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**Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee
of the Legislative Council**

**Minutes of the 17th meeting
held in Conference Room 1 of the Legislative Council Complex
on Thursday, 20 May 2021, at 10:45 am**

Members present:

Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen, BBS, JP (Chairman)
Ir Dr Hon LO Wai-kwok, SBS, MH, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, GBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, GBS, JP
Dr Hon Priscilla LEUNG Mei-fun, SBS, JP
Hon Michael TIEN Puk-sun, BBS, JP
Hon Frankie YICK Chi-ming, SBS, JP
Hon MA Fung-kwok, GBS, JP
Hon CHAN Han-pan, BBS, JP
Hon Alice MAK Mei-kuen, BBS, JP
Dr Hon Junius HO Kwan-yiu, JP
Hon Holden CHOW Ho-ding
Hon Wilson OR Chong-shing, MH
Hon CHEUNG Kwok-kwan, JP
Hon LUK Chung-hung, JP
Hon LAU Kwok-fan, MH
Dr Hon CHENG Chung-tai
Hon Vincent CHENG Wing-shun, MH, JP

Member absent:

Hon LEUNG Che-cheung, SBS, MH, JP

Public officers attending:

Mr Howard LEE Man-sing	Deputy Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) ³
Mr LAM Sai-hung, JP	Permanent Secretary for Development (Works)
Mr Vic YAU Cheuk-hang, JP	Permanent Secretary for Development (Planning and Lands) (Acting)
Dr Samuel CHUI Ho-kwong, JP	Deputy Director of Environmental Protection (1)
Ms Margaret HSIA Mai-chi	Principal Assistant Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury (Treasury) (Works)
Dr CHUI Tak-yi, JP	Under Secretary for Food and Health
Dr CHEUNG Wai-lun, JP	Project Director (Chinese Medicine Hospital Project Office) Food and Health Bureau
Ms Ellen CHAN Sheung-man	Principal Assistant Secretary for Food and Health (Health) ⁷ /Head (Chinese Medicine Unit) Food and Health Bureau
Ms Winnie HO Wing-yin, JP	Director of Architectural Services
Ms Lilian CHEUNG Sui-lun	Chief Project Manager 401 Architectural Services Department
Dr Christine WONG Wang	Assistant Director of Health (Chinese Medicine)
Mr Robert LAW Kwok-wai	Chief Pharmacist (Chinese Medicine) Department of Health

Miss TSO Sau-ching	Senior Chemist (Chinese Medicines Section) Government Laboratory
Mrs Sharon YIP LEE Hang-ye, JP	Deputy Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport)1
Mr Peter MAK Chi-kwong	Principal Assistant Secretary for Transport and Housing (Transport)7
Mr Jimmy CHAN Pai-ming, JP	Director of Highways
Mr LUK Wai-hung, JP	Project Manager (Major Works) Highways Department
Mr David TO Kam-biu	Principal Project Coordinator (Tsing Yi-Lantau Link) Highways Department
Mr LEUNG Sai-ho	Assistant Commissioner (Planning) Transport Department
Mr Thomas CHU Wai-lun	Chief Engineer (Major Projects) Transport Department
Mr Jack CHAN Jick-chi, JP	Under Secretary for Home Affairs
Ms Iona SHAM Hiu-tung	Principal Assistant Secretary for Home Affairs (Culture)2
Mr Edward TSE Cheong-wo, JP	Deputy Director of Architectural Services
Mr Raymond LAU	Chief Project Manager 302 Architectural Services Department
Mr Joe LAM Sam-ching	Senior Project Manager 337 Architectural Services Department
Mr Kevin SY Kin-man	Senior Project Manager 339 Architectural Services Department
Ms Linus FUNG Wai-fan	Assistant Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Performing Arts)

Mrs Mary CHENG LAU Mei-lee	Assistant Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Libraries and Development)
Ms Fionn YEUNG Wai-fong	Chief Manager (Performance Venues Management) Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms KONG Mei-yi	Chief Librarian (Management) ² Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms Phyllis SO Kit-yee	Chief Executive Officer (Planning) ³ Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr Rico LEUNG Cheuk-ming	Senior Manager (Performance Venues Planning) Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Clerk in attendance:

Ms Connie HO	Chief Council Secretary (1) ²
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Staff in attendance:

Mr Keith WONG	Senior Council Secretary (1) ²
Miss Iris SHEK	Council Secretary (1) ²
Ms Christina SHIU	Legislative Assistant (1) ²
Ms Christy YAU	Legislative Assistant (1) ⁸
Ms Clara LO	Legislative Assistant (1) ⁹

Action

The Chairman advised that there were six papers for discussion on the agenda for the meeting, all of which were funding proposals carried over from the last meeting held on 12 May 2021. The six funding proposals involved a total funding allocation of \$14,058.7 million. He reminded members that in accordance with Rule 83A of the Rules of Procedure ("RoP") of the Legislative Council ("LegCo"), they should disclose the nature of any direct or indirect

pecuniary interests relating to the funding proposals under discussion at the meeting before they spoke on the proposals. He also drew members' attention to Rule 84 of RoP on voting in case of direct pecuniary interest.

Head 703 — Buildings

PWSC(2021-22)12 116MH The development of Chinese Medicine Hospital in Tseung Kwan O

1MZ The establishment of Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute in Tseung Kwan O

2. The Chairman advised that the proposal (i.e. [PWSC\(2021-22\)12](#)) sought to upgrade 116MH and 1MZ to Category A at the respective estimated costs of \$8,620 million and \$2,005 million in money-of-the-day ("MOD") prices for construction of a Chinese Medicine Hospital ("CMH") and a Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute ("GCMTI") in Tseung Kwan O. The Administration consulted the Panel on Health Services on the two projects on 9 April 2021. Members had no objection to the submission of the two funding proposals to the Subcommittee for consideration. A report on the gist of the Panel's discussion was tabled at the meeting.

Construction of the proposed Chinese Medicine Hospital

3. Mr Holden CHOW expressed support for the construction of the proposed CMH. He was concerned how the CMH could attract patients suitable for receiving treatment by Chinese medicine ("CM") to use its services. Moreover, he noted from paragraph 8 of Enclosure 1 to the Government's paper that the CMH would establish a referral system with existing service providers of CM and western medicine ("WM"). He was worried that local service providers of WM, probably having relatively little knowledge about treatment by CM, could not effectively refer cases suitable for receiving treatment by CM to the CMH for follow-up. He suggested that the primary healthcare services network currently provided by District Health Centres should be utilized to refer suitable cases to the CMH.

4. Project Director (Chinese Medicine Hospital Project Office), Food and Health Bureau ("PD(CMHPO)/FHB"), said that the CMH would work together with the 18 Chinese Medicine Clinics cum Training and Research Centres in Hong Kong, which operated on a tripartite collaboration model involving the Hospital Authority ("HA"), a non-governmental organization and a local university, to build a platform aimed at facilitating service development, patient referral and exchange of knowledge and talent. The CMH would also establish liaison with private CM clinics to facilitate the referral of suitable

cases to the CMH for follow-up. Furthermore, the Government would also step up efforts to promote knowledge about the application of CM among the WM sector and establish a health record sharing system, so as to facilitate the referral of suitable cases to the CMH by healthcare service providers in different sectors.

5. In response to Mr Holden CHOW's further enquiry about the number of CM practitioners ("CMPs") at the CMH, PD(CMHPO)/FHB pointed out that 120 to 160 CMPs were expected to work at the CMH on a full-time basis after its full commissioning. The team of CMPs would be more than 200 strong if part-time CMPs were included. Furthermore, some WM practitioners would provide service at the CMH on a part-time basis. WM practitioners could have better understanding of the service philosophy and modus operandi of the CMH by participating in its work.

6. The Deputy Chairman expressed support for the construction of the proposed CMH and enquired how the CMH would contribute to the grooming of local CM talent.

