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Panel on Development

Meeting on 22 July 2015

**Updated background brief on the development of
a cycle track network in the New Territories**

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the development of a cycle track network in the New Territories ("NT") and summarizes the views and concerns expressed by Members on the subject at the meetings of the Legislative Council and its committees since the 2007-2008 legislative session.

Background

2. To enhance the recreational value of the cycle tracks in the NT and enable public enjoyment, the Development Bureau pledged in the 2007-2008 Policy Agenda to develop a comprehensive cycle track network in the NT by connecting individual sections of cycle tracks into a continuous network. The location of the proposed NT cycle track network is shown in **Appendix I**.

Current status of construction of various sections of the proposed cycle track network

3. According to the Administration¹, the proposed cycle track network broadly comprises a backbone section of 82 kilometres ("km") and

¹ Source: The Administration's paper on "PWP Item No. 259RS -- Cycle Tracks Connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories" (LC Paper No. CB(1)862/12-13(03))

branching-off sections of 22 km from the backbone section. In view of the considerable length of the network, the project is implemented in phases. An outline of the current status of various sections of the proposed cycle track network is in **Appendix II**.

4. The backbone section is made up of mainly two sections, viz (a) the 22-km Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun section; and (b) the 60-km Tuen Mun to Ma On Shan section.

The Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun section

5. The Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun section is planned to be implemented in three phases comprising the advance works (from Tsing Tsuen Bridge to Bayview Garden in Tsuen Wan), the Stage 1 works (from Bayview Garden to Ting Kau) and the Stage 2 works (from Ting Kau to Tuen Mun). At present, the detailed design for the advance works is underway, and a review of the alignment of the Stage 1 and Stage 2 works is in progress².

The Tuen Mun to Ma On Shan section

Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan

6. The Tuen Mun to Ma On Shan section is being taken forward in two phases. The construction works of the first phase covering the eastern section between Sheung Shui and Ma On Shan were completed in March 2014.

Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui

7. As for the second phase covering the western section between Tuen Mun and Sheung Shui, the construction works are carried out in two stages:

- (a) *The Stage 1 works* -- They comprise the whole western section (except a 13.5-km section between Kam Tin River and Sheung Yue River) and are expected to be completed by end 2016.
- (b) *The remaining works* -- They covered the aforementioned 13.5-km section between Kam Tin River and Sheung Yue River, and the works have not yet commenced.

² Source: The Administration's replies to Members' Initial Written Questions for Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2015-2016 -- Reply Serial No. DEVB(W)222

8. The location of the Stage 1 and the remaining works of the Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui section is shown in **Appendix III**.

Branching-off sections

9. For the branching-off sections, they include extensions from Yuen Long to Nam Sang Wai, Ma On Shan to Sai Kung, Tuen Mun to Lung Kwu Tan, and a section at Sam Mun Tsai. These sections are in various stages of investigation and preliminary design³.

Members' views and concerns on the development of the proposed cycle track network

10. The proposals of constructing the various sections of the proposed cycle track network were discussed at the meetings of the Panel on Development ("DEV Panel") in April 2009, December 2011 and April 2013. The relevant funding proposals were subsequently endorsed by the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC") and approved by the Finance Committee. The major views and concerns expressed by Members on the subject matter at the above meetings of DEV Panel and PWSC are summarized in the ensuing paragraphs.

Policy on the use of bicycles

11. Some Members asked whether the Administration had any plan to incorporate cycle tracks in Hong Kong as part of the transport system and encourage the use of bicycles as a means of transportation by setting up automatic rental facilities for the public to rent and return bicycles at different places along the cycle tracks. In reply, the Administration advised that the NT cycle track network was designed and intended for leisure and recreational purposes rather than as a means of transportation. In addition to the provision of bicycles rental services at the existing cycle track connecting Sha Tin and Tai Po, bicycles rental kiosks would be set up at the entry/exit hubs along the new cycle tracks.

