

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. PWSC47/12-13
(These minutes have been
seen by the Administration)

Ref : CB1/F/2/2

**Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee
of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 7th meeting
held in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex
on Wednesday, 13 March 2013, at 8:30 am**

Members present:

Hon CHAN Kam-lam, SBS, JP (Chairman)
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, BBS, MH, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon James TO Kun-sun
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, SBS, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Dr Hon LEUNG Ka-lau
Hon IP Kwok-him, GBS, JP
Hon Alan LEONG Kah-kit, SC
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming
Hon WU Chi-wai, MH
Hon Gary FAN Kwok-wai
Hon Charles Peter MOK
Hon CHAN Yuen-han, SBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, BBS, MH, JP
Dr Hon Fernando CHEUNG Chiu-hung
Hon SIN Chung-kai, SBS, JP
Hon Christopher CHUNG Shu-kun, BBS, MH, JP
Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen

Members absent:

Hon Emily LAU Wai-hing, JP
Hon Cyd HO Sau-lan
Hon CHAN Hak-kan, JP
Hon NG Leung-sing, SBS, JP
Hon MA Fung-kwok, SBS, JP
Hon CHAN Han-pan
Dr Hon Kenneth CHAN Ka-lok
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, JP
Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT, JP
Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan, JP

Public officers attending:

Mr YEUNG Tak-keung	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) ³
Mr WAI Chi-sing, JP	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Mr Thomas CHOW Tat-ming, JP	Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)
Ms Anissa WONG, JP	Permanent Secretary for the Environment
Ms Joyce HO Kwok-shan	Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) (Works)
Mrs Pamela TAN KAM Mi-wah, JP	Director of Home Affairs
Mr Eric HUI Kwok-sun, JP	Assistant Director (2) Home Affairs Department
Miss Emma LAU Yin-wah, JP	Judiciary Administrator
Mr Esmond LEE Chung-sin, JP	Deputy Judiciary Administrator (Development)
Mr LEUNG Koon-kee, JP	Director of Architectural Services
Mrs Sylvia LAM Yu Ka-wai	Project Director (1) Architectural Services Department
Mr YAU Shing-mu, JP	Under Secretary for Transport and Housing
Ms Rebecca PUN Ting-ting, JP	Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) ¹
Mr Edward TO Wing-hang	Principal Assistant Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) ⁵
Mr HON Chi-keung, JP	Director of Civil Engineering and Development
Mr LI Tin-sang	Chief Engineer (New Territories East) ¹ Civil Engineering and Development Department

Mr Tony LI Yeuk-yue	Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands) ²
Mr David LO Kwok-chung, JP	Chief Engineer (Islands) Civil Engineering and Development Department

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Annette LAM	Chief Council Secretary (1) ³
----------------	--

Staff in attendance:

Mr Andy LAU	Assistant Secretary General 1
Ms Connie HO	Senior Council Secretary (1) ³
Mr Frankie WOO	Senior Legislative Assistant (1) ³
Ms Christy YAU	Legislative Assistant (1) ⁷

Action

The Chairman reported that a total of twenty capital works projects amounting to \$29,675.3 million had been endorsed by the Public Works Subcommittee (PWSC) in the 2012-2013 session so far. He further advised that four items were on the agenda for the meeting which, if endorsed, would involve a total amount of \$881.7 million.

2. The Chairman then reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure (RoP) of the Legislative Council (LegCo), they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect pecuniary interests relating to any items under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the items. He also drew members' attention to Rule 84 of RoP on not voting or withdrawal in case of direct pecuniary interest.

**Head 707 – New Towns and Urban Area Development
PWSC(2012-13)59 17CX Signature Project Scheme**

3. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to create a new block allocation Subhead 7017 CX to support implementation of projects by District Councils (DCs) under the Signature Project Scheme (SPS) and to approve an allocation of \$29 million in 2013-2014 for this Subhead. The Panel on Home Affairs had been consulted on the proposal on 18 February 2013 and Panel Members supported the proposal. The gist of discussion

was tabled at the meeting. Pursuant to members' request, the Administration had provided supplementary information on 7 March 2013.

