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**Panel on Transport**

**Background brief on the progress of  
provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems**

**Purpose**

This paper provides background information on the progress of provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems in Hong Kong. It also summarizes the views expressed by members of the Panel on Transport ("the Panel") and the Subcommittee on Improving Barrier Free Access and Facilities for Persons with Disabilities ("the Subcommittee") on the subject.

**Background**

2. The Administration established in 2009 a set of scoring criteria for assessing different proposals for hillside escalator links and elevator systems so as to determine the priority for conducting preliminary technical feasibility studies for the 20 works proposals received at that time. The Administration consulted the Panel in May 2009 on the proposed criteria and reported the assessment results to the Panel in February 2010<sup>1</sup>. Details of the scoring criteria are in **Appendix I**. Two proposals were screened out initially<sup>2</sup>, and 18 others were ranked. The Administration indicated at the time that preliminary technical feasibility studies for the proposals ranked top 10 in the assessment would be conducted by batches, and that the remaining proposals would be followed up after the smooth implementation of the top 10 proposals.

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<sup>1</sup> Please refer to the background brief on the policy of provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems for uphill areas in Hong Kong prepared by the Secretariat on 23 February 2010 (LC Paper No.: CB(1)1191/09-10) and the Administration's paper on "Assessment results on proposals for provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems" in February 2010 (LC Paper No.: CB(1)1190/09-10(03)).

<sup>2</sup> The two proposals were screened out due to the following reasons: similar facility had already been provided in close proximity for one proposal and the level difference of the other did not exceed six meters.

## Projects implementation and expenditure

3. The progress of the 18 works proposals provided by the Administration on 28 December 2015 is in **Appendix II**<sup>3</sup>. According to the progress report, the Yuet Wah Street Pedestrian Linkage project (ranked 13<sup>th</sup>) has been completed and was opened for public use in October 2015. The pedestrian link at Tsz Wan Shan (ranked first) has been included under the Shatin to Central Link project. The construction works for this pedestrian link project commenced in July 2012 and are scheduled for completion by phases before 2016 (certain sections of the covered walkways were completed and opened for public use in 2014). Regarding the remaining 16 projects, the Administration has completed the preliminary technical feasibility studies of 11 of them.

4. According to the Administration, the estimated cost for the Yuet Wah Street Pedestrian Linkage project and the Pedestrian Link project at Tsz Wan Shan was \$95 million and \$608 million respectively. Apart from the two aforesaid proposals, the cumulative expenditure as at end-March 2015 for taking forward the other proposals was about \$7 million whereas the estimated expenditure in 2015-2016 was about \$17 million<sup>4</sup>.

5. According to the 2016 Policy Agenda, the Administration has decided to further take forward three hillside escalator links and elevator systems projects which are at a relatively advanced planning stage, namely the Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Cheung Hang Estate, Tsing Yi (ranked third), the Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Kwai Shing Circuit and Hing Shing Road (ranked fifth), and the Lift and Pedestrian Walkway at Waterloo Hill (ranked ninth), so as to facilitate the elderly and needy to travel in hilly areas. To enhance local pedestrian network, the Administration also plans to implement the construction of an elevated walkway and footbridge in Tseung Kwan O and Tsuen Wan respectively, in order to facilitate the public especially the elderly to get around town centre, major public transport facilities and streets.

6. The Administration further stated in the 2016 Policy Agenda that it will seek funding approval for the five projects mentioned in paragraph 5 above in the 2015-2016 legislative session. If funding approval can be obtained, the Administration will carry out the projects in the fourth quarter of 2016.

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<sup>3</sup> Please refer to the Administration's paper on the progress of the hillside escalator links and elevator systems on 28 December 2015 (LC Paper No. CB(4)414/15-16(01)).

<sup>4</sup> Please refer to Reply serial no. THB(T)365 of "Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2015-16".