7. PD(CMHPO)/FHB replied that nowadays, CM students of local universities were generally required to take up placement and receive clinical training at CM hospitals on the Mainland. Upon its commissioning, the CMH could provide local CM students with opportunities of medical training and placement. Moreover, the CMH would also serve as the clinical training base for the local private CM sector by providing opportunities of basic clinical training and advanced clinical training. To benefit more CMPs, the Government would also subsidize the provision of training posts at the CMH for training of CMPs.

8. Mr Michael TIEN opined that while pursuing its plan of promoting local CM development through the construction of the CMH, the Administration should also formulate quantifiable indicators correspondingly (e.g. statistics showing the annual number of persons receiving treatment by CM in Hong Kong) to measure the effectiveness of the proposed CMH in promoting CM development. Moreover, he was concerned about the sufficiency of beds provided at the CMH.

9. PD(CMHPO)/FHB said that currently, local CM development had deficiencies in education and training, service development and innovation and research. To step up efforts in these three aspects, the Government aspired that the establishment of the CMH would create a flagship CM institution leading the development of CM in Hong Kong through its provision of in-patient services, clinical training opportunities for local CM students and CMPs and a platform of CM clinical research. He added that as the first CM

hospital in Hong Kong, the proposed CMH would provide about 400 beds, which were believed to be adequate to meet service demand.

10. The Chairman noted from the relevant paper submitted by the Administration to the Panel on Health Services (i.e. [LC Paper No. CB\(4\)707/20-21\(05\)](#)) that the CMH would adopt a public-private partnership model, under which the Government would finance the construction and select by tender a suitable non-profit-making organization to act as the Contractor of the CMH. He sought details of the above arrangement and the justifications for implementing the CMH project in such a way.

11. Dr CHENG Chung-tai was worried that the Administration's provision of funding for the Operator of the CMH to support CMH's operation on a regular basis would make it difficult for outsiders to monitor the service quality of the CMH and judge if public money had been put to proper use.

12. PD(CMHPO)/FHB said that the non-profit-making organization that would become the Contractor of the CMH was required to incorporate a company limited by guarantee as the Operator to manage, operate and maintain the CMH. The Contractor and the Operator were required to sign a service deed with the Government which stipulated the liability, financial arrangement, performance assessment and risk sharing mechanism. The Operator would be the licensee of the CMH to be regulated under the Private Healthcare Facilities Ordinance (Cap. 633). The Government expected that the appointment of a non-profit-making organization having experience in local CM services to operate the CMH could help promote the interaction between the CMH and the local CM sector in matters such as provision of services and training programmes that catered more effectively to stakeholders' needs. Furthermore, such an operation model could help promote the application of the suitable treatment solutions and services developed by the CMH among other spheres of the local CM sector. He reiterated that the Government's funding provision for the Operator, although accounting for more than 75% of the total expenditure of the CMH, aimed not only at supporting the operation of the CMH. The arrangement also served to develop the CMH into the flagship CM institution leading the development of CM in Hong Kong.

13. Regarding the governance structure of the CMH, PD(CMHPO)/FHB pointed out that HA would have representatives in the Board of the CMH to provide advice on hospital operation, service provision and patient safety. Moreover, the Board of the CMH would also include members of the CM sector and other sectors. Such an arrangement would help promote the interaction between the CMH and the local CM sector.

14. Dr CHENG Chung-tai noted from the discussion paper for the item and the relevant paper submitted by the Administration to the Panel on Health Services (i.e. [LC Paper No. CB\(4\)707/20-21\(05\)](#)) that the CMH was planned to be built as an intelligent hospital and the non-recurrent cost to be incurred for the CMH's information technology ("IT") systems was estimated to be as high as \$383.9 million. Raising questions on how the said systems would help the operation of the CMH, he opined that planning should be made for development of large-scale data centres that could serve multiple hospitals concurrently, so as to reduce the relevant cost incurred by each hospital.

15. PD(CMHPO)/FHB said that the proposed IT systems would include patient administration system, clinical administration system, quality control system, pharmacy system, etc. Apart from enhancing the operational efficiency of the CMH, they also ensured the procedural accuracy of treatment and prescription processes, including the more complicated processes such as automated CM preparation. He also explained that HA currently had a number of data centres providing data storage service for its hospitals in various clusters. Individual hospitals would also develop their own IT systems with regard to the services they provided. Separate IT systems and data centres needed to be developed for the CMH as it was not under the administration of HA.