Monitoring of the signature projects

4. Dr Fernando CHEUNG enquired about the mechanism in place to ensure that the SPS projects proposed by the DCs would be in the interest of the public and subject to proper public monitoring. Referring to his past observations that the usage of some district facilities, such as community halls, was often monopolized by certain political parties and community organizations, Dr CHEUNG said that measures should be introduced to ensure that members of the community would be given a fair chance in using the SPS facilities. Noting that various government departments had provisions to fund preparatory and pre-construction works for works projects, Dr CHEUNG questioned whether there would be any duplication of work among different government bureaux or departments over the implementation of SPS projects.

5. The Director of Home Affairs (DHA) assured members that SPS projects would be subject to adequate monitoring. She advised that the objective of SPS was mainly to provide sufficient funds to DCs for carrying out large-scale and sustainable projects to meet the specific needs of individual districts and bring tangible and long-term benefits to the community. To this end, DCs were responsible for engaging their stakeholders in the local community in drawing up their SPS project proposals. The SPS projects were subject to multi-level monitoring, and members of the community were able to give views on prospective projects by participating in open meetings of DCs and various local consultation forums. Project proposals put forth by DCs would be processed by the Home Affairs Department (HAD) and subject to the Legislative Council (LegCo)'s scrutiny, as DCs were required to follow the established procedures to seek funding approval from LegCo for individual SPS projects. The relevant LegCo Panels would be consulted prior to submission of the projects to Public Works Subcommittee and /or Finance Committee (FC) of the LegCo, as appropriate. The HAD had formulated detailed operational procedures on SPS setting out the guidelines for DCs' compliance in engaging partner organizations, the rules and principles in engaging consultants and contractors, as well as the monitoring of project implementation and delivery. DHA highlighted that the SPS projects would be taken forward by DCs with HAD's support and overall coordination in ensuring no duplication of work among different government departments during project implementation. DHA also assured members that district facilities constructed under the SPS would be open for public use. DCs would put in place appropriate arrangements to ensure that public requests for

use of the facilities would be handled in a fair and open manner.

6. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok expressed his support for the proposal and asked if DCs would be required to engage for SPS projects consultants recommended by the Government for District Minor Works (DMW) Programme and whether HAD would render support to DCs in this respect as they might not possess the requisite capabilities and relevant experience in management of works projects. In reply, DHA advised that DCs would not be required to engage DMW term consultants for SPS projects. For SPS projects delivered by government departments, the prevailing procedures for engagement of consultants for public works projects would apply. For projects partnered with non-profit-making organizations (NPO), authorized persons or registered professionals in Hong Kong should be engaged in accordance with the guidelines issued by HAD to ensure professional competency.

Management and maintenance of district facilities built under SPS

7. Mr WONG Kwok-hing supported the proposal and opined that the allocation of \$100 million for each DC for launching SPS projects could help expedite the implementation of facilities to address the pressing needs of each district. However, he was concerned about which party would be responsible for the subsequent management and maintenance of SPS facilities. DHA responded that DCs might partner with NPOs, business sector organizations, statutory bodies or government departments in implementing the SPS projects. If a project involved a district facility that needed to be operated or maintained after completion, the DC should identify partners who possessed such capability. On a need basis and on the prerequisite that an SPS facility was projected to become self-sustainable only after some initial years of operation, a sum of not more than 5% of the project cost could be set aside out of the \$100 million earmarked for each district. The fund could be used on a one-off basis to subsidize the start-up, operation, management and/or maintenance of the project for up to a maximum period of two years after project commissioning. In case where government departments were chosen as the partner of the project, the concerned government departments would undertake the management and maintenance of the facility upon project completion. Subject to the clearance of the Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau (FSTB) and approval of FC, the associated recurrent costs would be released to the concerned government departments after project commissioning.

8. Citing his general observation of government departments' reluctance in undertaking management and maintenance responsibilities for district facilities, Mr WONG Kwok-hing opined that the relevant government

departments should be responsible for the management and maintenance of SPS projects and that resources should be set aside for such purpose. He requested to put on record his views in this regard.