## **Major views and concerns on the progress of provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems**

7. Major views and concerns expressed by members at the Panel meetings on 26 February 2010 and 16 January 2015 and the meeting of the Subcommittee on 20 July 2011 regarding the progress of provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems are summarized below.

### Implementation progress

8. Members generally expressed concern over the slow progress of implementing the hillside escalator link and elevator system projects by the Administration. The Administration advised that works for hillside escalator links often involved considerations such as slopes, structures, soil properties, diversion of underground utilities and land resumption, and were therefore considerably complex. Subject to the findings of the preliminary technical feasibility studies, the Highways Department would continually carry out various tasks of pre-construction preparation, which covered investigation and preliminary design, consultation with District Councils and relevant stakeholders, gazettal of the proposals and handling of any objections under the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance (Cap. 370), land acquisition if necessary, formulation of detailed design, application for funding approval from the Legislative Council in respect of individual projects and invitation for tenders, etc. Since these pre-construction tasks involved complicated procedures and were relatively controversial in nature, the time required for these works projects varied with actual circumstances.

### Handling of new suggestions

9. In response to members' enquiry about whether the Administration would continue to accept new suggestions on the provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems, the Administration advised at the briefing by the Secretary for Transport and Housing on the Chief Executive's 2015 Policy Address that there was an established set of criteria for assessing proposals for hillside escalator links and elevator systems to determine the priority for conducting preliminary technical feasibility studies. The Administration would first deal with the 18 ranked proposals before following up on any new suggestions. The Administration also advised that the construction of hillside escalator links and elevator systems involved huge investment with long implementation period, and that there should be prior consensus in the district for the implementation.

### Feasibility studies of the projects

10. At the Panel meeting on 26 February 2010, members noted that the Administration would conduct feasibility studies on the prioritized proposals, starting with those ranked top 10 in the assessment. The Panel passed two motions regarding these feasibility studies. In the two motions, members urged the Administration to include all the districts covered by the 18 proposals for provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems in its feasibility studies; and strongly requested the Administration to immediately conduct feasibility studies on all the 20 proposed hillside escalators and elevator systems which had been assessed based on the assessment system.

11. In response to the motions, the Administration advised in its letter dated 28 September 2010 that there was a genuine need for the Administration to take forward the proposals received in stages having regard to manpower and resource considerations. It would first conduct feasibility studies for the proposals ranked top 10 in the assessment. In respect of the proposals to be covered in the initial stage of the feasibility studies, the Highways Department had started to take forward the relevant technical feasibility studies in phases commencing the second half of 2010, and would seek to complete such studies within 24 to 48 months, depending on the complexity of the proposed systems. Proposals not selected for feasibility studies in that stage would remain on the waiting list for consideration in the next assessment exercise together with other proposals on the list. The Administration would assess the proposals on the waiting list in due course, subject to the progress of proposal implementation, as well as actual availability of manpower and resources.

12. At the Subcommittee meeting on 20 July 2011, members were concerned about the progress of the feasibility studies on the provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems. At members' request, the Administration provided the Subcommittee with the scores, rankings and progress of the feasibility studies of the 18 projects<sup>5</sup>.

### **Relevant questions raised at Council meetings**

13. During 2012-2013 to 2015-2016 legislative sessions, four questions relating to the hillside escalator links and elevator systems were raised at Council meetings of 9 January 2013, 16 April 2014, 26 November 2014 and 16 December 2015. The hyperlinks to the questions and the Administration's responses, together with other relevant papers, are in **Appendix III**.

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<sup>5</sup> The paper (LC Paper No. CB(1) CB(2)265/11-12(01)) was issued to members on 9 November 2011.

## **Latest developments**

14. The Administration plans to consult members at the Panel meeting scheduled for 23 March 2016 on the funding proposals of the construction of the five projects mentioned in paragraph 5 above which target to enhance the accessibility of hillsides and urban areas.

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### **Details of the Assessment System for Provision of Hillside Escalator Links and Elevator Systems**

The assessment system on provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems comprises initial screening and scoring stages.