Alignment of the cycle tracks

12. Expressing support for the development of a cycle track network in

³ Source: The Administration's paper on "PWP Item No. 259RS -- Cycle Tracks Connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories" (LC Paper No. CB(1)862/12-13(03))

the NT, some Members urged the Administration to implement the project as soon as possible and enquired about the possibility of using the cycle tracks for promoting cycling tourism. The Administration advised that, to expedite the construction works of the cycle track network for early public enjoyment, the less difficult and less controversial sections would be constructed first. Moreover, the Hong Kong Tourism Board ("HKTB") had promoted selected cycling tour routes in Hong Kong to visitors via its marketing platform. HKTB believed that upon the full completion of the NT cycle track network, the overall cycling experience enjoyed by the public would be enhanced, thereby helping promote cycling tourism.

13. Members have expressed concerns on the proposed alignment of the NT cycle track network. For example, some Members asked about the environmental impact of the proposed remaining works of the Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui section on the egretty at Hop Shing Wai and suggested that the Administration should consider other alignment options to address the issue. As for the Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun section, Members noted that residents of some private residential developments at Sham Tseng and So Kwun Wat were opposed to the proposed cycle track alignment in the vicinity of their developments, as they considered that the alignment might cause public safety problems and adverse impact on their living environment. As such, Members requested the Administration to step up efforts to engage the District Councils concerned and the affected residents in working out an acceptable alignment.

14. The Administration advised that it was exploring with environmental groups various options to minimize the impact of cycling activities on the egretty at Hop Shing Wai, such as planting new trees to attract the egrets to relocate their nests away from the proposed cycle track alignment or providing covers to the proposed alignment. However, the Administration considered the option of finding an alternative alignment for this section of cycle track infeasible as it would involve large-scale resumption of private land. As regards the proposed Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun section, the Administration explained that the alignment was subject to difficult topographical constraints and a consultancy study to review the alignment was being conducted. The Administration had also held discussions with local residents and arranged site visits with local District Council members to gauge their views on the alignment options.

Cycling safety

15. Some Members raised concerns on various aspects of cycling safety relating to the design of cycle tracks, including the width of the cycle

tracks, the design of bollards, the provision of emergency assistance/first-aid facilities along the cycle tracks, and safety measures adopted at the junctions between the cycle tracks and the pedestrian crossings/vehicular run-in/out.

16. The Administration replied that it would endeavour to enhance cyclists' awareness of safe cycling through public education and law enforcement. On the design of cycle tracks, the Administration advised that the proposed width of the cycle tracks at four metres was designed in accordance with the standards promulgated by the Transport Department. The existing steel bollards would be gradually replaced by plastic collapsible bollards in phases. Stopping places for emergency vehicles and first-aid kiosks would also be provided at suitable locations along the cycle tracks. Moreover, warning signs would be erected at the junctions between the cycle tracks and the pedestrian crossings/vehicular run-in/out to alert cyclists of the proper ways for crossing the junctions.

Provision of supporting facilities along the cycle tracks

17. Some Members considered that the facilities at the entry/exit hubs and resting stations along the cycle tracks should meet the present-day needs of cyclists and reflect the local characteristics of the surrounding areas, while other Members opined that these facilities should be barrier-free and friendly to people with disabilities.

18. The Administration advised that that it had consulted some cycling organizations on the facilities to be provided at the hubs and resting stations. Facilities such as bicycles rental/repair kiosks, bicycles parking spaces, information boards, refreshment kiosks and toilets would be provided where appropriate. The design of these facilities would also meet the barrier-free requirements and reflect the local characteristics of the surrounding areas as far as possible.

Bicycles parking facilities

19. Some Members pointed out that many residents in the NT used bicycles for daily commuting to and from railway stations but there were insufficient bicycles parking spaces near these stations. They also expressed concern about the Administration's measures against illegal parking of bicycles.

20. The Administration advised that it would provide sufficient bicycles parking spaces to facilitate park-and-ride where possible.

For example, double-deck bicycle parking racks had been put on trial in the vicinity of Fanling and Sheung Shui MTR stations. Besides, some 1 200 existing bicycles parking spaces were provided at the MTR West Rail stations and 600 additional parking spaces would be constructed. On the measures to tackle illegal parking of bicycles, the Administration advised that under section 6 of the Land (Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Cap. 28), the Lands Department could remove properties from unleased land after posting a notice for a certain period, normally two days. Joint enforcement actions by various government departments would be taken to remove illegally parked bicycles from time to time.

