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Panel on Development

Meeting on 28 April 2009

Background brief on cycle tracks in Hong Kong

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the existing and planned cycle tracks in Hong Kong and summarizes the views and concerns expressed by Members during past discussions on the subject.

Existing provision of cycling facilities in Hong Kong

2. According to the Administration, as the road network and public transport system in Hong Kong are well developed, the general road traffic is heavy and road space is limited. Based on road safety considerations, the Government does not encourage the use of bicycles as a transport mode in the urban areas. Nevertheless, in planning new towns and new development areas, the Government will consider the feasibility of providing cycle tracks and related ancillary facilities for leisure, recreational and tourism purposes as appropriate.

3. In its reply to a written question raised by Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee on "Cycling facilities and promotion of cycling" at the Council meeting on 30 April 2008, the Administration provided the following information --

- (a) the total length of public cycle tracks, the number of bicycle parking spaces and leisure venues with cycling facilities in Hong Kong, with a breakdown by district council district (**Appendix I**);
- (b) the locations of cycle tracks (**Appendix II**);
- (c) leisure venues with cycling facilities (**Appendix III**);
- (d) the number of traffic accidents and casualties involving bicycles in 2007, with a breakdown by district (**Appendix IV**);and

- (e) the functions of the various government departments in the design, planning, construction, management and maintenance of cycling facilities (**Appendix V**).

Development of new cycle tracks on Lantau

4. In the Revised Concept Plan for Lantau published in May 2007, the Administration proposed additional countryside recreation facilities including new sections of cycle tracks and mountain bike trails, and a triathlon racecourse in South Lantau. According to the Administration, these proposals are complementary to other major tourism uses in North Lantau and green tourism initiatives in the rural areas, and would further strengthen the position of Lantau as a tourism and recreation centre. The relevant extract from the Revised Concept Plan is in **Appendix VI**.

Proposed cycle track network in the New Territories

5. In the 2007-2008 Policy Agenda, the Development Bureau pledged to develop a comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories for improving the quality of living. On 27 May 2008, the Administration briefed the Panel on Development (the Panel) on the proposed cycle track network which would broadly comprise --

- (a) a backbone with a total length of about 82 km made up of two sections, viz. the Tuen Mun - Ma On Shan section and the Tsuen Wan - Tuen Mun section; and
- (b) branching off sections from the backbone with a total length of about 30 km.

A plan showing a preliminary proposal for the cycle track network is at **Appendix VII**.

6. The Administration also informed the Panel that after consultation with relevant District Councils and various cyclist groups, it had devised a comprehensive plan to enhance existing supporting facilities and to implement new ones at suitable locations with a view to strengthening the support to cyclists throughout the cycle track network and providing a more pleasant cycling environment.

Members' concerns and views

7. When the proposal for development of a comprehensive cycle track network in the New Territories was discussed at the Panel meeting on 27 May 2008, members expressed strong support for the proposal and expressed the following concerns and views --

- (a) sufficient greening should be provided along the cycle track network;
- (b) there should be adequate safety measures;
- (c) the provision of various supporting facilities such as refreshment kiosks should be strengthened;
- (d) reference could be drawn from overseas places, such as Japan and Amsterdam, in implementing cycle track networks;
- (e) whether there would be sufficient bicycle parking spaces to encourage the use of bicycles for connecting public transport; and
- (f) whether it would be feasible to provide a cycle track to connect Tsuen Wan and Sha Tin in the long run.

8. While taking heed of members' views set out in (a) to (d) above, the Administration advised that the proposed cycle track network was mainly for leisure and recreational purposes, rather than encouraging the use of bicycles as a means of transport. As such, bicycle parking spaces would mainly be provided along the proposed cycle track network under the proposal. There were practical difficulties in constructing a cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Sha Tin, given the steep topography between the two places and the fact that Tsuen Wan was a built-up area with busy roads and high density buildings.

9. Members have raised written questions on the subject at recent Council meetings. Members are concerned whether the Administration has made sufficient efforts to promote cycling and provide quality cycling facilities in various parts of the territory. The major issues raised include --

- (a) the need for a central policy on cycling;
- (b) the coordination among relevant government departments on the design, planning, construction, management and maintenance of cycling facilities;
- (c) the promotion of cycling among citizens and the provision of cycling training for students;

- (d) the planning of cycle tracks in harbourfront areas and new development areas;
- (e) measures to enhance the role of bicycle as a supplementary mode of transport;
- (f) adoption of adequate safety measures and provision of sufficient and quality supporting facilities for cyclists; and
- (g) promotion of cycling tourism.