Operation of the proposed Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute

16. Mr CHAN Han-pan expressed support for the proposed project for promoting the development of the local CM industry and said that he was satisfied with the Administration's acceptance of his view about strengthening the cooperation between the GCMTI and the CMH. Noting from the Government's paper that the GCMTI would tailor training courses on CM drugs for its staff, he enquired about the Administration's specific measures to institutionalize the cooperation between the GCMTI and the CMH.

17. Under Secretary for Food and Health ("USFH") said that close liaison would be maintained among the responsible agencies in the future few years when the preparation work for the CMH and the GCMTI was underway. The Chinese Medicine Development Committee ("CMDC") under the Food and Health Bureau would also explore ways to strengthen the cooperation between the CMH and the GCMTI.

18. Mr CHAN Han-pan pointed out that CMDC was currently chaired by the Secretary for Food and Health ("SFH"). Owing to the epidemic, SFH had devoted more of her time on fighting the epidemic, which had affected the meeting frequency and work progress of CMDC. He suggested that the Administration appoint a sector representative as the chairman of CMDC and

believed that such an arrangement could facilitate its work. USFH said that the suggestion of Mr CHAN would be considered.

19. Mr CHENG Chung-tai enquired whether the regular testing of proprietary CMs available on the local market would be part of the major functions of the GCMTI after its completion and commissioning.

20. Assistant Director of Health (Chinese Medicine) said that the Department of Health ("DoH") had been conducting regular testing of proprietary CMs under its regular market surveillance mechanism. Upon completion of the GCMTI premises, the Chinese Medicines Section of the Government Laboratory would be relocated to the GCMTI premises to continue with its provision of analytical and advisory services to support the work of DoH. Furthermore, the GCMTI would also conduct scientific research of CM, provide talent training and promote the popularization of CM, including organizing guided tours for the public, CMPs, members of the CM sector and students to visit the facilities of the GCMTI to promote CM knowledge.

Accessibility of the Chinese Medicine Hospital and the Government Chinese Medicines Testing Institute

21. Dr CHENG Chung-tai and Mr CHAN Han-pan pointed out that the proposed CMH and GCMTI were located at Pak Shing Kok in Tseung Kwan O, which was relatively far from Tseung Kwan O Town Centre and MTR stations. In view of this, they were concerned about the adequacy of transport facilities for the public to access the two buildings easily and whether sufficient parking spaces were provided in the two buildings for use by the public and the staff working there.

22. PD(CMHPO)/FHB said that the CMH was about a few minutes' drive from Tseung Kwan O Town Centre. To facilitate the public's access to the CMH by public transport, the Administration would explore the provision of green public light bus service and discuss with the Operator the arrangement of transport support in the initial phase of operation.

23. Director of Architectural Services ("DArchS") said that the Civil Engineering and Development Department planned to build pedestrian crossing facilities and lay-bys at Pak Shing Kok Road to facilitate the public's access to the CMH and the GCMTI. As for parking, the CMH would be provided with about 140 public parking spaces at its basement level, in addition to about 170 parking spaces for internal use by the CMH and the GCMTI. In response to Mr CHAN Han-pan's enquiry about the possibility

of further increasing the number of parking spaces, DArchS added that due to the shallow rock head level under the ground at the location of the two projects, development of more underground space by increasing the basement depth would increase the construction cost and lengthen the construction period. Moreover, due to the presence of MTR's tunnel under the ground of the GCMTI, the construction works must comply with MTR's engineering requirements regarding works within railway areas and changes in structure load to ensure tunnel safety. Therefore, building of a basement at the GCMTI for provision of more parking spaces was considered unsuitable taking into account a host of technical, cost and construction time factors.

Voting on PWSC(2021-22)12

24. There being no further questions from members on the item, the Chairman put [PWSC\(2021-22\)12](#) to vote.

25. The item was voted on and endorsed. The Chairman consulted members on whether the item would require separate voting at the relevant meeting of the Finance Committee ("FC"). No member raised such a request.