Latest development

21. The Administration will seek DEV Panel's support for upgrading PWP Item No. 259RS to Category A for the construction of the remaining works of the Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui section of the NT cycle track network at the meeting to be held on 22 July 2015.

Relevant papers

22. A list of relevant papers with their hyperlinks is in **Appendix IV**.

擬建的新界單車徑網絡
The proposed cycle track network in the New Territories



資料來源：政府當局就"工務計劃項目第259RS號——連接新界西北及新界東北之單車徑"提交的文件(立法會CB(1)914/12-13(01)號文件)
Source: The Administration's paper on "PWP Item No. 259RS -- Cycle Tracks Connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories" (LC Paper No. CB(1)914/12-13(01))

The current status of various sections of the proposed cycle track network in the New Territories

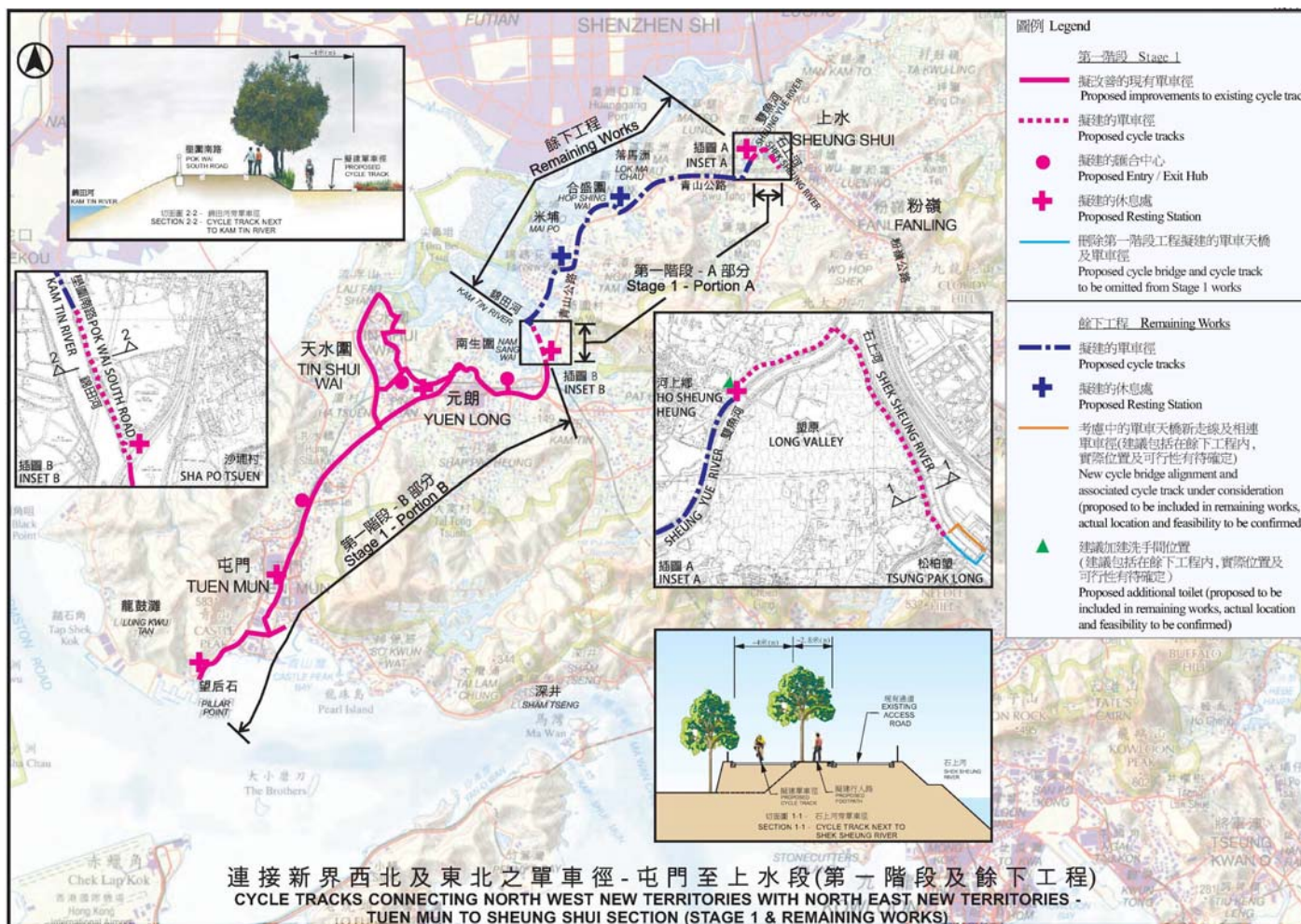
Backbone section⁽¹⁾	Sub-section	Public works programme item	Date of meeting of the Finance Committee at which the funding was approved	Approved project estimate (\$ million)	Current status	Completion date
(A) Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun	Advance works (Tsing Tsuen Bridge to Bayview Garden in Tsuen Wan)	Upgrading of part of PWP Item No. 268RS, as 276RS, entitled "Cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun -- detailed design and site investigation (advance and stage 1 works)" to Category A	13 April 2012	28.2	Detailed design in progress	Under review
	Stage 1 works (Bayview Garden to Ting Kau)				Alignment review in progress	
	Stage 2 works (Ting Kau to Tuen Mun)					

