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**Transport and  
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**Transport Branch**  
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10 June 2021

Clerk to the Legislative Council Panel on Transport  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong  
(Attn: Ms Sophie LAU)

**By Email & Fax**  
(Fax No.: 2840 0716)

Dear Ms LAU,

**Staffing Proposal for the Walkability Project Management Office  
and the Regional Offices of the Highways Department**

**Latest Information**

Regarding the captioned staffing proposal, the Transport and Housing Bureau and the Highways Department (HyD) would like to submit the following latest information for the Panel on Transport for reference.

In view of the current fiscal situation in Hong Kong, we had further reviewed the manpower arrangement of HyD after we submitted the supplementary information on the captioned staffing proposal to the Panel on Transport on 17 March 2021. Having critically reviewed the situation, our latest proposal is to first create two supernumerary Chief Engineer (CE) (D1) posts in HyD for three years, one each in the New Territories (NT) Regional Office and Urban Regional Office. They will be responsible for formulating rehabilitation strategies for the maintenance of existing highway infrastructures and ageing highway structures, as well as taking part in road development and improvement works relating to land supply.

The two proposed CEs will carry out comprehensive inspection on the main structures and associated components of about 700 highway structures in the coming three years. The scope of inspection includes detailed testing for assessing the condition of the relevant structures. The proposed CEs will then evaluate the degree of ageing of the relevant components, compare various maintenance technologies and evaluate their respective feasibility. They would also oversee resources allocation, select the most resource-efficient rehabilitation scheme and prioritise the implementation sequence. In order to maintain the structures in good condition, the relevant rehabilitation works would include replacement of bridge bearings, application of protective coating, and replacement of expansion joints and rehabilitation of aged concrete structures.

With regard to land supply, the two proposed CEs will coordinate technical feasibility studies for sites that might be developed for housing or commercial use (such as the former site of the Water Supplies Department on Sai Yee Street in Mong Kok) and provide professional advice on road schemes in respect of design, safety and maintenance.

As the aforementioned works are crucial to structural safety of highway structures and closely related to the initiative of increasing land supply, we see an urgent need to create the two supernumerary CE posts and shall submit the proposal to the Establishment Subcommittee in due course.

As regards the staffing proposal for the Walkability Project Management Office, we shall deploy existing resources to continue taking forward "walkable city" projects as far as practicable. With the gradual implementation of the "Walk in Hong Kong" policy, we anticipate a continual demand for such projects and shall review the manpower arrangement in due course.

Yours sincerely,



( Miss Angela JONG )

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

cc.:

Director of Highways

(Attn: Mr WK NG)

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