Head 706 — Highways

PWSC(2021-22)14 884TH Route 11 (section between Yuen Long and North Lantau)

26. The Chairman advised that the proposal (i.e. [PWSC\(2021-22\)14](#)) sought to upgrade part of 884TH to Category A at an estimated cost of \$319 million in MOD prices for conducting the "Route 11 (section between Yuen Long and North Lantau)—investigation study" ("the investigation study"). The Administration consulted the Panel on Transport on the proposal on 19 March 2021. Members supported the submission of the funding proposal to the Subcommittee for consideration. A report on the gist of the Panel's discussion was tabled at the meeting.

Planning of the proposed Route 11 (section between Yuen Long and North Lantau)

27. The Deputy Chairman expressed support for conducting the proposed investigation study for finalizing the design and alignment of Route 11 (section between Yuen Long and North Lantau) ("Route 11") as soon as possible, so as to enable the expeditious completion of Route 11. Noting that the target commissioning date of the entire group of major roads (including Route 11, Tsing Yi—Lantau Link and the widening of Yuen Long Highway (section between Lam Tei and Tong Yan San Tsuen)) was no later than 2036, he asked

the Administration when the exact commissioning date of the major roads could be determined. He also suggested that the completed sections of these major roads should be opened for use in phases to make them available to the public as soon as possible.

28. Mr Holden CHOW expressed support for the construction of the proposed Route 11. However, he considered it undesirable that the Route was scheduled for commissioning in the distant 2036. He pointed out that a number of new development areas ("NDAs") would be completed in Northwest New Territories ("NWNT") in the future. That included, in particular, Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen NDA of which population intake would commence in 2024. As the population of New Territories West continued to grow, the existing road networks would have difficulties coping with the additional traffic demand. Ms Alice MAK and Dr Junius HO also requested the Administration to explain the reason for the long lead time required for the planning and construction of Route 11.

29. Director of Highways ("DH_y") said that the investigation study would further determine the detailed alignment, overall layout, preliminary design proposal and land requirements of Route 11. Geotechnical investigation would also be carried out to ascertain the geological conditions of the project area. Under the investigation study, relevant impact assessments would also be carried out, including the environmental impact assessment and traffic impact assessment ("TIA") to identify the impacts of the works and the mitigation measures required. As Route 11 included the construction of the harbour-crossing Tsing Lung Bridge, the Government also needed to study its impacts on navigation, aviation and fisheries, and conduct relevant wind-related tests to assess the structural safety of the bridge during its construction and operation.

30. DH_y further explained that as the proposed works of Route 11 had to be gazetted, the Government expected that about 24 months were required for handling the public views collected during the gazettal period. To enable the public to better understand the project proposal of Route 11, the Government would step up promotion work in the local community. If the statutory procedures could be completed earlier than anticipated, the Highways Department ("H_yD") would proceed to the detailed design and construction of the project as soon as possible. Furthermore, to expedite the works progress, the Government would keep an eye on the market to take advantage of any innovative engineering technologies that might shorten the construction time.

31. Dr Junius HO opined that the long lead time of nearly 18 years for the planning and construction of the proposed Route 11 was a sign that the Administration spent too much time on various statutory procedures when

implementing public works projects. As a result, the launch time of public works projects often failed to catch up with the actual demand of society. He suggested that the Administration explain which existing legislation had greater implications on the progressing pace of public works projects, so that LegCo might consider the relevant legislative amendment to facilitate the Administration's work of expediting the planning process. The Deputy Chairman also opined that the Administration should explore ways to compress the overall process of carrying out public works projects. Failing that, social progress would be inhibited.

32. The Chairman considered that the issue raised by Dr Junius HO about the implications of existing legislation on the Government's planning progress of public works projects was a matter of broader policy issues. He suggested that members might raise the matter at meetings of the Council or a relevant Panel. Regarding the matter raised by Dr HO, the Chairman requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on the expected time required for conducting the various assessments and statutory procedures under the investigation study, explain the statutory procedures required (e.g. gazettal of the works) in conducting the investigation study, and advise whether the construction time required could be compressed in the ensuing construction stage.