9. Mr Christopher CHUNG declared that he was a member of Eastern DC. While appreciating that engagement of partner organizations might bring in a greater degree of creativity and flexibility in the building and design of the projects, Mr CHUNG echoed Mr WONG Kwok-hing's view that the ultimate responsibilities for the management and maintenance of the concerned district facilities should rest with the concerned government departments as these facilities were for public use. Mr CHUNG also cautioned that the engagement of partner organizations in SPS projects might attract criticisms of transfer of benefits. In reply, DHA reiterated that DCs were free to partner with NPOs, the business sector, statutory bodies or government departments as appropriate. To ensure transparency, proper monitoring and effective implementation of SPS projects, guidelines on selection of partner organizations as well as tendering and procurement procedures had been drawn up for compliance by DCs.

10. In reply to Mr WU Chi-wai's enquiry if there was a specific timeframe for partner organizations in undertaking the maintenance responsibility of the concerned district facilities, DHA advised that maintenance would be an on-going responsibility for partner organizations, with details to be governed by the agreements with the partner organizations concerned, and DC should take this requirement into account when selecting partner organizations.

11. Mr Michael TIEN declared that he was a member of Tsuen Wan DC and expressed his support for the SPS. He raised concern about asset ownership and sought clarifications on whether the partner organizations of SPS projects would be required to bear the asset replacement costs, if any. DHA confirmed in affirmative, saying that the partner organizations should be responsible for the maintenance costs of the facilities incurred during the period of agreement with the Government. DCs should take this into consideration in the selection of partner organizations, and that project proposals put forth by the DCs should be well thought out and sustainable. In this connection, the Chairman advised that District Officers of HAD should have a thorough understanding on the related policy and be able to render the necessary advice to DCs regarding the feasibility of prospective projects. DHA confirmed that it was in fact the case.

12. Mr Albert CHAN objected to the SPS, saying that despite the huge capital outlay of \$1.8 billion, the SPS did not have a clear policy objective and had not undergone any proper consultation prior to its kick-off. He

alleged that the SPS was in fact a political reward for support rendered by certain DC members in the election of the Chief Executive of the HKSAR. He was worried that the resources thus allocated would be manipulated by certain DC members to gain political capital for their own party. DHA disagreed with Mr Albert CHAN and clarified that the purpose of the SPS was to meet the long-standing aspirations of DCs in carrying out projects of larger scale to meet the specific needs of their districts. Criticizing the Administration for the lack of detailed planning over the implementation of SPS, Mr Albert CHAN requested the Administration to furnish members with information on the overall arrangements regarding the implementation of SPS projects and the responsibilities of partner organizations in the related works projects prior to the relevant FC meeting. Mr Albert CHAN also requested to put on record his dissatisfaction over the Chairman's ruling on confining his speaking time to five minutes in his first round of question while Mr Michael TIEN was allowed more time. The Chairman explained that his ruling was based on the relevancy of members' questions to the item under consideration. Mr Michael TIEN was allowed extra time as his follow-up questions touched on the details of the SPS policy which were considered highly relevant.

Support rendered to DCs for implementation of SPS projects

13. Mr LEUNG Che-cheung declared interest as the Chairman of Yuen Long DC. Expressing support for the SPS, Mr LEUNG said that to ensure transparency and fairness in the formulation of project proposals, all DCs should be required to conduct district consultation to sound out residents in the district fully. Given that members of the public might hold different views regarding the choice and prioritization of the projects and that DCs might not have the requisite experience and capability for implementing the projects, Mr LEUNG enquired whether HAD would provide the necessary support for DCs during the consultation process and project implementation. DHA responded that HAD had encouraged DCs to widely consult stakeholders in the community when drawing up their SPS project proposals. While DCs would be given a free hand on selecting the channels and platforms of consultation, HAD would render all necessary support to them in the consultation exercises. The HAD central team with professional staff and relevant government departments would provide technical advice on SPS projects and assist in preparatory work including preliminary studies, site investigation and design where appropriate.

14. In reply to Mr LEUNG Che-cheung's enquiry on the criteria to be adopted by DCs in selecting partner organizations, DHA advised that DCs should consider, among other things, the technical capability, financial capability, and management capability of potential partner organizations.

Details of the selection criteria and procedures had been set out in the relevant guidelines issued by the HAD to DCs.