#### **Initial Screening**

2. The initial screening helps screen out proposals which are obviously infeasible or unjustifiable for implementation. A proposal will not be taken forward if it has any of the following characteristics –

- (a) land unavailability – inadequate land and/or infeasible land resumption to possibly accommodate the proposed facility;
- (b) redundancy – similar facility/facilities is/are already provided or committed in close proximity<sup>1</sup> to the proposed facility;
- (c) insurmountable construction or operational difficulties; or
- (d) small level difference – level difference to be overcome is less than six metres ("m").

#### **Scoring System**

3. Proposals which pass the initial screening will be evaluated by the scoring system based on the following set of evaluation criteria (figures in brackets denote their respective maximum score) –

- (a) Circumstantial factors (total score : 40)
  - (i) existing population/employment within catchment<sup>2</sup> (6);
  - (ii) existing population of 65 year-old or above within catchment (5);

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<sup>1</sup> A facility located within 300 m of the proposed facility is generally regarded as one within close proximity.

<sup>2</sup> Catchment is defined as the area within the radius of 300 m from every entrance/access point of the proposed facility.

- (iii) topographical conditions, i.e. steep gradient/level difference (11);
  - (iv) connectivity with other existing/committed pedestrian facilities (4);
  - (v) connectivity with existing/committed mass public transport facilities within catchment (4);
  - (vi) connectivity with existing/committed centres of activity within catchment (4);
  - (vii) steadiness of existing pedestrian flow (6);
- (b) Beneficial factors (total score : 35)
- (viii) revitalization of / benefits to local community (6);
  - (ix) journey time/cost saving (8);
  - (x) improvement to existing traffic conditions (6);
  - (xi) improvement to existing pedestrian conditions (6);
  - (xii) road safety (6);
  - (xiii) tourism promotion (3);
- (c) Implementation factors (total score : 25)
- (xiv) land requirement (6);
  - (xv) technical/environmental constraints (6); and
  - (xvi) cost-effectiveness (13).

4. The respective weightings for the circumstantial, beneficial and implementation factors, as well as the individual items thereunder, reflect their relative importance, forming a total score of 100. Based on the scores obtained, the relative rankings among various proposals on hillside escalator links and elevator systems will be determined in an objective manner. Those proposals with higher rankings will obviously have priority to proceed to the next stage of planning and investigation.

5. However, the proposed assessment system will not be applicable to the following proposals –

- (a) proposals which cross a single road – they will be evaluated under the criteria for footbridge construction;
- (b) proposals which entirely fall within the boundary of public housing estates – the Housing Department will consider the feasibility of the escalator and elevator systems within the boundary of public housing estates separately; or
- (c) proposals which form an integral part of major projects –justifications for them will be considered as part of the respective major projects.

**(Source: Extracted from Annex A to LC Paper No.: CB(1)1190/09-10(03))**



## Appendix II

### Progress of the hillside escalator links and elevator systems provided by the Administration on 28 December 2015

Rank	Proposal	Progress of the project
1	Pedestrian Link at Tsz Wan Shan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• This Link is being implemented under the Shatin to Central Link project. Construction works of the Link commenced in July 2012 and are scheduled for completion in phases by end-2016 (certain sections of the covered walkways were completed and opened to the public in 2014).</li></ul>
2	Braemar Hill Pedestrian Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed. The Highways Department ("HyD") has engaged consultants to carry out the investigation works and preliminary design.</li></ul>
3	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Cheung Hang Estate, Tsing Yi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The preliminary technical feasibility study, investigation works and preliminary design have been completed. The project was authorised in June 2015. HyD is carrying out detailed design for the proposal.</li></ul>
4	Escalator Link and Pedestrian Walkway System at Pound Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed. HyD consulted the Central and Western District Council on the refined proposal in January 2015 and held a public forum in April 2015. The Department is collating and analysing the comments received.</li></ul>
5	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Kwai Shing Circuit and Hing Shing Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The preliminary technical feasibility study, investigation works and preliminary design have been completed. The project was also gazetted in October 2015.</li></ul>