Note: (1) The branching-off sections (under PWP Item No. 265RS) are still under planning/review and the item has not yet been upgraded to Category A.

Backbone section	Sub-section	Public works programme item	Date of meeting of the Finance Committee at which the funding was approved	Approved project estimate (\$ million)	Current status	Completion date
(B) Tuen Mun to Ma On Shan	Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan	Upgrading of part of PWP Item No. 259RS, as 271RS, entitled "Cycle tracks connecting North West NT with North East NT -- Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan section" to Category A	5 June 2009	230.3	Completed	March 2014
	Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui -- Stage 1 works	Upgrading of part of PWP Item No. 259RS, as 279RS, entitled "Cycle tracks connecting North West NT with North East NT -- Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui section (Stage 1)" to Category A	5 July 2013	295.4	Construction in progress	End-2016 (expected)
	Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui -- Remaining works	Upgrading of part of PWP Item No. 259RS entitled "Cycle tracks connecting North West NT with North East NT -- Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui section (Remaining)" to Category A	End-2015 (expected)	890.9	Detailed design in progress and construction scheduled to commence in end-2015 subject to funding approval	End-2019 (expected)

Sources: (a) The Administration's replies to Members' Initial Written Questions for Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2015-16 -- Reply Serial No. DEVB(W)222; and (b) the Administration's papers to the Finance Committee (LC Paper Nos. FCR(2009-10)19, FCR(2012-13)2 and FCR(2013-14)25)

連接新界西北及新界東北之單車徑 —— 屯門至上水段單車徑(第一階段及餘下工程)
Cycle tracks connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories --
Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui section (Stage 1 and remaining works)



資料來源：政府當局就“工務計劃項目第259RS號 —— 連接新界西北及新界東北之單車徑”提交的文件(立法會CB(1)862/12-13(03)號文件)
Source: The Administration's paper on "PWP Item No. 259RS -- Cycle Tracks Connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories" (LC Paper No. CB(1)862/12-13(03))

The development of a cycle track network in the New Territories

List of relevant papers

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Development	27 May 2008	<p>Administration's paper on "Cycle Track Network in the New Territories" [LC Paper No. CB(1)1602/07-08(07)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/plw/papers/dev0527cb1-1602-7-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(1)2309/07-08] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/plw/minutes/de080527.pdf</p>
Panel on Development	28 April 2009	<p>Administration's paper on "PWP Item No. 259RS -- Cycle Tracks Connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories" [LC Paper No. CB(1)1347/08-09(04)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/dev/papers/dev0428cb1-1347-4-e.pdf</p> <p>Administration's follow-up paper [LC Paper No. CB(1)1607/08-09(01)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/dev/papers/dev0428cb1-1607-1-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(1)2336/08-09] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/dev/minutes/dev20090428.pdf</p>

