

香港特別行政區政府

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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運輸及房屋局
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Ms Sophie LAU
Clerk to Panel on Transport
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

29 April 2019

Dear Ms LAU,

Panel on Transport

**Letter from Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT on
the design of traffic lights on Tai Chung Kiu Road, Sha Tin**

Thank you for your letter of 3 April 2019 to the Transport and Housing Bureau, relaying the letter from Dr Hon Elizabeth QUAT on the captioned subject. Having consulted the Transport Department (“TD”), we would like to reply as follows.

In 2018, TD conducted a comprehensive review on the road safety conditions of Tai Chung Kiu Road, Sha Tin and proposed a number of short-term and further traffic improvement measures.

To date, TD has implemented a host of short-term improvement measures at a total of seven junctions (including the junction at Sha Tin Wai Road and the junction at Sha Tin Road) along Tai Chung Kiu Road (from Lion Rock Tunnel Road to Siu Lek Yuen Road). These measures include (i) adding double white lines to separate traffic lanes with different traffic movements at the junction approaches; (ii) adding advance traffic signs “traffic lights ahead” at the junction approaches to alert motorists to the presence of signalised junctions ahead; (iii) relocating or removing those traffic signs or street name plates that may obscure the sight-lines of motorists; (iv) adding railings at the junctions to

channelise the pedestrians to use crossing places; and (v) installing backing boards at traffic lights to enable motorists to see traffic light signals more clearly, etc. The works at the junction of Lion Rock Tunnel Road were completed in early April this year, while those at other junctions were already completed in January this year.

In addition, TD proposed to install red light cameras (“RLCs”) at the southbound of Tai Chung Kiu Road near the junction at Sha Tin Wai Road and the junction at Fo Tan Road. The installation of the RLC near the junction at Sha Tin Wai Road was completed at the end of last year and it has been handed over to the Police for operation. The remaining RLC near the junction at Fo Tan Road was installed in February this year, and it will come into operation after testing by the Police in mid-May. As for further improvement measures, e.g. improving the location of traffic lights, the related works will be completed by phases within this year and next year.

Regarding the “green arrow signs” (also known as the “Traffic Lights with Split Phase”), they are common, effective and safe traffic light facilities in Hong Kong as well as in other jurisdictions. The purpose of installing such traffic lights is to allow vehicles driving in different directions to safely cross a junction at the same time without conflict, thereby increasing traffic flow to alleviate traffic congestion. If the “Traffic Lights with Split Phase” were removed, there would be traffic congestion or busy conditions at most of the existing cross junctions along Tai Chung Kiu Road. While TD has no plan to remove the “Traffic Lights with Split Phase” at this stage, it has planned to enhance the locations of traffic lights at the concerned road sections with a view to making the traffic signals clearer.

For the recent three traffic accidents at the junction of Tai Chung Kiu Road and Sha Tin Wai Road and the junction of Tai Chung Kiu Road and Sha Tin Road, the Police’s investigation is underway. Subject to the investigation findings and advice from the Police, TD will examine corresponding follow-up measures.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Winnie WY WONG)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.

Commissioner for Transport (Attn: Mr POON Wing-hong) Fax no.: 2381 3799