use of public transport through radio or other media; and
 - (iv) the contractor will be required to mobilize resources and equipments to assist the clearance of incidents and resumption of traffic as soon as practicable.

2. The IEC is a major thoroughfare on Hong Kong Island. We shall monitor the TTAs very closely to ensure they are implemented effectively and the disruption to traffic is kept to the minimum.