(Post-meeting note: The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide [LC Paper No. PWSC140/20-21\(01\)](#) (Chinese version only) on 9 June 2021.)

33. Dr CHENG Chung-tai noted that the TIA conducted under the feasibility study on Route 11 had adopted the 2016-based Territorial Population and Employment Data Matrix compiled by the Planning Department ("PlanD") in 2019. In view of the relatively fast pace of development of the NDA in Tung Chung East in recent years and the expected completion of many NDAs in NWNT in the future, he was worried that the feasibility study might have come up with an inaccurate estimate of the traffic demand by conducting the TIA using past data.

34. DHy said that the population and employment data in 2016 provided by PlanD were used as the basis of estimation in conducting the TIA. In the course of assessment, the traffic impacts of other known future plans of land development in New Territories West were also taken into account. He added that relevant TIAs had been conducted prior to the development of the NDA in Tung Chung East. The additional traffic demand arising from the NDA in Tung Chung East would be met by other transport infrastructure.

35. Dr CHENG Chung-tai requested the Administration to explain whether the planning of the proposed Route 11 was aimed at supporting the plan of developing artificial islands around Kau Yi Chau.

36. DHy said that the Government planned the proposed Route 11 for meeting the additional traffic demand arising in the future from the development of NWNT, such as Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen NDA and Yuen Long South Development Area. It was not directly related to other development projects in Hong Kong.

37. Mr LUK Chung-hung pointed out that a handful of consultancy companies were often awarded contracts for providing consultancy service for the Government's public works projects in recent years. He was worried that such an arrangement would increase the cost and lengthen the construction period of public works projects as there was a lack of competition. He opined that the Administration should consider arranging for government departments to take up the work of implementing public works projects or consider inviting Mainland consultancy and engineering companies to participate in public works projects in Hong Kong. In this connection, he requested the Administration to provide supplementary information on the evaluation criteria adopted in selecting the consultancy companies for major public works projects (including the proposed investigation study for the construction project) by tender, including the scoring items and criteria.

(Post-meeting note: The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide [LC Paper No. PWSC140/20-21\(01\)](#) (Chinese version only) on 9 June 2021.)

38. DHy said that given the relatively limited experience of Hong Kong in building harbour-crossing bridges and the shortage of manpower and experienced engineering personnel within the Government, it was more appropriate to engage consultancy companies to conduct the investigation study, so as to take advantage of the latest and internationally-adopted engineering technologies and design solutions available to them. Regarding the existing tender system for public works projects, DHy pointed out that under the existing system, local, Mainland and overseas companies were all welcome to submit bids for government projects. The Government would evaluate the tenders based on the experience and expertise of the tenderers, instead of designating certain companies to take up government projects. The Government also welcomed more companies to submit bids for government projects to make the tender exercise more competitive.

Connection of Route 11 to other roads

39. Mr CHAN Han-pan pointed out that although the Administration planned to build a link road at So Kwun Wat, the said link road was connected only to Route 11 and Tuen Mun Road at its both ends, barring the residents of So Kwun Wat and the Castle Peak Road area from accessing Route 11 directly by using the link road. He opined that given the increased population along Castle Peak Road as a result of many new residential developments, the proposed design of So Kwun Wat Link Road could not cope effectively with the additional traffic demand of the area.

40. DHy said that the main objective of So Kwun Wat Link Road was to provide a slip road to divert traffic of Tuen Mun Road, so as to alleviate the impact caused by the serious congestion on Tuen Mun Road in the event of traffic incidents. In view of this, So Kwun Wat Link Road was expected to help improve the overall traffic conditions in Tuen Mun and along Castle Peak Road, which would in turn benefit the residents in the Castle Peak Road area.

41. Mr Holden CHOW and Ms Alice MAK noted that Route 11 would be connected to the proposed Tsing Yi—Lantau Link ("TY-LL"). They enquired about the commissioning date of TY-LL. Mr CHOW suggested that the Administration should consider opening TY-LL for public use first in order to divert traffic between Lantau and the urban areas if the planning of TY-LL could progress at a faster pace than Route 11.

