For discussion on 19 April 2013

## Legislative Council Panel on Transport

# Extension of the CITIC Tower Footbridge to the Legislative Council Complex at Tamar

### PURPOSE

This paper serves to brief Members on the details of extending the existing CITIC Tower Footbridge to the Legislative Council Complex (LCC) at Tamar (the proposed project) and to seek Members' support of our proposed funding application to the Public Works Sub-committee (PWSC) and Finance Committee (FC) to upgrade the proposed project to Category A at an estimated cost of \$74.3 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices.

## PROJECT SCOPE AND NATURE

- 2. The scope of works of the proposed project includes
  - (a) construction of an extension of a covered footbridge, comprising a section along Tim Mei Avenue connecting the existing CITIC Tower Footbridge with a clear width of 5.85 metres (m) and a section across Tim Mei Avenue with a clear width of 3.50 m connecting LCC;
  - (b) modification of the existing CITIC Tower Footbridge to facilitate the provision of the new footbridge;
  - (c) construction of a covered link within the premises of LCC to connect the new footbridge with the Office Block of LCC at 1/F level with a staircase connecting the street level;
  - (d) building modification works within the premises of LCC to facilitate connection with the new covered link including
    - (i) structural supports for the new footbridge;
    - (ii) modification of the existing external façade of the Office Block of LCC to provide an entrance access to the 1/F of the Office Block of LCC;

- (iii) removal and reconstruction of part of the existing canopy and the whole glazed canopy at the demonstration area next to the Members' Entrance 2 of the Office Block of LCC facing Tim Mei Avenue to facilitate the connection of the new footbridge and construction of the new covered link and staircase; and
- (iv) modification of the layout and fitting out works including all necessary building services and security provisions, signage etc. of relevant internal space at 1/F of the Office Block of LCC to provide a reception space for the new entrance from the new footbridge; and
- (e) associated road, landscaping, drainage, traffic aids and road lighting works.

3. Layout and other plans and artist's impression showing the proposed works are at **Enclosure 1**.

4. We have substantially completed the detailed design of the proposed project. Subject to funding approval of FC, we plan to commence the construction works in the third quarter of 2013 for completion by the end of June 2015.

# JUSTIFICATION

5. There are now three access routes, with only Route (b) being a covered pedestrian walkway, from Admiralty hinterland to LCC as indicated at **Enclosure 2**. The Legislative Council Commission considered that compared to the Central Government Offices (CGO), it takes a longer and less direct way for the public to go from Admiralty to LCC. Given the important and independent role of the Legislative Council (LegCo), LegCo Members had concerns that pedestrians need to pass through the CGO forecourt before they reach LCC should they need a covered walkway from Admiralty to LCC. The fact that the existing covered walkway might be blocked, e.g. by demonstrations at CGO, adds to their concern. Extending the existing CITIC Tower Footbridge will provide a direct, separate and covered access route from Admiralty to LCC.

6. With the footbridge extension, persons with disabilities can make use of the existing lifts of LCC to travel between LCC and Admiralty. They can also make use of the lift for the disabled at the existing footbridge connecting the CITIC Tower Footbridge with CGO (known as EW2 under the Tamar Development Project) to go to LCC via the pavement of Tim Mei Avenue.

#### FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. We estimate the cost of the project to be \$74.3 million in MOD prices with the following breakdown –

		\$ million	0
(a)	Footbridge extension works (I) superstructure	32 15.4	.0
	(II) substructure	16.6	
(b)	Covered link and LCC modification works	20	8
	(I) site works and demolition	3.2	
	(II) builder's works within LCC	7.0	
	(III) building services	6.0	
	(IV) furniture and equipment	1.0	
	(V) energy conservation measures	0.6	
	(VI) external works and drainage	3.0	
(c)	Associated road, landscaping, drainage, traffic aids and road lighting works	1	.6
(d)	Consultancy fee	1	.8
(0)	(I) contract administration	1.7	
	(II) management of resident site staff	0.1	
(e)	Remuneration of resident site staff	1	.1
(f)	Contingencies	5	.8
(1)	C		(in Sentember
	Sub-total	63	2012 prices)
(g)	Provision for price adjustment	11	.2
	Total	74	3 (in MOD prices)

#### PUBLIC CONSULTATION

8. We consulted the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Central and Western District Council and CITIC Tower Property Management Co. Ltd. on the proposed project in June 2012 and obtained their support to the proposal. Members of the Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island of the Harbourfront Commission also held no objection to the proposed project. 9. The Advisory Committee on the Appearance of Bridges and Associated Structures  $(ACABAS)^1$  was consulted on the aesthetic design of the proposed footbridge. The Committee accepted the proposed aesthetic design in August 2012.