Admin

15. Mr Gary FAN declared that he was a member of Sai Kung DC. Noting that the Administration had earmarked \$200 million to fund preliminary studies and consultancies for works-related SPS projects, Mr FAN requested HAD to consider relaxing the usage of the earmarked funds to also cover consultancy services during district consultation to facilitate decision-making at district level and to assist DCs in identifying the SPS projects that would best meet the aspirations of the local communities. DHA responded that where necessary, HAD would provide venues and manpower support during district consultation.

Control and allocation of funds under the proposed Subhead

16. Mr Alan LEONG said that the Civic Party would support the proposal on condition that the funds provided under SPS were used to finance worthwhile projects that could not be accomplished under the DMW Programme. Mr LEONG further enquired who would be the Controlling Officer of the proposed Subhead 7017 CX and its funding allocation mechanism, and whether FC's approval would be required for any further injection of funds to this Subhead should there be any shortfall in funding provision. Noting that the HAD had not set a specific deadline for DCs to submit their SPS proposals, Mr LEONG expressed concern about potential delays in project formulation and planning. He also enquired about the accounting arrangements for the \$1.8 billion allocation for the SPS projects.

17. In response, DHA advised that the Director of Home Affairs would be the Controlling Officer of the proposed Subhead. FC's approval would be required for injection of additional funds to the Subhead, and any surplus would be carried forward to the next fiscal year. The amount of funds to be allocated to DCs from the proposed Subhead 7017 CX for preliminary studies and consultancies for works-related SPS projects prior to funding approval of individual SPS projects by FC would depend on the complexity and scale of individual SPS projects. Pointing out that DCs had been actively conceiving SPS projects at district level, DHA was confident that DCs would submit their proposals to HAD as soon as the proposals were considered mature for detailed investigations and planning. As in the case of other public works projects, a dedicated account would be set up for each SPS project upon FC's funding approval.

18. Mr Albert CHAN enquired if funds of the proposed Subhead 7017 CX could be used to finance projects in rural areas. DHA advised in the affirmative, provided that the projects were sited within the district

demarcation of the respective DCs. In response to Mr CHAN's query about the appropriateness of its creation under "Head 707- New Town and Urban Area Development", Principal Assistant Secretary (Treasury) (Works), FSTB explained that the proposed creation of the new Subhead 7017 CX under Head 707 was to align with the present arrangements in respect of Subhead 7016 CX on DMW Programme and Subhead 7014 CX on Rural Public Works Programme, which were also under the purview of HAD and created under Head 707. In fact, it should be the ambit of the subhead, as approved by FC, that determined the types of projects that could be funded under the subhead. The Chairman requested the Administration to consider reviewing the ambit of Head 707 in light of Mr Albert CHAN's comments.

Admin

Vetting of SPS projects by PWSC

19. Mr WU Chi-wai expressed concern that the formulation and prioritization of SPS projects in individual DCs might be dominated by some political parties. He requested HAD to provide for members' reference a separate list of public works projects pending implementation at district level when submitting SPS project proposals to PWSC for consideration in future. DHA noted Mr WU's request and explained that information on public works projects provided annually to the LegCo had all along been presented by project cost categories of above or below \$200 million. Accordingly, projects costing \$100 million or below might not be listed out in details.

20. Mr Christopher CHUNG opined that members should have confidence in DCs' capabilities in the administration of district affairs and should respect DCs' decisions on the SPS projects to be pursued and submitted for PWSC's and FC's approval. Mr CHUNG was of the view that PWSC should focus on the technical aspects of SPS projects and their compliance with the established rules of public works projects. Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok held a similar view and sought the Chairman's directive on PWSC's role in vetting SPS project proposals submitted by DCs. Pointing out that the proposed SPS projects to be submitted by DCs would have undergone thorough deliberations with consensus of stakeholders at district level which would also be supported by HAD, DHA hoped that the LegCo would respect DCs' decisions on the proposed SPS projects.

Enhancing DC's roles in district administration

21. Mr Gary FAN opined that apart from allocating additional resources for DCs to implement SPS projects, the Administration should further enhance the roles and functions of DCs by delegating more power and responsibilities to DCs to enable them to undertake more district administration work, as well as to help groom political talents at district level.

