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**[English Translation]**

Mr Lemuel WOO  
Clerk to Panel on Transport  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
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**Email (yfwoo@legco.gov.hk)**

29 March 2018

Dear Mr WOO,

**Legislative Council Panel on Transport  
Meeting on 19 January 2018**

**Widening of Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) — construction**

**Supplementary Information**

Regarding the information requested by Members at the Legislative Council Panel on Transport meeting held on 19 January 2018, our reply is as follows.

The Government has an established mechanism to monitor and deal with the traffic conditions of all major roads in Hong Kong. The Transport and Housing Bureau (THB) formulates policies on traffic and transport issues while the Transport Department (TD), which is under the THB's purview, is responsible for transport planning and devising transport strategies. The TD also works with the Highways Department (HyD) and relevant works departments to take forward transport infrastructure projects in phases. Under the supervision and coordination of the THB, the Government is working on three fronts, namely alleviating traffic congestion, improving road network and taking forward major road projects in accordance with the

existing mechanism. The relevant work is summarised below.

### Alleviating traffic congestion

In view of the growing population and long-term development in Hong Kong, we expect that the number of vehicles in Hong Kong will inevitably increase in the next five to ten years. The Government is taking forward progressively the recommendations by the Transport Advisory Committee in its “Report on Study of Road Traffic Congestion in Hong Kong”, including containing the growth of private cars and exploring the launch of the Electronic Road Pricing Pilot Scheme in Central and its adjacent areas. Moreover, the TD is conducting a study on the overall strategy and feasible options for rationalisation of the traffic distribution among the three road harbour crossings and three land tunnels between Kowloon and Sha Tin, and plans to consult the Legislative Council (LegCo) on the specific toll adjustment proposals within the current legislative year.

### Improving road network

The TD from time to time implements traffic and road improvement measures in various districts to ensure smooth traffic. These measures include widening of existing roads, and enhancing arrangements for traffic lanes and other road markings. Works departments have been engaged to carry out the relevant works. For example, the TD has noted the congestion caused by traffic accidents in the past on Tolo Highway southbound near Yuen Chau Tsai and has proposed to add double white lines at the merging point on such section of Tolo Highway. This proposal will facilitate vehicles merging between traffic lanes in an orderly manner. The HyD has arranged for the commencement of relevant works in June this year. On local road improvement works, the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) provided in 2015 an additional lane at the approaching road (near Scenery Court) leading from Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section) to Route 8 to improve traffic conditions in the vicinity. Stage 2 works for the widening of a section of Fanling Highway between Tai Hang and Wo Hop Shek Interchange are being implemented and are scheduled for completion in 2019. In addition, the dualling of Hiram’s Highway between Clear Water Bay Road and Marina Cove, the improvement to local access to Ho Chung, the works to add a southbound lane on So Kwun Po Road (i.e. Kai Leng Roundabout) and Po Shek Wu Road (i.e. Tai Tau Leng Roundabout), and the works to add a southbound lane on Sha Tau Kok Road between Ma Sik Road and Sui Wan Road are underway.

### Taking forward major road projects

In conjunction with the TD, we have been reviewing the need, scope and implementation timetable of major roads to ensure that transport infrastructure can tie in with the overall land development and alleviate traffic congestion, as well as to monitor the progress of the construction works of relevant works departments. For example, the HyD is taking forward the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link, the Central-Wan Chai Bypass and the Island Eastern Corridor Link, and the Central Kowloon Route projects while the CEDD is pressing ahead with the works for the Tseung Kwan O – Lam Tin Tunnel.

Moreover, we are seeking the necessary funding approval from the LegCo for the construction of the Cross Bay Link, Tseung Kwan O and the widening of Tai Po Road (Sha Tin Section). To enhance the existing road network in Hong Kong, we are working on a number of transport infrastructure projects, including the Trunk Road T2 in East Kowloon, the Trunk Road T4 in Sha Tin, the Tuen Mun Western Bypass and Route 11. Furthermore, we are planning to take forward the “Strategic Studies on Railways and Major Roads beyond 2030”, with a view to ascertaining the transport demand brought about by Hong Kong’s long-term development and devising strategies on the major transport infrastructure in Hong Kong, so as to provide the necessary transport infrastructure in a timely manner. After obtaining the funding approval, we will commence the study as soon as possible.

To examine traffic conditions and take forward transport infrastructure projects so as to alleviate traffic congestion, collaboration among various departments is needed. According to the existing mechanism, under the coordination by the THB, the TD is responsible for monitoring traffic conditions and conducting preliminary studies on traffic solutions while works departments such as the HyD and the CEDD are responsible for examining the engineering feasibility and implementing works projects. Therefore, we do not consider it necessary to set up a dedicated team in order to examine the traffic conditions of all major roads across the territory to avoid duplicating efforts, bearing no substantive significance to resolving the problem.

Yours sincerely,

[Chinese version signed]

(Molly HUI)  
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.:

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