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Public Works Subcommittee	20 May 2009	<p>Administration's paper on "Head 707 -- New Towns and Urban Area Development 259RS -- Cycle Tracks Connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories" [LC Paper No. PWSC(2009-10)27] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/fc/pwsc/papers/p09-27e.pdf</p> <p>Administration's follow-up paper [LC Paper No. PWSC106/08-09] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/fc/pwsc/papers/pwsc0520pws-c-106-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. PWSC113/08-09] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/fc/pwsc/minutes/pwsc20090520.pdf</p>
Finance Committee	5 June 2009	<p>Administration's paper on "Recommendations of the Public Works Subcommittee made on 20 May 2009" [LC Paper No. FCR(2009-10)19] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/fc/fc/papers/f09-19e.pdf</p> <p>Administration's follow-up paper [LC Paper No. FC130/08-09] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/fc/fc/papers/fc0605fc-130-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. FC7/09-10] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/fc/fc/minutes/fc20090605.pdf</p>

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Development	19 December 2011	<p>Administration's paper on "PWP Item No. 268RS -- Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun" [LC Paper No. CB(1)599/11-12(06)] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/panels/dev/papers/dev1219cb1-599-6-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(1)1346/11-12] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/panels/dev/minutes/dev20111219.pdf</p>
Public Works Subcommittee	9 January 2012	<p>Administration's paper on "Head 707 -- New Towns and Urban Area Development 268RS -- Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun" [LC Paper No. PWSC(2011-12)44] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/fc/pwsc/papers/p11-44e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. PWSC43/11-12] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/fc/pwsc/minutes/pwsc20120109.pdf</p>
Finance Committee	13 April 2012	<p>Administration's paper on "Recommendations of the Public Works Subcommittee made on 9 January 2012" [LC Paper No. FCR(2012-13)2] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/fc/fc/papers/f12-02e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. FC175/11-12] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/fc/fc/minutes/fc20120413.pdf</p>

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Council meeting	24 October 2012	<p>Hansard -- written question (No. 13) on "Cycle Track Network" (p. 628 - 633)</p> <p>http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/counmtg/hansard/cm1024-translate-e.pdf</p>
Panel on Development	23 April 2013	<p>Administration's paper on "PWP Item No. 259RS -- Cycle Tracks Connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories" [LC Paper No. CB(1)862/12-13(03)]</p> <p>http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/dev/papers/dev0423cb1-862-3-e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. CB(1)1787/12-13]</p> <p>http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/panels/dev/minutes/dev20130423.pdf</p>
Public Works Subcommittee	5 June 2013	<p>Administration's paper on "Head 707 -- New Towns and Urban Area Development 259RS -- Cycle Tracks Connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories" [LC Paper No. PWSC(2013-14)16]</p> <p>http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/fc/pwsc/papers/p13-16e.pdf</p> <p>Administration's follow-up paper [LC Paper No. PWSC76/12-13(01)]</p> <p>http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/fc/pwsc/papers/pwsc0605pwc-76-1-e.pdf</p>

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
		<p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. PWSC79/12-13] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/fc/pwsc/minutes/pwsc20130605.pdf</p>
Finance Committee	5 July 2013	<p>Administration's paper on "Recommendations of the Public Works Subcommittee made on 5 June 2013" [LC Paper No. FCR(2013-14)25] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/fc/fc/papers/f13-25e.pdf</p> <p>Minutes of meeting [LC Paper No. FC25/13-14] http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/fc/fc/minutes/fc20130705.pdf</p>
Council meeting	9 October 2013	<p>Hansard -- written question (No. 13) on "Promotion of Cycling Tourism" (p. 114 - 118) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr13-14/english/counmtg/hansard/cm1009-translate-e.pdf</p>
Council meeting	12 February 2014	<p>Hansard -- written question (No. 18) on "Development of Cycle Track Networks" (p. 6193 - 6204) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr13-14/english/counmtg/hansard/cm0212-translate-e.pdf</p>
Finance Committee special meeting	1 April 2015	<p>Administration's replies to Members' Initial Written Questions -- Reply Serial No. DEVB(W)222 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr14-15/english/fc/fc/w_q/devb-w-e.pdf</p>