22. Miss CHAN Yuen-han declared that she was a member of Wong Tai Sin DC and indicated her support for the proposal. Sharing a similar view with Mr Gary FAN, Miss CHAN urged the Administration to conduct a comprehensive review of the District Councils Ordinance (Cap.547) to delegate to DCs more powers that were previously exercised by the two former Municipal Councils so as to enable DCs to fulfill a more proactive and meaningful role in district administration.

23. The Chairman put the item to vote. At the request of Mr Albert CHAN, the Chairman ordered a division. Of the 19 members present, 18 members voted, and 17 voted for and 1 voted against the item. The voting results of individual members were as follows:

For :

Mr TAM Yiu-chung
Mr Abraham SHEK
Mr WONG Kwok-hing
Dr LEUNG Ka-lau
Mr Alan LEONG
Mr Michael TIEN
Mr Frankie YICK
Mr WU Chi-wai
Mr Gary FAN

Mr Charles Peter MOK
Miss CHAN Yuen-han
Mr LEUNG Che-cheung
Dr Fernando CHEUNG
Mr SIN Chung-kai
Ir Dr LO Wai-kwok
Mr Christopher CHUNG
Mr Tony TSE

(17 members)

Against :

Mr Albert CHAN
(1 member)

24. The item was endorsed by the Subcommittee.

25. Mr Albert CHAN requested that this item be voted on separately at the relevant FC meeting.

Head 703 – Buildings**PWSC(2012-13)56 112KA Relocation of the Court of Final Appeal to No. 8 Jackson Road**

26. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to upgrade 112KA to Category A at an estimated cost of \$463.6 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices for the relocation of the Court of Final Appeal (CFA) to No.8 Jackson Road. The Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services (AJLS) had been consulted on the proposal on 26 February 2013 and Panel members supported the proposal. The gist of Panel discussion was tabled at the meeting. Pursuant to members' request, supplementary information had been provided at enclosure 11 to the discussion paper.

Arrangements for public visits

27. Mr WONG Kwok-hing enquired about the future arrangements for opening the CFA building for public visits upon the relocation of CFA. Judiciary Administrator (JA), Judiciary (JA, Judiciary) replied that it was the intention of the Judiciary to open the building as much as possible to the public, provided that the operation of the Court would not be adversely affected. JA, Judiciary added that two galleries would be set up in the future CFA building, one for the hosting of exhibits relevant to the Judiciary and the other for the display of the history of architectural development of the building. Guided tours would be organized for the public to enable visitors to better appreciate the architectural characteristics of the building.

28. Mr Tony TSE indicated his support for the proposal and opined that the building should be open for public visits as far as possible given its great historical value. He enquired whether the "public area" as indicated in the drawings of the future CFA building in enclosures 2, 3 and 5 to the discussion paper would be the designated area open for public visits, and whether the proposed guided tours would be held on weekends and Sundays. JA, Judiciary clarified that the "public area" denoted in the drawings referred to the areas accessible by the public and court users in the course of the daily operation of the Court. Details of the guided tours and related arrangements would be worked out at a later stage upon further deliberations by the Judiciary. Places of interest such as the "Bridge of Sighs" would be considered for inclusion in the routing of the guided tours for public viewing.

29. Mr Alan LEONG recapped the views expressed by some members of the Panel on AJLS at the meeting on 26 February 2013. He pointed out that in order not to wipe out the history of the LegCo for the period while it was housed in the building at No. 8 Jackson Road, some Panel members

suggested that records of major events and historical moments should be included for showcasing to the public. This could be achieved by incorporating relevant information and photos in public displays or in information leaflets. He expressed concern whether members' views had been accurately conveyed to the Chief Justice. JA, Judiciary replied that the Judiciary noted and understood Panel members' views. In addressing members' concern, arrangements would be made in the future guided tours of the future CFA building to inform visitors that the building had been used by the LegCo for a quarter of a century. Related information would also be presented in the gallery for the display of the history of the architectural development of the building. Referring to paragraphs 12 and 13 of enclosure 11 to the discussion paper, JA, Judiciary highlighted the Chief Justice's views that guided tours should focus on Judiciary-related matters and areas of architectural interest within the building. Any subjects outside the two themes were considered inappropriate.

