

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)862/12-13(04)

Ref: CB1/PL/DEV

Panel on Development

Meeting on 23 April 2013

**Background brief on the proposed cycle track network
in the New Territories**

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the proposed cycle track network in the New Territories ("NT") and summarizes the views and concerns expressed by Members since the 2007-2008 legislative session on the construction of the network.

The proposed cycle track network

2. The proposed cycle track network in the NT, at a total length of 82 km, is made up of mainly two sections, viz (i) Tuen Mun - Ma On Shan section which starts from Tuen Mun in the west and connects via Yuen Long, Sheung Shui, Fanling, Tai Po and Sha Tin to Ma On Shan in the east; and (ii) Tsuen Wan - Tuen Mun section. A plan showing the proposed network is at **Appendix I**.

Funding proposals

3. Funding approval in respect of the following public works projects have been granted by the Finance Committee ("FC") for constructing the cycle track network in the NT --

<i>Project code and description</i>	<i>Purpose of project</i>	<i>Approved project estimate/ Date of approval</i>
259RS -- "Cycle tracks connecting North West NT with North East NT"	The upgrading of part of 259RS, as 271RS, entitled "Cycle tracks connecting North West NT with North East NT -- Sheung Shui to Ma On Shan section" to Category A	\$230.3 million*/ 5 June 2009
268RS -- "Cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun"	The upgrading of part of 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	\$28.2 million*/ 13 April 2012

* In money-of-the-day prices

4. The Administration plans to seek the approval of FC in June 2013 for upgrading part of 259RS to Category A for improvement of the existing cycle tracks from Tuen Mun to Yuen Long and construction of new sections of cycle tracks of about 2.5 km long from Yuen Long to Sheung Shui and associated facilities. It will brief the Panel on Development ("DEV Panel") at its meeting on 23 April 2013 on the proposal.

Implementation timetable

5. The Administration plans to implement the cycle track network in phases. The expected completion dates of the investigation and design for the relevant sections of the network are as follows --

<i>Section</i>	<i>Sub-Section</i>	<i>Expected completion date of investigation/ design</i>
Tuen Mun - Sheung Shui	Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui - Stage 1	Mid-2013 (detailed design completion)

<i>Section</i>	<i>Sub-Section</i>	<i>Expected completion date of investigation/ design</i>
	Tuen Mun to Sheung Shui -- remaining works	In phases from mid-2014 (detailed design completion)
Tsuen Wan - Tuen Mun	Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun -- advance works and Stage 1	In phases from mid- 2014 (detailed design completion)
	Tsuen Wan to Tuen Mun -- Stage 2	Early 2015 (alignment completion) review

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

6. In deliberating the related subject at previous meetings, Members have expressed concerns on a number of issues. Further details together with the Administration's responses are set out in the ensuing paragraphs.

Provision of supporting facilities along the cycle track

7. DEV Panel was first consulted on the development of the proposed cycle track network in the NT on 27 May 2008. While welcoming the implementation of the project in general, members made suggestions on providing sufficient greening along the cycle track, adequate safety measures as well as supporting facilities, and proposed that the Administration should draw reference from overseas places, such as Japan and Amsterdam, in designing and implementing the cycle track network. When discussing PWP Item 259RS in April 2009, Panel members made various suggestions on enhancing cyclists' experience, including the provision of lodging and refreshment facilities at appropriate locations along the track, facilitation of access to heritage sites from the track and construction of feeder tracks from the main track to nearby villages.

8. The Administration advised that, in consultation with relevant District Councils and various cyclist groups, it had devised a comprehensive plan to provide supporting facilities at suitable locations along the proposed cycle track and enhance existing facilities with a view

to strengthening support to cyclists and creating a more pleasant cycling environment. Details of the supporting facilities to be provided at suitable locations are given at **Appendix II**. The proposed cycle track network would separate vehicles from bicycles as far as possible. The Development Bureau would hold discussion with the Transport Department on the provision of safety measures such as installing fences.

Construction of a cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Sha Tin

9. On Panel members' suggestion of constructing a cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Sha Tin, the Administration has advised that there are practical difficulties in the implementation, 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.