Recent developments

10. According to the information provided by the Administration in March 2009, the Tuen Mun - Ma On Shan section of the proposed New Territories cycle track network is at the detailed design stage. The eastern part of the section from Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan will start construction in September 2009 for completion in mid 2012, while the western part from Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui will start construction in April 2010 for completion in 2013.

11. As regards the Tsuen Wan - Tuen Mun section and the planned extensions from Tuen Mun to Lung Kwu Tan, from Ma On Shan to Sai Kung, and from Yuen Long to Nam Sang Wai, the Administration has advised that investigation and preliminary design of these cycle tracks are currently in progress. The construction works are scheduled to start in stages from 2011, and the first stage construction works are to be completed in 2013.

12. There are also plans or studies on development of new cycle tracks in various other areas of the territory as follows --

- (a) the construction works for new cycle tracks along the waterfront of Tseung Kwan O Town Centre South and the two sides of the eastern channel are planned to commence in late 2009 for completion in 2012;
- (b) investigation and preliminary design of a proposed cycle track along the waterfront promenade in Tsuen Wan are in progress. The preliminary design will be completed at the end of 2009; and
- (c) the Administration is considering the possibility of introducing cycle tracks along the new waterfront promenades on Hong Kong Island and Kai Tak under the following planning exercises --

- (i) the Hong Kong Island East Harbourfront Study will explore the opportunities for providing cycle tracks at suitable locations along the promenade. The study will commence in mid-2009 for completion at the end of 2010;
- (ii) the Urban Design Study for the New Central Harbourfront will explore proposals for providing an environmentally-friendly transport system in the new Central harbourfront, including proposals of cycle tracks or electric trolley buses and associated facilities; and
- (iii) in the Kai Tak Planning Review, it is proposed to construct a cycle track along the waterfront promenade for leisure and recreational purposes.

13. The Administration will brief the Panel on 28 April 2009 on the funding proposal for construction of the New Territories cycle track network section between Tuen Mun and Ma On Shan and associated supporting facilities.

Relevant papers

14. A list of the relevant papers with their hyperlinks in the Legislative Council website is in **Appendix VIII**.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
20 April 2009

Appendix I

Total length of public cycle tracks, number of bicycle parking space and leisure venues with cycling facilities

District	Total Length of Public Cycle Tracks (km)	Number of Bicycle Parking Spaces	Number of Leisure Venues with Cycling Facilities
<i>New Territories</i>			
Sha Tin	40.8	10,617	2
Tai Po	33.9	3,475	0
North	21.2	3,185	1
Sai Kung	9.8	3,016	0
Kwai Tsing	0	0	0
Tusen Wan	0	30	1
Tuen Mun	15.2	3,893	2
Yuen Long	32.3	11,554	0
Islands	3.9	5,047	0
<i>Kowloon</i>			
Yau Tsim Mong	0.5	0	1
Sham Shui Po	0	60	1
Kowloon City	0	0	1
Wong Tai Sin	0	0	0
Kwun Tong	0	0	2
<i>Hong Kong Island</i>			
Eastern	0	8	3
Wanchai	0	0	1
Central & Western	0	0	0
Southern	0.6	0	0
Total	158.2	40,885	15

Source: Annex 1 to the reply by the Secretary for Transport and Housing to the written question raised by Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee at the Council meeting on 30 April 2008.

Appendix II

Locations of public cycle tracks

District	Location of Public Cycle Tracks
<i>New Territories</i>	
Sha Tin	Tolo Highway; Shing Mun River Channel; Shek Mun; A Kung Kok; Ma On Shan; Wu Kai Sha; Siu Lek Yuen; Yuen Chau Kok; Fo Tan; Wo Che; Tai Wai
Tai Po	Tai Wo Road; Ting Kok Road; Tolo Highway
North	Pak Wo Road; Wo Hop Shek; Shek Wu Hui; Luen Wo Hui; Sha Tau Kok Road – Lung Yeuk Tau
Sai Kung	Po Lam; Hang Hau; Tiu Keng Leng; Wan Po Road near Tsueng Kwan O Industrial Area
Tuen Mun	Wu King Road; Lung Mun Road near Butterfly Beach Park; Tuen Mun River Channel near Wu Shan Riverside Park; Tuen Mun Station; Tin King; Lam Tei
Yuen Long	Hung Shui Kiu; Ping Shan; Wang Chau; Castle Peak Road – Yuen Long section; Kam Tin Road; Tin Shui Wai
Islands	Tung Chung Road; Yu Tung Road
<i>Kowloon</i>	
Yau Tsim Mong	West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade
<i>Hong Kong Island</i>	
Southern	Cyberport

Source: Annex 2 to the reply by the Secretary for Transport and Housing to the written question raised by Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee at the Council meeting on 30 April 2008.