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Progress of the project</b>
6	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Castle Peak Road and Kui Yip Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed. HyD has engaged consultants to carry out the investigation work and preliminary design for the project.</li> </ul>
7	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Lai Cho Road and Wah Yiu Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed. HyD has engaged consultants to carry out the investigation works and preliminary design.</li> </ul>
8	Pedestrian Link at Chuk Yuen North Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed. HyD has engaged a consultancy to carry out the investigation works and preliminary design. Having consulted the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Wong Tai Sin District Council on the project's preliminary design in July 2015, HyD is examining the feasibility of other alternatives in the light of the request of the Committee.</li> </ul>
9	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System in Waterloo Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The preliminary technical feasibility study, investigation works and preliminary design have been completed. The project was authorized in August 2014. HyD is carrying out detailed design for the proposal.</li> </ul>
10	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Lai King Hill Road and Lai Cho Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is revealed in the preliminary technical feasibility study that the project involves two dangerous private slopes.</li> <li>• The party responsible for maintaining the private slopes should hire authorised persons or contractors to carry out the repair work concerned.</li> <li>• According to the information of the Buildings Department ("BD"), the party</li> </ul>

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Progress of the project</b>
		<p>responsible for maintaining the private slopes concerned will conduct the investigation works and design for the design and repair works required under the Dangerous Hillside Orders issued by BD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HyD will continue to liaise with BD to learn the progress and will revisit the project after the responsible party has completed repairing the dangerous slopes satisfactorily.</li> </ul>
11	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Tai Wo Hau Road and Wo Tong Tsui Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upon examining the implementation progress of the higher-ranking proposals and reviewing its manpower resources, HyD has commenced the preliminary technical feasibility study for this proposal in accordance with the ranking. The study has been completed, and this project is initially considered technically feasible.</li> <li>HyD engaged consultants for the investigation works and preliminary design for this proposal in August 2015.</li> </ul>
12	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Luen On Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upon examining the implementation progress of the higher-ranking proposed projects and reviewing the available manpower resources, HyD has commenced the preliminary technical feasibility study for this proposal in accordance with the ranking. The study has been completed, and this project is initially considered technically feasible.</li> <li>HyD engaged a consultancy for the investigation work and preliminary design for this project in August 2015.</li> </ul>
13	Yuet Wah Street Pedestrian Linkage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To complement the Kwun Tong Town Centre Redevelopment, the Civil</li> </ul>

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Progress of the project</b>
		<p>Engineering and Development Department commenced the Yuet Wah Street Pedestrian Linkage in April 2013. This has been substantially completed and is opened to the public in October 2015.</p>
14	Escalator Link System between Hong Sing Garden and Po Hong Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This proposal would be followed up after the smooth implementation of the higher-ranking proposals.</li> </ul>
14	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Lai King Hill Road and Princess Margaret Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Hospital Authority ("HA") has completed the technical feasibility study, ground investigation and preliminary design for the lift tower works at Princess Margaret Hospital. The tendering exercise for the foundation works of the lift tower was completed in October 2015. HA will work closely with relevant departments, and will complete the works as soon as possible while ensuring that the construction will not affect the normal operation of the hospital.</li> </ul>
16	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Saddle Ridge Garden and Sai Sha Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This proposal would be followed up after the smooth implementation of the higher-ranking proposals.</li> </ul>
17	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Hing Shing Road and Tai Wo Hau Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This proposal would be followed up after the smooth implementation of the higher-ranking proposals.</li> </ul>
18	Escalator Link System between Sha Tin Sui Wo Court and MTR Fo Tan Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This proposal would be followed up after the smooth implementation of the higher-ranking proposals.</li> </ul>