Local residents' objections to the proposed alignment between Ting Kau and Tuen Mun

10. In deliberating PWP Item 268RS (Tsuen Wan - Tuen Mun section) in December 2011 (DEV Panel) and January 2012 (PWSC), members noted that residents of some private residential developments in Sham Tseng and So Kwun Wat did not support the proposed cycle track alignment in the vicinity of their developments (part of the sub-section between Ting Kau and Tuen Mun) as they considered that it might cause public safety problems and adverse effect to the living environment. Members requested the Administration to step up efforts to engage the local district councils and residents in working out an acceptable alignment. The Administration advised that it had held discussions with local residents to address their concerns by proposing several revised alignments. The funding proposal under PWP Item 268RS would cover the cost for a review of the proposed alignment. The works between Tsuen Wan and Ting Kau which received strong local support would first be taken forward.

Parking spaces and other issues

11. Some PWSC members have expressed concern about insufficient parking spaces for bicycles near MTR stations in the NT and the current legislation that cyclists could be prosecuted if they did not alight at pedestrian junctions even if no pedestrians were passing by. The Administration was requested to review the legislation. Since the issue falls under the purview of the Transport and Housing Bureau, the Administration undertook to relay the views to the Bureau for consideration. As regards parking spaces, the Administration advised that double-deck

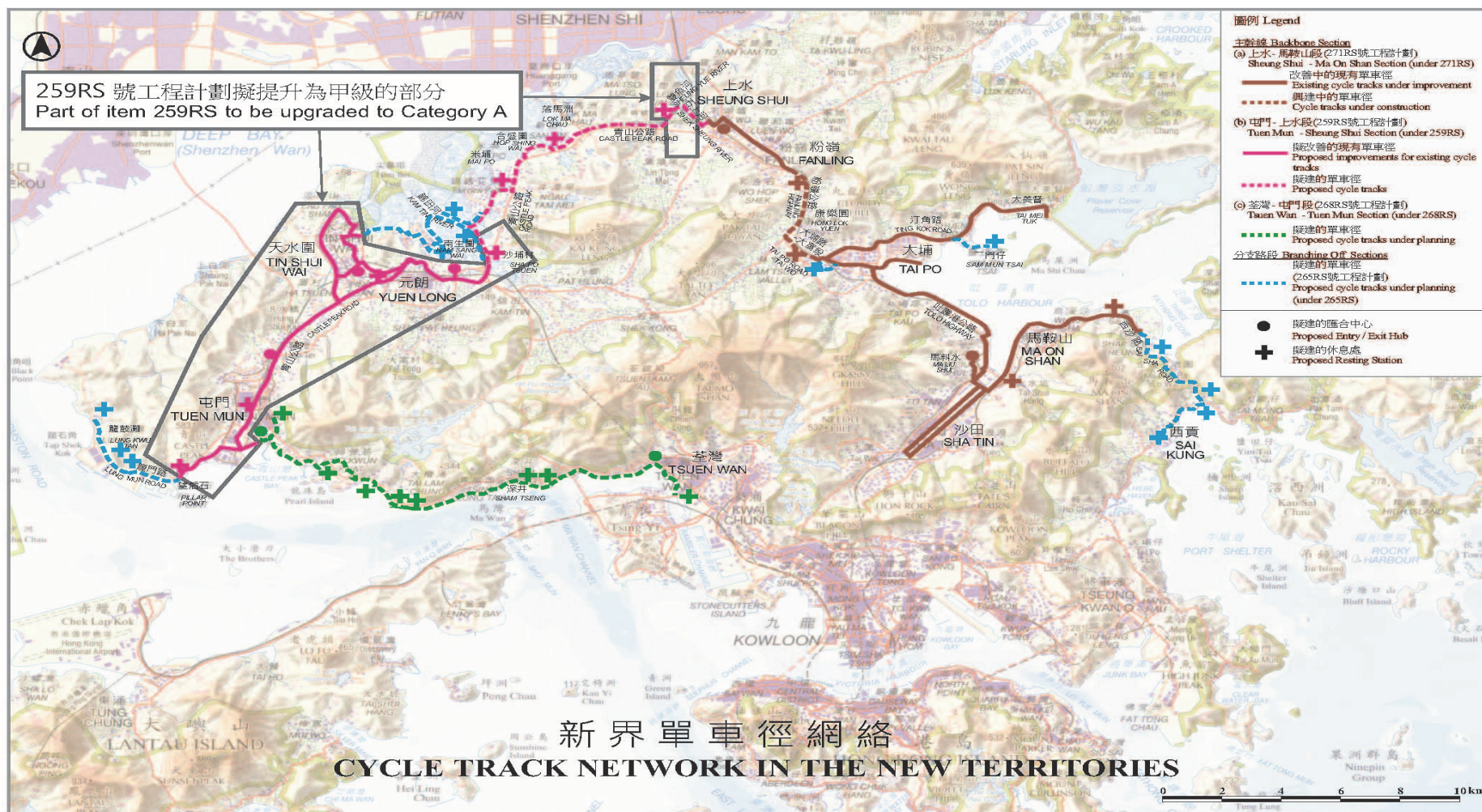
cycle parks had been put on trial in the vicinity of Fanling and Sheung Shui MTR Stations. Besides, the experience of other cities would be considered in the course of providing cycle parking spaces.