Appendix III

Locations of leisure venues with cycling facilities

District	Location of Leisure Venues with Cycling Facilities
<i>New Territories</i>	
Sha Tin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Siu Lek Yuen Road Playground ♦ Sha Tin Road Safety Park
North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Pak Wo Road Playground
Tsuen Wan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Tsuen Wan Park (for Children)
Tuen Mun	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Tuen Mun Park ♦ Wu Shan Recreation Playground
<i>Kowloon</i>	
Yau Tsim Mong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ West Kowloon Waterfront Promenade
Sham Shui Po	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Lai Chi Kok Park (Skateboard Ground)
Kowloon City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Carpenter Road Park
Kwun Tong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Kung Lok Road Playground ♦ Kowloon Bay Park
<i>Hong Kong Island</i>	
Eastern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Quarry Bay Park ♦ Yee Shing Lane Temporary Sitting-out Area ♦ Siu Sai Wan Road Garden
Wanchai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Morrison Hill Road Playground

Source: Annex 3 to the reply by the Secretary for Transport and Housing to the written question raised by Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee at the Council meeting on 30 April 2008.

Appendix IV

Number of traffic accidents and casualties involving bicycles in 2007

District	Number of accidents involving bicycles	Number of Casualties		
		Death	Injury	Total
New Territories				
Sha Tin	387	1	401	402
Tai Po	357	1	384	385
North	128	2	127	129
Sai Kung	28	1	29	30
Kwai Tsing	26	0	26	26
Tusen Wan	23	0	24	24
Tuen Mun	124	1	128	129
Yuen Long	242	4	246	250
Islands	71	0	74	74
Kowloon				
Yau Tsim Mong	58	1	58	59
Sham Shui Po	34	1	33	34
Kowloon City	14	0	15	15
Wong Tai Sin	9	1	8	9
Kwun Tong	18	0	19	19
Hong Kong Island				
Eastern	13	0	19	19
Wanchai	26	0	29	29
Central & Western	12	0	13	13
Southern	2	0	2	2
Total	1,572	13	1,635	1,648

Source: Annex 4 to the reply by the Secretary for Transport and Housing to the written question raised by Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee at the Council meeting on 30 April 2008.

Appendix V

Functions of various government departments in providing cycling facilities

Public Cycling Facilities		Design, planning and construction	Management	Maintenance
Cycle Tracks	New towns and individual new development projects	Civil Engineering and Development Department	Transport Department	Highways Department
Bicycle parking spaces	Housing Authority public housing estates	Housing Department	Housing Department	Housing Department
	Leisure venues provided with cycling facilities	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Leisure and Cultural Services Department
	Others	Transport Department *	Transport Department	Highways Department
Leisure venues provided with cycling facilities		Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Leisure and Cultural Services Department	Leisure and Cultural Services Department

* Some bicycle parking spaces are planned and constructed together with the cycle tracks by Civil Engineering and Development Department.