## Appendix III

### Provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems List of relevant papers

Date of meeting	Committee	Minutes/Paper	LC Paper No.
15.03.2002	Panel on Transport	Administration's paper on "Provision of Escalator Link/Elevator System"	<a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr01-02/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0315cb1-1266-3e.pdf">CB(1)1266/01-02(03) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr01-02/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0315cb1-1266-3e.pdf</a>
		Minutes of the meeting	CB(1)1517/01-02) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr01-02/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp020315.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr01-02/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp020315.pdf</a>
06.2002	Panel on Transport	Administration's paper on "Territory-wide Review on Provision of Escalator Links/Elevator Systems"	CB(1)2130/01-02(04) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr01-02/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0315cb1-2130-4e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr01-02/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0315cb1-2130-4e.pdf</a>
22.05.2009	Panel on Transport	Administration's paper on "Establishment of an assessment system for provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems"	<a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0522cb1-1613-6-e.pdf">CB(1)1613/08-09(06) http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0522cb1-1613-6-e.pdf</a>
		Minutes of the meeting	CB(1)2756/08-09 <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp20090522.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr08-09/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp20090522.pdf</a>

<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Minutes/Paper</b>	<b>LC Paper No.</b>
26.02.2010	Panel on Transport	Administration's paper on "Assessment results on proposals for provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems"	CB(1)1190/09-10(03) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0226cb1-1190-3-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0226cb1-1190-3-e.pdf</a>
		Background brief on the provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems	CB(1)1191/09-10 <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0226cb1-1191-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0226cb1-1191-e.pdf</a>
		Administration's paper responding to the motions on assessment results on proposals for provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems	CB(1)2983/09-10(02) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0226cb1-2983-2-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/tp/papers/tp0226cb1-2983-2-e.pdf</a>
		Minutes of the meeting	CB(1)1596/09-10 <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp20100226.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr09-10/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp20100226.pdf</a>
20.07.2011	Subcommittee on Improving Barrier Free Access and Facilities for Persons with Disabilities	Administration's paper responding to the issues raised by members at the meeting on 20 July 2011	CB(2)265/11-12(01) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/panels/ws/ws_bf/papers/ws_bf1111cb2-265-1-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr11-12/english/panels/ws/ws_bf/papers/ws_bf1111cb2-265-1-e.pdf</a>
		Minutes of the meeting	CB(2)398/11-12 <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/ws/ws_bf/minutes/bf20110720.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr10-11/english/panels/ws/ws_bf/minutes/bf20110720.pdf</a>

<b>Date of meeting</b>	<b>Committee</b>	<b>Minutes/Paper</b>	<b>LC Paper No.</b>
9.01.2013	Legislative Council	Question raised by Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung on provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems	<a href="http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201301/09/P201301080376.htm">http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201301/09/P201301080376.htm</a>
16.04.2014	Legislative Council	Question raised by Hon Paul TSE on hillside escalator links and elevator systems	<a href="http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201404/16/P201404160474.htm">http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201404/16/P201404160474.htm</a>
26.11.2014	Legislative Council	Question raised by Hon Michael TIEN on hillside escalator links and elevator systems	<a href="http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201411/26/P201411260360.htm">http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201411/26/P201411260360.htm</a>
16.01.2015	Panel on Transport	Minutes of the meeting	CB(4)1390/14-15 <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr14-15/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp20150116.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr14-15/english/panels/tp/minutes/tp20150116.pdf</a>
16.12.2015	Legislative Council	Question raised by Hon Frankie YICK on hillside escalator links and elevator systems	<a href="http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201512/16/P201512160340.htm">http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/201512/16/P201512160340.htm</a>
28.12.2015	Panel on Transport	Administration's paper responding to the letter from Hon CHAN Han-pan on the progress of providing hillside escalator links and elevator systems	CB(4)414/15-16(01) <a href="http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr15-16/english/panels/tp/papers/tpcb4-414-1-e.pdf">http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr15-16/english/panels/tp/papers/tpcb4-414-1-e.pdf</a>