LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PANEL ON DEVELOPMENT

PWP Item No. 268RS Cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun

PURPOSE

This paper seeks Members' views on our proposal to upgrade part of **268RS** "Cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun" to Category A at an estimated cost of \$28.2 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices to carry out detailed design and site investigation works for the proposed cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Ting Kau and a review of the alignment of a new cycle track between Ting Kau and Tuen Mun. A progress update on other sections of cycle track is also provided in the paper.

OVERALL PROGRESS

- 2. For early enjoyment by the public, we have been making effort in implementing a comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories (at **Enclosure 1**) comprising -
 - (a) a **backbone section** with a total length of about 82 kilometres (km) made up of two sections
 - (i) **Tuen Mun Ma On Shan section** of about 60 km in length starting from Tuen Mun in the west and connecting via Yuen Long, Sheung Shui, Fanling, Tai Po and Sha Tin to Ma On Shan in the east (under **259RS** and **271RS**); and
 - (ii) **Tsuen Wan Tuen Mun section** of about 22 km in length running along the waterfront between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun (under **268RS**);
 - (b) **branching off sections** from the backbone with a total length of about 23 km including extensions from Tuen Mun to Lung Kwu Tan, Ma On Shan to Sai Kung and Yuen Long to Nam Sang Wai (under **265RS**).
- 3. In view of the considerable length and wide stretching for the cycle track network, the proposed works are implemented in phases. A progress update on

the implementation of various sections of the cycle track network is provided as follows-

- (a) Tuen Mun Ma On Shan backbone section is being taken forward in two phases. The first phase covering the sub-section between Sheung Shui and Ma On Shan commenced construction in May 2010 for completion in early 2013. As for the second phase covering the sub-section between Tuen Mun and Sheung Shui, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the EIA Ordinance (Chapter 499) and detailed design are in progress. In view of the experience gained from the first phase, we would need to critically review and improve the design of the project works so as to minimize possible local objections.
- (b) The investigation and preliminary design of the Tsuen Wan Tuen Mun backbone section are in progress and scheduled for completion in end December 2011. We plan to carry out detailed design and site investigation works for the sub-section between Tsuen Wan and Ting Kau in June 2012. As for the sub-section between Ting Kau and Tuen Mun, we will in response to the public views received during the public consultation conducted in 2009, review the alignment of this sub-section and carry out further public consultation. Details of the proposed works are provided in paragraphs 4 to 6 below.
- (c) Branching off sections are also in the investigation and preliminary design stage with different progress for different sections. In particular, for the branching off sections extended from Yuen Long to Nam Sang Wai and from Ma On Shan to Sai Kung, we are conducting EIA and will carry out further public consultation under the EIA Ordinance. We plan to proceed with the detailed design after completion of the EIA in mid 2012.

PROPOSAL

- 4. We are implementing the proposed section of cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun as mentioned in paragraph 3(b) above in phases with higher priority for those sections supported by the local community so as to bring forward the completion of individual sections for early public enjoyment. We plan to implement the proposed section of cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun by three phases -
 - (a) Advance Works: a new cycle track with footpath of about 2.3 km long from Tsing Tsuen Bridge to Bayview Garden;
 - (b) Stage 1 Works: a new cycle track with footpath of about 4.5 km long from Bayview Garden to Ting Kau; and

- (c) Stage 2 Works: a new cycle track with footpath of about 15.2 km long from Ting Kau to Tuen Mun.
- 5. We plan to seek Members' advice and support on our proposal to upgrade part of **268RS** (the Assignment) to Category A at an estimated cost of \$28.2 million in MOD prices to carry out detailed design and site investigation works. The scope of the Assignment includes
 - (a) detailed design, preparation of tender documents, assessment of tenders and associated site investigation works and supervision of the Advance Works and Stage 1 Works, including -
 - (i) the new cycle track with footpath;
 - (ii) supporting facilities including entry/exit hubs and resting stations; and
 - (iii) associated landscaping, traffic aids and ancillary works;
 - (b) an EIA¹ for the Stage 1 Works; and
 - (c) a review of the alignment of the Stage 2 Works and subsequent public consultation work.
- A location plan of the proposed cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun is at **Enclosure 2**. Subject to funding approval by the Finance Committee (FC), we plan to start the Assignment in June 2012 for completion in December 2015. Among the three phases, the proposed detailed design and site investigation works for the Advance Works is planned for completion in August 2013 with a view to implementation of the section for enjoyment of the public at the earliest.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. We estimate the cost of the Assignment to be \$28.2 million in MOD prices, made up as follows –

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The section of cycle track between Tsing Tsuen Bridge and Bayview Garden, i.e. Advance Works, is not a designated project under the EIA Ordinance and therefore only a preliminary environmental review (PER) is required to address the environmental issues for this section. The PER will be completed in end December 2011.