Relevant papers

12. A list of the relevant papers with their hyperlinks is at **Appendix III**.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
18 April 2013

擬建的新界單車徑網絡
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)862/12-13(03)號文件)
Source: The Administration's paper on PWP Item 259RS -- Cycle tracks connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories (LC Paper No. CB(1)862/12-13(03))

Appendix II

Supporting facilities to be provided at suitable locations along the proposed cycle track network in the New Territories

- (a) **Entry/exit hubs** as strategic doorways to the cycle track network are to be provided at regional or district focal points served by different modes of transport to facilitate ease of access by the public. The entry/exit hubs are intended to be gathering place to enable cyclists to meet and plan their journeys at leisure. To maximize the convenience of the cyclists, the arrangement whereby bicycles may be hired at one hub and be returned at another will be promoted through careful planning and design of the operation of the entry/exit hubs.
- (b) **Resting/viewing places** serve as stopovers for cyclists who want to recover their strength or have a visit to the surrounding areas of interest. These places will where possible be located near scenic spots and places of interest. Direction signs will be erected at suitable locations in the cycle track network to guide cyclists visiting places of interests nearby.
- (c) **General facilities** covering rental/repair kiosks, cycle parking spaces, route maps, information boards, first aid station, refreshment kiosk, toilets, etc. will be provided in each entry/exit hub and within the cycle track network at suitable intervals. Milestone posts will also be installed for the information of public.
- (d) **Landscaping** will be improved along the cycle tracks to provide a green setting for softening the built environment and enhancing the recreational value of the cycle track network.

Source: The Administration's paper on cycle track network in the New Territories (LC Paper No. CB(1)1602/07-08(07))

Proposed cycle tracks network in the New Territories

List of relevant papers

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Panel on Development ("DEV Panel")	27 May 2008	<p>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</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>
DEV Panel	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>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>
Public Works Subcommittee ("PWSC")	20 May 2009	<p>Administration's paper on "259RS -- Cycle tracks connecting North West New Territories with North East New Territories" (PWSC(2009-10)27) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/fc/pwsc/papers/p09-27e.pdf</p>

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
		Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. PWSC113/08-09) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/fc/pwsc/minutes/pwsc20090520.pdf
Finance Committee ("FC")	5 June 2009	Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. FC7/09-10) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/fc/fc/minutes/fc20090605.pdf
DEV Panel	19 December 2011	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 Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. CB(1)1346/11-12) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/panels/dev/minutes/dev20111219.pdf
PWSC	9 January 2012	Administration's paper on "PWP Item No. 268RS -- Cycle track between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun" (detailed design and site investigation (advance and stage 1 works)) (PWSC(2011-12)44) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/fc/pwsc/papers/p11-44e.pdf Minutes of meeting (LC Paper No. PWSC43/11-12) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/fc/pwsc/minutes/pwsc20120109.pdf
Council meeting	24 October 2012	Hansard -- written question (No. 13) on "cycle track network" (P. 628 - P. 633) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/counmtg/hansard/cm1024-translate-e.pdf

Council/Committee	Date of meeting	Paper
Special FC meeting	10 April 2013	Controlling Officers' Replies to Initial Written Questions -- Reply Serial Nos. DEVB(W)077 and 078 http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr12-13/english/fc/fc/w_q/devb-w-e.pdf