30. Referring to a suggestion made at the meeting of the Panel on AJLS on 26 February 2013 that members of the public should be given access to the roof terrace on the second floor outside the former Dining Hall of the building on weekends and Sundays to enable appreciation of the building from the best vantage point, Mr TAM Yiu-chung drew members' attention to the potential safety risks posed by the low fencing and slippery floor tiles of the roof terrace. JA, Judiciary responded that the Judiciary would consider the suggestion, having regard to operational, safety and security considerations when working out the details of the guided tours.

Heritage conservation

31. Mr WONG Kwok-hing expressed concern on whether the domed ceiling and the public galleries in the former LegCo Chamber would be preserved. JA, Judiciary advised that in accordance with the plan of the project, the domed ceiling would be retained whereas the two public galleries would be demolished in light of the recommendations made in the Heritage Impact Assessment report of the project that these structures and the control room on the mezzanine floor which were added after the building was constructed should be removed to reinstate the original setting of the Chamber and expose the original arch wall decorations behind one of the galleries. Demolition of the public galleries would free the space inside the future large courtroom from any overhanging structure and consequently reveal the original spatial volume and proportion of the original architectural design that gave expression to the solemnity and dignity of the Court. Such an arrangement would also optimize access of daylight which was a symbolism of an open and transparent Judiciary. With the demolition of the public galleries, the staircases and control rooms on the mezzanine floor

leading to the public galleries would also be taken down and the corridor would be restored to its original width. The widened corridor would provide more convenience to court users and members of the public who visited the building.

32. In response to Mr WONG Kwok-hing's enquiry on the location of the "Bridge of Sighs", Deputy Judiciary Administrator (Development), Judiciary advised that located above the corridor of the building's entrance facing Jackson Road, the remains of the "Bridge of Sighs" were unnoticeable in the former LegCo building as they were hidden by the false ceilings. The "Bridge of Sighs" was the former passage from the defendant's area to the Courtroom of the former Supreme Court. The intention was to let the public see this feature in the future guided tours.

33. Mr WU Chi-wai was keen to ensure that comprehensive records on the conversion of the former LegCo building into the CFA building would be compiled as one of the project deliverables, and that any structures demolished during construction that were of historical value should be retained. The Director of Architectural Services responded that a detailed record capturing the state of the building before and after the project as well as the entire process of the conversion works would be compiled. These records and relics, as well as information pertaining to architectural characteristics of the building, would be appropriately displayed at the exhibition gallery for the history of architectural development of the building for public viewing.

Design of courtroom

34. Mr Albert CHAN indicated his support for the proposal and enquired if the proposed design of the large courtroom as illustrated in enclosure 6 to the discussion paper had made reference to designs of courts in other common law countries. JA, Judiciary advised that in drawing up the proposal, reference had been made to design of supreme courts in common law jurisdictions with prime considerations given to meeting the operational needs and manifesting the solemn atmosphere of the CFA. The design concept as proposed by ASD was accepted by a dedicated committee of the Judiciary headed by the Chief Justice upon consultation. The proposed arch-shape design of the large courtroom, which was commonly adopted in other common law countries, would provide sufficient space for the Court's operation.

35. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Head 707 – New Towns and Urban Area Development**PWSC(2012-13)58 823TH Tseung Kwan O – Lam Tin Tunnel**

36. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to upgrade part of 823TH to Category A at an estimated cost of \$196.0 million in MOD prices to undertake the detailed design and associated site investigation works for the Tseung Kwan O – Lam Tin Tunnel (TKO-LT Tunnel). The Panel on Transport had been consulted on the proposal on 22 February 2013 and Panel members supported the proposal. The gist of Panel discussion was tabled at the meeting. Pursuant to members' request, supplementary information had been provided on 4 March 2013.

