## **Environmental Protection Department Branch Office**

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Clerk to Public Works Subcommittee Legislative Council Secretariat Legislative Council Building 8 Jackson Road. Central, Hong Kong

(Attn: Ms. Rosalind MA)

4 May 2007

Dear Ms. MA.

## **Public Works Subcommittee** Follow-up to meeting on 18 April 2007 (Item PWSC(2007-08)4)

I refer to your letter ref. CB1/F/2/6(II) of 20 April 2007 related to us by the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau on the captioned PWSC item. In considering PWSC(2007-08)4 on 764TH, 765TH and 776TH at the PWSC meeting on 18 April 2007, Members required the Administration to:

- (a) provide supplementary information on the work progress in respect of the 35 existing road sections identified by the Government for which preliminary investigations had shown that retrofitting works of noise barriers were technically feasible;
- (b) arrange a meeting with Hon Albert CHAN to examine the feasibility of incorporating more greening measures for the proposed noise barriers on Tsing Tsuen Bridge at Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan approaches; and
- (c) re-consider the material to be used for the noise barriers on Yuen Shin Road, Tai Po, including the use of more transparent materials instead of the noise barrier materials recovered from the Tolo Highway Widening Project, so that the barriers could blend in with the environment.

Please note the response of the Administration in the ensuing paragraphs.

Since the introduction of the policy in 2000 to address the noise impact of existing roads on residents in their neighbourhood, the Administration has been regularly reviewing the need for and feasibility of retrofitting noise barriers on suitable existing road sections. At present, noise barrier retrofit projects for 35 existing road sections have been included in the Public Works Programme. Retrofitting works along two sections of Fanling Highway near Choi Yuen Estate and Fanling Centre have been completed in February 2006. Retrofitting works for Cheung Pei Shan Road commenced in September 2005 and are scheduled for completion in 2008.

Funds for retrofitting works along another 32 existing roads sections have been earmarked. These projects will be implemented within the next five years. A list of the 35 projects, included those completed (two road sections), under construction (one road section) and earmarked with funding (32 road sections), is at **Annex A**. Subject to approval of funding by the Finance Committee, the construction works for retrofitting of noise barriers along Tsing Tsuen Bridge, two road sections of Tseung Kwan O Road, and Yuen Shin Road will commence in 2007. Funding approval for the remaining 28 projects will be sought from the Finance Committee in due course according to the progress of the detailed design and planning works.

The District Councils have given support to the retrofitting works for Kwun Tong Bypass, Sha Tin Road and two sections of Fanling Highway from Po Shek Wu Road to East Rail Fanling Station and from East Rail Fanling Station to Wo Hing Road. Detailed designs of the retrofitting works are in active progress with the construction works scheduled to commence in 2008 to 2009.

The retrofitting works for the following seven sections of Tuen Mun Road will be implemented under the project Reconstruction and Improvement of Tuen Mun Road. The works are scheduled for gazette under the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance in May 2007 with a view to starting the first construction contract in 2008.

- (i) Tsuen Wan
- (ii) Sam Shing Hui
- (iii) Yau Kom Tau
- (iv) Castle Peak Bay
- (v) Anglers' Beach
- (vi) Sham Tseng
- (vii) Tsing Lung Tau

Due to objections on the retrofitting works for Tai Chung Kiu Road, Che Kung Miu Road, Hung Miu Kuk Road and Tin Sam Street received during public consultations, the Administration is now investigating the use of low noise surfacing materials on these road sections in lieu of noise barriers. In light of the views of the district councilors and residents during public consultation, low noise surfacing materials will be used for the Ma On Shan Road project for future review of noise performance.

We plan to consult the District Councils on the implementation of retrofitting works for the remaining 12 road sections in 2007 and 2008.

With regards (b), the Administration met with the Hon Albert CHAN and Hon Patrick LAU on 27 April 2007 to discuss the feasibility of incorporating more greening measures for the proposed noise barriers at Tsing Yi and Tsuen Wan approaches of Tsing Tsuen Bridge. As discussed in the meeting, the proposed green wall at the Tsuen Wan approach end would be extended to cover the central divider. At the Tsing Yi approach, consideration would be made to build discrete planters on the footway side along the noise barrier to accommodate climbers to climb up the barrier panels.