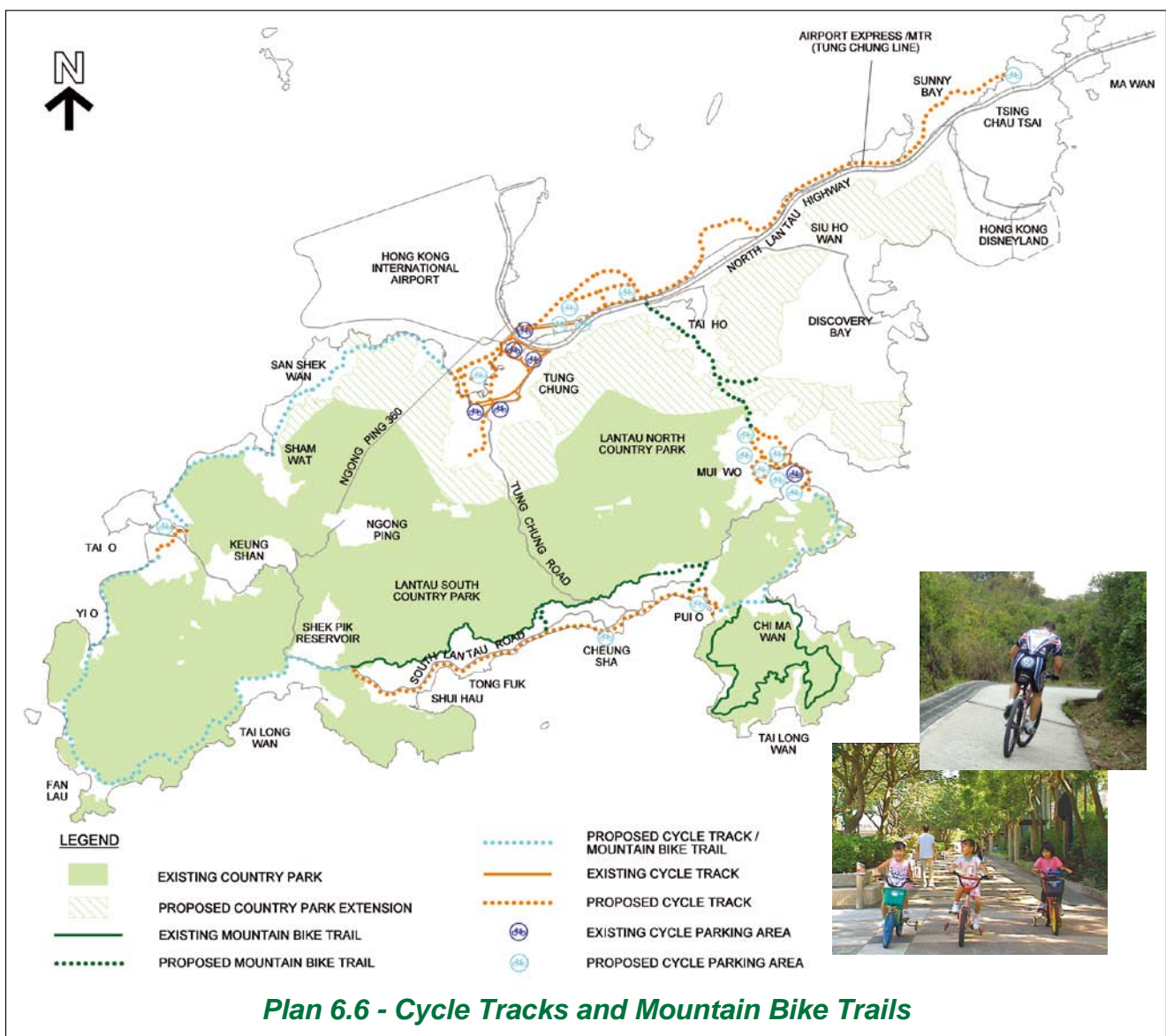
Source: Annex 5 to the reply by the Secretary for Transport and Housing to the written question raised by Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee at the Council meeting on 30 April 2008.

