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Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Sophie Lau)

By email
(Email: ssylau@legco.gov.hk)

Dear Ms Lau,

Progress of the Hillside Escalator Links and Elevator Systems

Thanks for your letter to the Secretary for Transport and Housing on 22 June 2015 referring the concerns of the Hon CHAN Han-pan on the captioned. Our reply is as follows.

The Government established in 2009 a set of comprehensive, objective and transparent scoring criteria for assessing proposals for hillside escalator links and elevator systems (hereafter referred to as “hillside escalator links”) to determine the priority for conducting preliminary technical feasibility studies for the 20 proposals received at that time. The Government then consulted the Legislative Council (LegCo) Panel on Transport in May 2009. Upon completion of the assessment, the results were reported to the LegCo Panel on Transport in February 2010. Two proposals were screened out initially, and 18 others were ranked. The Government indicated at the time that preliminary technical feasibility studies for the proposals ranked top ten in the assessment would be conducted by batches, and that the remaining proposals would be followed up after the smooth implementation of the top ten proposals.

The Government is concerned about the public need on hillside escalators and has been actively implementing the hillside escalator links proposals. Please refer to the table below for the progress of the proposals.

Rank	Proposal	Progress of the project
1	Pedestrian Link at Tsz Wan Shan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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).
2	Braemar Hill Pedestrian Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed. The Highways Department (HyD) has engaged consultants to carry out the investigation works and preliminary design.
3	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Cheung Hang Estate, Tsing Yi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preliminary technical feasibility study, investigation works and preliminary design have been completed. The project was authorised in June 2015. The HyD is carrying out detailed design for the proposal.
4	Escalator Link and Pedestrian Walkway System at Pound Lane	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed. The 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 analyzing the comments received.
5	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Kwai Shing Circuit and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preliminary technical feasibility study, investigation works and preliminary design have been

Rank	Proposal	Progress of the project
	Hing Shing Road	completed. The project was also gazetted in October 2015.
6	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Castle Peak Road and Kui Yip Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed. The HyD has engaged consultants to carry out the investigation work and preliminary design for the project.
7	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Lai Cho Road and Wah Yiu Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed. The HyD has engaged consultants to carry out the investigation works and preliminary design.
8	Pedestrian Link at Chuk Yuen North Estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preliminary technical feasibility study has been completed. The 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, the HyD is examining the feasibility of other alternatives in the light of the request of the Committee.
9	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System in Waterloo Hill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preliminary technical feasibility study, investigation works and preliminary design have been completed. The project was authorised in August 2014. The HyD is carrying out detailed design for the proposal.
10	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Lai King Hill Road and Lai Cho Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is revealed in the preliminary technical feasibility study that the project involves two dangerous private slopes. The party responsible for maintaining the private slopes should hire authorised

Rank	Proposal	Progress of the project
		<p>persons or contractors to carry out the repair work concerned.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the information of the Buildings Department (BD), the party 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 the BD. • The HyD will continue to liaise with the BD to learn the progress and will revisit the project after the responsible party has completed repairing the dangerous slopes satisfactorily.
11	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Tai Wo Hau Road and Wo Tong Tsui Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon examining the implementation progress of the higher-ranking proposals and reviewing its manpower resources, the 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. • The HyD engaged consultants for the investigation works and preliminary design for this proposal in August 2015.
12	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System at Luen On Street	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upon examining the implementation progress of the higher-ranking proposed projects and reviewing the available manpower resources, the 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.

Rank	Proposal	Progress of the project
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HyD engaged a consultancy for the investigation work and preliminary design for this project in August 2015.
13	Yuet Wah Street Pedestrian Linkage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To complement the Kwun Tong Town Centre Redevelopment, the Civil 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.
14	Escalator Link System between Hong Sing Garden and Po Hong Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This proposal would be followed up after the smooth implementation of the higher-ranking proposals.
14	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Lai King Hill Road and Princess Margaret Hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. The 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.
16	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Saddle Ridge Garden and Sai Sha Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This proposal would be followed up after the smooth implementation of the higher-ranking proposals.
17	Lift and Pedestrian Walkway System between Hing Shing Road and Tai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This proposal would be followed up after the smooth implementation of the

Rank	Proposal	Progress of the project
	Wo Hau Road	higher-ranking proposals.
18	Escalator Link System between Sha Tin Sui Wo Court and MTR Fo Tan Station	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This proposal would be followed up after the smooth implementation of the higher-ranking proposals.

Implementation of the works for hillside escalator links involves various considerations such as soil properties, condition of the slopes, the flow path of the pedestrians, the layout of the structures, the impact on the surrounding environment, how the residents may be affected, diversion of underground utilities and associated land resumption if needed, and are therefore considerably complex. The HyD will have to carry out various tasks of pre-construction preparation, which cover investigation and preliminary design, consultation with District Councils and relevant stakeholders, gazettal of the proposals and handling of objections under the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance (Cap. 370), 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 involve various procedures and some proposed works may be relatively controversial, the time required for the projects varies with actual circumstances. The HyD will continue to take forward the hillside escalator links projects and will consult and report the progress to relevant District Councils in a timely manner.

Thanks for your concern over the aforementioned projects.

Yours sincerely,

(Jessica LEE)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.

Commissioner for Transport

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