With regards (c), the Administration has re-considered the material to be used for the noise barriers on Yuen Shin Road, Tai Po. Since the majority of the noise barriers recovered from the Tolo Highway Widening project had been used for the two road sections in Fanling Highway near Choi Yuen Estate and Fanling Centre, there would not be much choice on the colour tone of the noise barrier panels to be used for the Yuen Shin Road project. To enhance the aesthetic design, we have revised the chromatic scheme by relocating the darker coloured panels at the base of the noise barriers and increasing the proportion of transparent panels. A revised scheme showing the above enhanced measures and the originally proposed planting strip in front of the barriers is attached at **Annex B**.

(Elvis AU)

Assistant Director (Environmental Assessment) for Director of Environmental Protection

Encl. (Annexes A and B)

c.c.

Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (Attn: Mr. Jack CHAN) 2147 5240 Director of Highways (Attn: Mr. Ken WU) 2714 5198

Internal

PSE DDEP(1)

## <u>List of 35 Retrofit Projects included in the Public Works Programme</u> (as at April 2007)

Ref No.	Road Section	Remarks
1	Fanling Highway (near Choi Yuen Estate)	Works completed in Feb. 2006
2	Fanling Highway (near Fanling Centre)	Works completed in Feb. 2006
3	Cheung Pei Shan Road	Under construction
4	Yuen Shin Road (near Kwong Fuk Estate)	Works to commence in 2007
5	Tseung Kwan O Road (near Hing Tin Estate)	Works to commence in 2007
6	Tseung Kwan O Road (near Tsui Ping (South) Estate)	Works to commence in 2007
7	Tsing Tsuen Bridge (Tsuen Wan and Tsing Yi)	Works to commence in 2007
8	Tuen Mun Road (Tsuen Wan)	Works to commence in 2008
9	Tuen Mun Road (Sam Shing Hui)	Works to commence in 2008
10	Tuen Mun Road (Yau Kom Tau)	Works to commence in 2008
11	Tuen Mun Road (Castle Peak Bay)	Works to commence in 2008
12	Tuen Mun Road (Anglers' Beach)	Works to commence in 2008
13	Tuen Mun Road ( Sham Tseng)	Works to commence in 2008
14	Tuen Mun Road (Tsing Lung Tau)	Works to commence in 2008
15	Kwun Tong Bypass	Works to commence in 2008
16	Fanling Highway (Po Shek Wu Road to East Rail Fanling Station)	Works to commence in 2009
17	Fanling Highway (East Rail Fanling Station to Wo Hing Road)	Works to commence in 2009
18	Sha Tin Road	Works to commence in 2009
19	Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section)	To consult DC in 2007
20	Yuen Wo Road	To consult DC in 2007
21	Tai Po Tai Wo Road	To consult DC in 2007
22	Ma Wang Road	To consult DC in 2007
23	Chai Wan Road	To consult DC in 2007
24	Tuen Mun Road (Town Centre)	To consult DC in 2007
25	Tuen Mun Road (Fu Tei)	To consult DC in 2007
26	Po Lam Road North	To consult DC in 2008
27	Po Ning Road	To consult DC in 2008
28	Tai Po Road (Sham Shui Po)	To consult DC in 2008
29	Hoi On Road	To consult DC in 2008
30	New Clear Water Bay Road	To consult DC in 2008
31	Ma On Shan Road	Under review
32	Tai Chung Kiu Road	Under review
33	Che Kung Mui Road	Under review
34	Hung Mui Kuk Road/Che Kung Mui Road	Under review
35	Tin Sam Street	Under review

Note: DC represents District Council



<u>工務計劃項目第776TH號 - 大埔完善路加建隔音屏障工程(修訂方案)</u> PWP Item No. 776TH - Retrofitting of Noise Barriers on Yuen Shin Road, Tai Po (Revised Scheme)