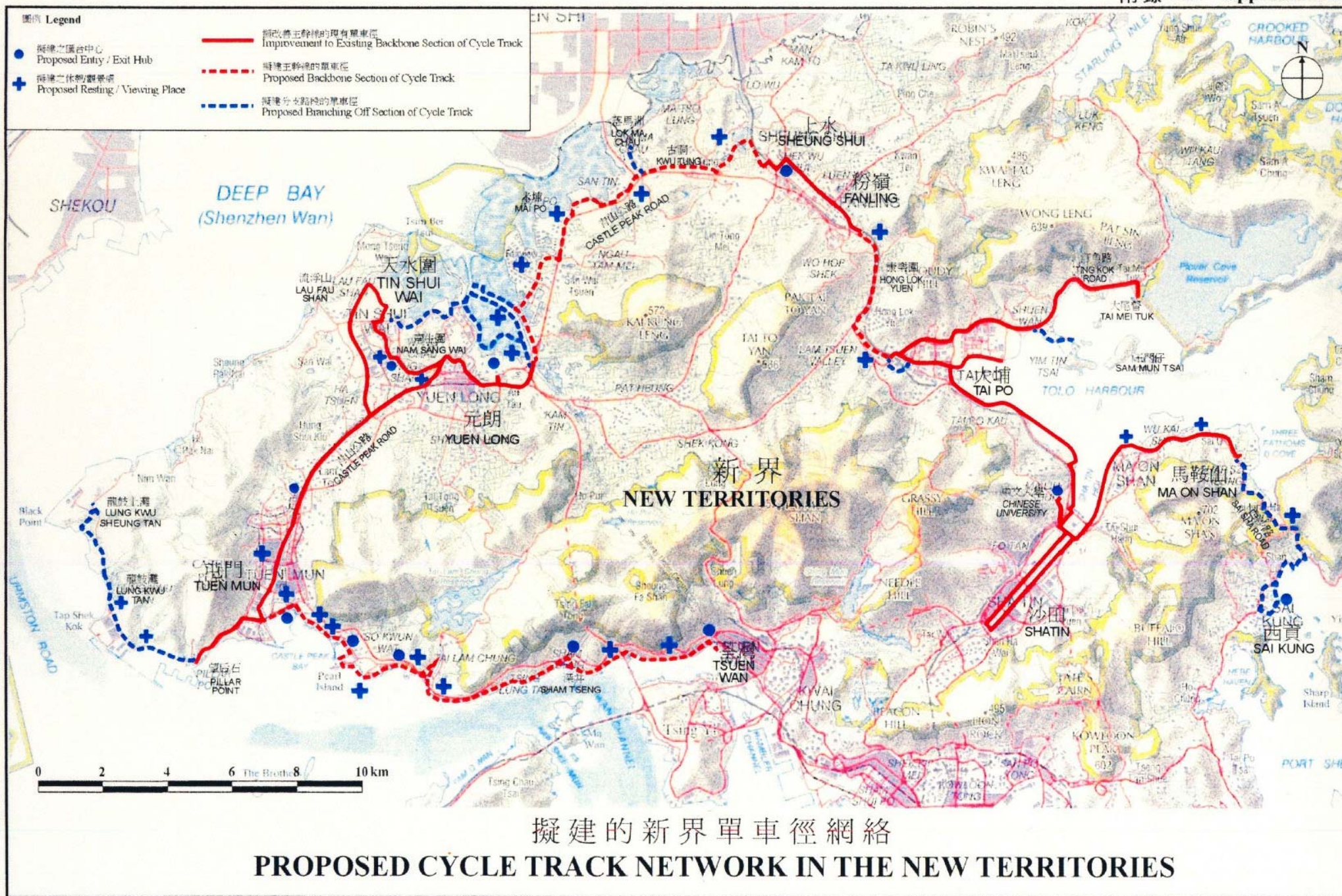
Revised Concept Plan for Lantau

D1) Cycle Tracks and Mountain Bike Trails

The proposed cycle tracks / mountain bike trails are intended to provide a cycle tour around South Lantau, with links to Mui Wo and Tung Chung. It could be further extended to Sunny Bay along the northshore of the island. An additional mountain bike trail connecting Mui Wo and Tai Ho is also proposed (Plan 6.6). Both the cycle tracks and mountain bike trails are subject to further detailed studies to confirm their feasibility and environmental acceptability.

Facilities like camping sites, restaurants and refreshment kiosks could be provided along the route so as to offer visitors an alternative type of leisure experience in exploring the points of attractions and enjoying the scenery all during cycle tours.





Cycle tracks in Hong Kong

List of relevant papers

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Planning, Lands and Works	29 May 2007	Administration's paper on Revised Concept Plan for Lantau (LC Paper No. CB(1)1723/06-07(03)) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/plw/papers/plw0529cb1-1723-3-e.pdf Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)2149/06-07) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr06-07/english/panels/plw/minutes/pl070529.pdf
Council meeting	30 April 2008	Hon Frederick FUNG Kin-kee raised a question on cycling facilities and promotion of cycling http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200804/30/P200804300198.htm
Panel on Development	27 May 2008	Administration's paper on proposed 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 Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)2309/07-08) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr07-08/english/panels/plw/minutes/de080527.pdf
Council meeting	4 June 2008	Hon James TO Kun-sun raised a question on development of cycle tracks http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200806/04/P200806040122.htm

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Council meeting	12 November 2008	Hon LAU Kong-wah raised a question on cycle track facilities http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200811/12/P200811120125.htm
Council meeting	11 March 2009	Hon KAM Nai-wai raised a question on cycle tracks network http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200903/11/P200903110130.htm