42. DHy said that the need of constructing TY-LL was substantiated in the feasibility study on Route 11. New public works projects would be created to take forward the planning and construction of TY-LL. The relevant feasibility study had commenced. The current planning target for TY-LL was to complete the project for commissioning no later than 2036.

Traffic situation of Yuen Long

43. Mr CHAN Han-pan expressed support for the construction of the proposed Route 11. However, he considered that Route 11 would be of no use in addressing the current traffic congestion in Yuen Long as its starting point in the north was located in Lam Tei. Mr Holden CHOW and Ms Alice MAK raised similar views. They opined that the Administration should consider building more connecting roads linking up Route 11 with areas in Yuen Long South and around Tong Yan San Tsuen.

44. DHy said that different alignment options had been considered under the feasibility study on Route 11. Given that Lam Tei was as far from Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen NDA as from Yuen Long South Development Area,

the current proposal of making Lam Tei the starting point of Route 11 in the north could address the additional traffic demand of both of the newly developed areas. To further enhance the connectivity between Route 11 and Yuen Long, HyD planned to widen a section of Yuen Long Highway between Lam Tei and Tong Yan San Tsuen. Assistant Commissioner (Planning), Transport Department, supplemented that the Government had planned improvement works at roads and interchanges such as Shap Pat Heung Interchange and Pok Oi Roundabout. The Civil Engineering and Development Department would also explore ways to improve the road design at Tin Shui Wai West Interchange and Tong Yan San Tsuen Interchange in the context of planning the development of Yuen Long South Development Area. In the light of local views, the Government also planned to install the Journey Time Indication System, speed map panels and variable message signs in Yuen Long to enable motorists to get hold of real-time traffic information.

Voting on PWSC(2021-22)14

45. There being no further questions from members on the item, the Chairman put [PWSC\(2021-22\)14](#) to vote.

46. The item was voted on and endorsed. The Chairman consulted members on whether the item would require separate voting at the relevant meeting of FC. Ms Alice MAK requested that the item (i.e. [PWSC\(2021-22\)14](#)) be voted on separately at the relevant FC meeting.

Head 703 — Buildings

PWSC(2021-22)15	61RE	Renovation and improvement project for the Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre
	62RE	Facility Upgrading of Tai Po Civic Centre
	63RE	Renovation of Tsuen Wan Public Library

47. The Chairman advised that the proposal (i.e. [PWSC\(2021-22\)15](#)) sought to upgrade 61RE, 62RE and 63RE to Category A at the respective estimated costs of \$280.6 million, \$516.5 million and \$143.8 million in MOD prices. The Administration consulted the Panel on Home Affairs on the above projects on 8 February, 15 March and 8 April 2021 respectively. Members supported the submission of the three funding proposals to the Subcommittee for consideration. A report on the gist of the Panel's discussion was tabled at the meeting.

61RE—Renovation and improvement project for the Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre

Proposed improvements of facilities

48. Mr Holden CHOW agreed that Sai Wan Ho Civic Centre ("SWHCC") required renovation. However, the costs of some of the proposed works were on the high side, especially for building services and professional stage facilities, which exceeded \$73 million and \$64 million respectively. As the Administration had briefed Members at the meeting of the Panel on Home Affairs on the way forward for introducing innovative technology elements to arts, he asked the Administration to advise whether the equipment enhancement required for introducing innovative technology elements to performances was a reason behind the high project cost of the works at SWHCC.

49. Under Secretary for Home Affairs ("USHA") replied that the proposed project included the comprehensive refurbishment of the Theatre and the Cultural Activities Hall and the addition of automated stage control equipment, including the electric-powered flying system, stage lighting and sound system. It also included the refurbishment and improvement of facilities within SWHCC, such as the public space, dressing rooms, toilets, lifts and seats. In addition, the Administration also planned to convert an Art Studio into a rehearsal room and provide an audio description room and a quiet room. He further said that upon completion of the project, SWHCC would enjoy an upgrade in both hardware and software for introducing innovative technology elements into its performances. For that reason, the project cost was on the high side.

