

The Audit Commission ("Audit") conducted a review to examine the planning process for the provision of footbridges and subways as well as the measures taken by the Administration to improve their utilisation since the review by Audit in 2007.

2. The Committee did not hold any public hearing on this subject. Instead, it asked for a written response to its enquiry.

3. The Committee was concerned about Audit's observations in paragraphs 3.7, 3.10, 4.6, 5.22, 6.9, 6.29 and 6.39 of the Director of Audit's Report ("Audit Report") that in respect of the projects examined in the Audit Report, sufficient and detailed information on providing the grade-separated crossing facilities (i.e. footbridges and subways) in connection with the projects were not set out in the funding submissions to the Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC")/Finance Committee ("FC") of the Legislative Council. According to paragraphs 3.18, 4.18(a), 5.28(a) and 6.40 of the Audit Report, the Administration should provide sufficient and detailed information, including the justifications, intended purposes and functions, estimated cost, expected utilisation, as well as timing of provision of the grade-separated crossing facilities in the relevant PWSC/FC papers, where applicable. Noting that the Development Bureau, the Transport Department ("TD"), the Highways Department ("HyD") and the Civil Engineering and Development Department ("CEDD") had accepted Audit's recommendations, the Committee asked about the measures that had been/would be adopted by the Administration to ensure that sufficient and detailed information on grade-separated crossing facilities would be provided to the PWSC and the FC when seeking funding approval for infrastructure and roadworks projects in future.

4. The **Commissioner for Transport** replied in his letter of 8 June 2010, in *Appendix 5*, that:

- as an immediate measure to implement Audit's recommendations, the HyD, the CEDD and the TD had issued internal memoranda on 12 May 2010, 28 May 2010 and 1 June 2010 respectively to Division Heads asking them to remind their staff of Audit's recommendations on the need to give sufficient and detailed justifications for constructing footbridges and subways in the preparation of PWSC/FC submissions;
- in the next annual updating of the HyD Technical Circular No. 13/2009 on "PWSC Submission", the HyD would include a reference to the memorandum dated 12 May 2010 mentioned above to ensure compliance by officers; and
- the CEDD and the TD would also review their existing departmental procedures to incorporate, where appropriate, the improvements recommended in the Audit Report.

5. The Committee notes the above reply of the Commissioner for Transport, and wishes to be kept informed of the progress made in implementing the various Audit recommendations.