\$ million

(a)	Consultants' fees		18.3	
	(i) Detailed design	13.0		
	(ii) Preparation of tender documents and assessment of tenders	1.3		
	(iii) Review of the alignment of Stage 2 Works	2.0		
	(iv) EIA for Stage 1 Works	1.3		
	(v) Supervision of site investigation works	0.7		
(b)	Site investigation works		3.5	
(c)	Contingencies		2.2	
	Sub-total		24.0	(in September 2011 prices)
(d)	Provision for price adjustment		4.2	
	Total		28.2	(in MOD prices)

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

8. In respect of **268RS**, we consulted the public extensively in 2009, including holding two public consultation forums on 7 February and 16 May 2009 respectively. We had also consulted Tsuen Wan District Council (TWDC) and Tuen Mun District Council (TMDC), various cyclist groups, area committees, nearby housing estates as well as the general public. While the public generally supports the proposed cycle track, residents of some private residential developments at Sham Tseng and So Kwun Wat do not support the proposed cycle track alignment in vicinity of their developments as they consider that it might cause public safety problems and

adverse impacts on the living environment. On 1 September 2009, the District Facilities Management Committee of TWDC supported carrying out those sections of the proposed cycle track of no controversies. While the Environment, Hygiene and District Development Committee of TMDC also supported the proposed cycle track at its meeting on 25 September 2009, it suggested the Government to further review its alignment in order to address the residents' concerns. A Legislative Council case conference was also held on 14 June 2010 regarding the objections from the residents to the cycle track alignment. The Members attending the meeting considered that the Government should continue to liaise with these residents with a view to balancing the views of all parties concerned. We have been regularly updating the TWDC and TMDC on the progress of the proposed cycle track.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9. The proposed detailed design and site investigation works will not have any environmental implications. We will complete the preliminary environmental review for Advance Works in end December 2011. The proposed Stage 1 Works and Stage 2 Works are designated projects under Schedule 2 of the EIA Ordinance and require environmental permits prior to their construction and operation. We will carry out the EIA for Stage 1 Works in parallel with the detailed design to assess the environmental acceptability of the proposals and, where necessary, formulate appropriate mitigation measures. The EIA for Stage 2 Works will be carried out separately after the review of the Stage 2 cycle track alignment.
- 10. The proposed site investigation works will only generate very little construction waste. We will require the consultants to fully consider measures to minimise the generation of construction waste and to reuse/recycle construction waste as much as possible in the future implementation of the construction projects.

HERITAGE IMPLICATIONS

11. Heritage Impact Assessment for the proposed works will be carried out under the EIA in parallel with the detailed design.

LAND ACQUISITION

12. The proposed detailed design and site investigation works will not require land acquisition.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

13. We upgraded **268RS** to Category B in November 2007.

- 14. In September 2008, we engaged consultants to undertake the investigation and preliminary design for the project at an estimated cost of \$17.5 million chargeable to the block allocation **Subhead 7100CX** "New towns and urban area works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme". We will complete the investigation and preliminary design in end December 2011.
- 15. The proposed consultancy and site investigation works under **268RS** will not involve any tree removal or planting proposals. We will require the consultants to take into consideration the need for tree preservation and formulate tree removal proposals during the detailed design stage of Advance Works and Stage 1 works. We will also incorporate tree planting proposals, where possible, in the construction phase.
- 16. We estimate that the proposed consultancy and site investigation works under **268RS** will create about 6 jobs (1 for labourer and another 5 for professional/technical staff), providing a total employment of 360 man-months.

WAY FORWARD

17. Subject to support of this Panel, we will seek the endorsement of the Public Works Subcommittee in January 2012 and approval by the FC in April 2012 for part upgrading of **268RS** to Category A.

ATTACHMENTS

Enclosure 1 Proposed Cycle Track Network in the New Territories

Enclosure 2 Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun

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Development Bureau Civil Engineering and Development Department December 2011