50. Mr Holden CHOW said that the Administration had set aside \$20 billion in the 2018-2019 Budget for improvement and development of cultural facilities. In this connection, he enquired whether the Administration would make the integration of arts and innovative technologies an integral part of the relevant projects in their future implementation.

51. In response, USHA said that in support of the policy of integrating arts and innovative technologies as announced in the 2020 Policy Address, the Administration would introduce appropriate innovative technologies when planning the facility upgrading of performance venues, so as to align with the above policy objective and meet the requirements of the performing arts sector for professional performance venues.

52. At the request of the Chairman, the Administration should provide supplementary information on the latest progress and implementation schedule of relevant items on improvement and development of cultural facilities under

the \$20 billion initiative as announced in the 2018-2019 Budget and a list of relevant projects implemented and to be implemented.

(Post-meeting note: The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide [LC Paper No. PWSC143/20-21\(01\)](#) on 10 June 2021.)

63RE—Renovation of Tsuen Wan Public Library

Facilities in the library

53. Mr Michael TIEN said that nowadays, many students were required to conduct group research on academic subjects. Therefore, they would look for information at libraries, check out reference books and hire discussion rooms to hold group discussion from time to time. In this connection, he enquired about the number of facilities with acoustic features for holding discussion that would be provided at Tsuen Wan Public Library ("TWPL") upon completion of the refurbishment works.

54. USHA advised that upon works completion, the Smart Library System would be introduced to TWPL to provide readers with more diversified and self-service equipment, while the multimedia library and the computer and information centre would be integrated to form an e-Zone. Meanwhile, flexible design would be introduced to the extension activities area to enable its use for different purposes by adding partitioning when required. Assistant Director of Leisure and Cultural Services (Libraries and Development) supplemented that more usable space would be made available through the renovation, such as the provision of the leisure reading area in the adult library. Moreover, activity space and movable desks and seats would be provided in the adult library and the children's library to meet readers' needs in browsing and holding discussion on library materials. USHA said that Mr TIEN's suggestion about providing facilities with acoustic features for holding discussion would be considered at the stage of detailed design of the project.

55. At the request of Mr Michael TIEN, the Administration should provide supplementary information on the number of facilities with acoustic features to be provided at TWPL for readers to hold discussion upon completion of the renovation works.

(Post-meeting note: The supplementary information provided by the Administration was circulated to members vide [LC Paper No. PWSC143/20-21\(01\)](#) on 10 June 2021.)

Other comments and concerns

Transport support

56. The Deputy Chairman was concerned that there was currently no place for parking vehicles in the areas around some civic centres, and these civic centres also had no car park or loading/unloading area, thereby causing inconvenience to performers and venue users. On that, the Deputy Chairman was of the view that the Administration should examine if it was possible to provide more parking spaces in existing civic centres and provide car parks in new civic centres to be developed in the future, so that it would be more convenient for performers to deliver large-size musical instruments, costumes and equipment and for viewers to access the performance venues.

57. USHA said that as a composite building, SWHCC had little potential for providing a car park. However, it was easy to access given its location on top of an MTR station. Its entrance on the side of Holy Cross Path could also be used for picking up/dropping off passengers and loading/unloading goods, in addition to a handful of parking spaces nearby. For Tai Po Civic Centre, more than 2 000 parking spaces were provided in the area around it, in addition to its own parking spaces for use by performers. He said that the comments given by the Deputy Chairman were duly taken note of.

[At 12:40 pm, the Chairman asked members if they agreed to extend the meeting for up to 15 minutes to 1:00 pm. No member raised objection.]

Voting on PWSC(2021-22)15

58. There being no further questions from members on the item, the Chairman put [PWSC\(2021-22\)15](#) to vote.

59. The item was voted on and endorsed. The Chairman consulted members on whether the item would require separate voting at the relevant meeting of FC. Mr Michael TIEN said that he would decide whether to request separate voting on the renovation of TWPL (63RE) at the relevant FC meeting after referring to the supplementary information provided by the Administration.

60. The meeting ended at 12:57 pm.