37. Mr WU Chi-wai expressed his support for the proposal. Pointing out that major alteration works would be carried out at the toll plaza area of Eastern Harbour Crossing (EHC) under the TKO-LT Tunnel project, Mr WU requested the Administration to expedite implementation of the necessary mitigation measures to alleviate the noise and light nuisances of EHC toll plaza upon taking back the franchise of EHC in 2016. In response, the Under Secretary for Transport and Housing, Transport and Housing Bureau (USTH, THB) said that the Administration noted the concern on the noise and light impacts of the toll plaza. The relevant government departments would conduct a study on the related problems. He added that the proposed design of TKO-LT Tunnel had taken into account both the views of LegCo members and the public in minimizing the noise impact on the areas along the alignment. He assured members that the traffic noise impact due to the commissioning of the project would comply with relevant statutory requirements, and added that the proposed works to be carried out near the EHC toll plaza in relation to TKO-LT Tunnel project would also help mitigate the noise nuisance in the area. In this connection, Mr WU urged the Administration to take forward the preliminary work of the related study as soon as possible so as to facilitate early implementation of suitable mitigation measures in EHC toll plaza area in 2016 upon recovery of EHC by the Administration.

38. Mr Alan LEONG said that the proposed construction of the main carriageways of the Lam Tin Interchange at around 20 metres below the adjacent ground level would be effective in minimizing the environmental impact on the areas along the alignment. He further called on the Administration to take note of the views expressed by residents of Yau Lai Estate and the nearby areas in the detailed design of TKO-LT Tunnel, among which were suggestions to enlarge the coverage of the landscape deck above the Lam Tin Interchange to further enhance its noise mitigation function; and to explore the feasibility of providing noise barriers/enclosures at EHC toll plaza area to mitigate the noise impact. He urged the Administration to

further enhance communication with residents affected by the project as requested by residents of Yau Lai Estate.

39. Mr Gary FAN indicated his support for the proposal and called for an early implementation of the TKO-LT Tunnel project to improve the existing traffic conditions within the TKO district and also ease the extra traffic load to be brought about by the future development of the district as well as to avoid further construction cost escalation due to inflation. He pointed out that the anticipated population increase, coupled with the additional traffic brought about by more than 2 000 heavy vehicles daily to and from the landfill sites, had aggravated the traffic load of TKO district, resulting in traffic congestions during peak hours. As the provision of noise barriers/enclosures along the TKO Tunnel Road was considered not feasible by the Administration, the noise impact along the alignment of the TKO Tunnel Road was constantly beyond the acceptable level, causing much nuisance to residents in nearby areas. Mr FAN was of the view that the early completion of the TKO-LT Tunnel project could help alleviate the aforesaid problems in TKO district.

40. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Head 707 – New Towns and Urban Area Development

PWSC(2012-13)57 414RO Improvement works at Mui Wo

41. The Chairman advised that the proposal was to upgrade part of 414RO to Category A at an estimated cost of \$193.1 million in MOD prices for the construction of the improvement works at Mui Wo, phase 1. The Panel on Development had been consulted on the proposal on 26 February 2013 and Panel members supported the proposal. The gist of Panel discussion was tabled at the meeting.

42. Mr TAM Yiu-chung welcomed the proposed project and opined that Mui Wo had great potential for further development in light of its beautiful natural environment. However, he observed that little progress had been made in respect of the proposals put forth by the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment and Progress of Hong Kong for the development of Mui Wo. Pointing out that as bicycle was the main mode of transport within Mui Wo, Mr TAM said that many bicycles were currently parked outside the Mui Wo ferry pier and residents of Mui Wo had long requested for a proper bicycle parking facility nearby. He asked whether a bicycle parking area near the ferry pier would be provided in the project for the convenience of residents and beautification of the environment. He further enquired if improvement works to the outlet of River Silver would be included in the project.

43. Director of Civil Engineering and Development (DCED) replied that the proposed works under stage 1 of the project was mainly to enhance road safety in Mui Wo by segregating the cycle track from pedestrian walkway and existing carriageway along the waterfront between Mui Wo Cooked Food Market and River Silver. Improvement works in the Cooked Food Market area near the Mui Wo ferry pier and the provision of a permanent bicycle parking facility would be considered in remainder of the project. As regards the proposed improvement works to the outlet of River Silver, DCED said that the item was not included in the project for the time being but the Civil Engineering and Development Department would further look into the matter. Mr TAM urged the Administration to address these issues in the overall planning for the development of Mui Wo to meet the needs of local residents. While appreciating that the provision of additional district facilities would help improve the environment of Mui Wo, the Chairman requested the Principal Assistant Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands)², Development Bureau to convey members' concern on the future management of these added facilities to relevant government departments.

44. The item was voted on and endorsed.

Any other business

45. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:16 am.