Legislative Council Panel on Environmental Affairs

PWP Item No. 6832TH Retrofitting Noise Barriers on Long Tin Road

Follow-up Actions

The existing noise barriers along Tolo Highway were part of the Tolo Highway widening project. The designs met the requirements of the relevant Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). These noise barriers used solid sound absorptive panels to avoid noise exceedance over the relevant road traffic noise planning standards at some existing noise sensitive receivers as a result of noise reflection by the noise barriers. The EIA also took into account the visual impact arising from the noise barriers. The aesthetical design of the noise barriers was approved by the Advisory Committee on the Appearance of Bridges and Associated Structures.

Regarding the enquiry of the Panel on Environmental Affairs, if some of the solid absorptive panels in the noise barriers along certain sections of the Tolo Highway are to be replaced with transparent panels, it may lead to increase in noise reflection by the noise barriers and affect the nearby residents. Therefore, the Administration needs to conduct a study to confirm the feasibility of replacing the solid absorptive panels by transparent panels in some of the noise barriers; the noise levels and visual impact after the replacement; and estimations on the cost and time required for the works etc. It will take a few months to complete the study. We will inform the Panel of the study findings.