10. The proposed works was gazetted under the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance (Cap. 370) (the Ordinance) on 14 September 2012 and 21 September 2012. No objection was received. The Acting Permanent Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport) authorised the proposed works under the Ordinance on 11 December 2012 without modification. The notice of authorisation was gazetted on 14 December 2012 and 21 December 2012.

11. The Legislative Council Commission endorsed the project at its meeting on 19 March 2013.

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

12. The project is not a designated project under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499). It will not cause long term environmental impact. We have included in the project estimates the cost to implement suitable mitigation measures to control short term environmental impacts. During construction, we will control construction noise, dust and site run-off nuisances to levels within established standards and guidelines through the implementation of mitigation measures as required.

13. At the planning and design stages, we have considered measures to reduce the generation of construction waste where possible. Such measures include reducing the size of the foundations of the structures in order to minimise the quantity of construction waste generated from excavation. In addition, we will require the contractor to reuse inert construction waste (e.g. excavated materials for backfilling) on site or in other suitable construction sites as far as possible in order to minimise the disposal of inert construction waste at public fill reception facilities<sup>2</sup>. We will also encourage the contractor to maximise the use of recycled or recyclable inert construction waste and non-timber formwork to further reduce the generation of construction waste.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> ACABAS comprises representatives of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, Hong Kong Institute of Planners, Architectural Services Department, Highways Department, Housing Department, Civil Engineering and Development Department, and an academic institution to be invited by the Chairman of ACABAS (such as an architectural school from a local institution), is responsible for vetting the design of bridges and other structures associated with the highway system, including noise barriers and enclosures, from the aesthetic and visual impact points of view.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Public fill reception facilities are specified in Schedule 4 of the Waste Disposal (Charges for Disposal of Construction Waste) Regulation (Cap. 354N). Disposal of inert construction waste in public fill reception facilities requires a licence issued by the Director of Civil Engineering and Development.

14. At the construction stage, we will require the contractor to submit for approval a plan setting out the waste management measures, which will include appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle inert construction waste. We will ensure that the day-to-day operations on site comply with the approved plan. We will require the contractor to separate the inert portion from non-inert construction waste on site for disposal at appropriate facilities. We will control the disposal of inert construction waste and non-inert construction waste at public fill reception facilities and landfills respectively through a trip-ticket system.

15. We estimate that the project will generate in total about 757 tonnes of construction waste. Of these, we will reuse about 305 tonnes (40%) of inert construction waste on site and deliver 385 tonnes (51%) of inert construction waste to public fill reception facilities for subsequent reuse. We will dispose of the remaining 67 tonnes (9%) of non-inert construction waste at landfills. The total cost for accommodating construction waste at public fill reception facilities and landfill sites is estimated to be about \$18,770 for this project (based on a unit cost of \$27 per tonne for disposal at public fill reception facilities and \$125 per tonne<sup>3</sup> at landfills).

# HERITAGE IMPLICATIONS

16. The project will not affect any heritage site, i.e. all declared monuments, proposed monuments, graded historic sites/buildings, sites of archaeological interest and Government historic sites identified by the Antiquities and Monuments Office.

### LAND ACQUISITION

17. The proposed works do not require any land acquisition.

### TREE-RELATED PROPOSAL

18. The proposed works will not involve any tree removal. We will incorporate a planting proposal of about 270 shrubs as part of the project.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> This estimate has taken into account the cost for developing, operating and restoring the landfills after they are filled and the aftercare required. It does not include the land opportunity cost for existing landfill sites (which is estimated at \$90 per m<sup>3</sup>), nor the cost to provide new landfills (which is likely to be more expensive) when the existing ones are filled.

#### **PROJECT ARRANGEMENTS**

19. The project will cause localised traffic impact during its construction stage, that is parts of the pedestrian area and the fast lanes of both directions of Tim Mei Avenue will have to be temporarily closed. Temporary traffic measures will be arranged.

20. As for the demonstration area of LCC facing Tim Mei Avenue, it will have to be closed during the construction period for safety reasons. Hoardings around the works area will be provided for public safety. Proper safety and diversion measures for the pedestrian flow along the passageway outside the Public Complaints Office of LCC connecting CGO and LCC during the construction period will also be arranged.

21. In respect of the modification works within LCC, the Administration will endeavour to minimise the impact of the project to LegCo's daily operation including proper scheduling of noise-intensive works. The Administration will keep close liaison and coordination with the LegCo Secretariat throughout to monitor the condition of LCC, and make further arrangements and/or introduce mitigation measures whenever necessary.

## WAY FORWARD

22. We intend to seek funding support of PWSC and FC in May and June 2013 respectively to upgrade the proposed project to Category A. Subject to FC's funding approval, we plan to commence the construction works in July 2013 with a target completion date in the end of June 2015.

## Administration Wing, Chief Secretary for Administration's Office April 2013

























