

政府總部
運輸及房屋局
運輸科
香港添馬添美道 2 號
政府總部東翼



Transport and
Housing Bureau
Government Secretariat

Transport Branch
East Wing, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue,
Tamar, Hong Kong

本局檔號 OUR REF.: THB(T)L4/1/66
來函檔號 YOUR REF.:

電話 Tel. No.: 3509 8182
傳真 Fax No.: 2136 8017

Fax: 2840 0716

(Translation)

28 October 2021

Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn: Ms Sophie LAU)

Dear Ms LAU,

**Legislative Council Panel on Transport
Meeting on 20 August 2021**

**Road Maintenance and Streetscape Enhancement by the
Highways Department**

Supplementary Information

Regarding Members' request for the Government to provide supplementary information at the meeting on 20 August 2021, our reply is as follows.

(a) Implementation of "Smart Mobility" initiatives

Hong Kong is a small and densely populated city. In order to cope with the ever-increasing demand for transportation and traffic, the Government applies technology to implement the "Smart Mobility" initiatives. Major measures include the implementation of Free-Flow

Tolling System at government tolled tunnels and Tsing Sha Control Area to facilitate more efficient and convenient payment and at the same time provide the essential infrastructure for the implementation of “congestion charging”; a study on legislative amendments with a view to developing a new and flexible regulatory framework that allows wider and more flexible trial and use of autonomous vehicles by the industry; setting up of the \$1 billion Smart Traffic Fund to provide funding support to enterprises or organizations for conducting research and application of vehicle-related innovation and technology; implementation of Automated Parking System to increase the number of parking spaces and spatial efficiency in parking facilities; and installation of the new generation of parking meters to support payment of parking fees through multiple means and support on-site and remote payment of parking fees through the new “HKeMeter” mobile application. The Government will continue to actively take forward the Smart Mobility initiatives in accordance with the “Smart Mobility Roadmap for Hong Kong” to make Hong Kong a more livable and sustainable city.

In addition, with a view to tying in with the development of Smart Mobility initiatives and providing an environmentally friendly transportation network, the Highways Department (HyD) has been collaborating with the Transport Department to take forward the “Walk in HK” policy and carry out pedestrian environment improvement works in the two pilot areas in Central and Sham Shui Po, such as removal of non-essential traffic signs and railings and levelling of run-in/out points so as to encourage people to walk more and implement the overall strategy of walkability.

(b) Latest progress and upcoming works for the renovation and beautification of highway structures and lamp posts

From 2017 to 2020, HyD has carried out beautification works for a total of some 50 bridges and subways. Starting from the end of 2020, HyD has stepped up the implementation works as part of the Government’s appeal for employment support amidst the pandemic and created about 300 temporary jobs. HyD plans to renovate and beautify about 200 highway structures and about 10 000 lamp posts in 2021. As at end September 2021, the renovation and beautification works for about 136 highway structures and about 4 730 lamp posts were completed. The remaining works are in progress and anticipated to be completed timely by the end of year. HyD will continue to carry out various renovation and beautification works in 2022, and will formulate the work plan for the next

stage and select suitable locations for carrying out renovation and beautification works, subject to the department's resources and manpower. HyD will also closely monitor the progress of the renovation and beautification works to ensure that the works would be completed on time.

(c) Measures to expedite and enhance road maintenance works

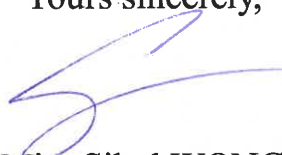
Hong Kong is one of the world's most populated and heavily trafficked cities. In order to minimise the impact on traffic arising from road maintenance works, HyD has been committed to completing the works promptly. However, for some of the road sections with heavy traffic, their maintenance works can only be carried out during public holidays or night time when the traffic volume is relatively low and hence require a longer works period. HyD will continue to work closely with other relevant departments to formulate effective and feasible temporary traffic arrangement scheme to minimise impact on traffic and strive to complete the road maintenance works promptly.

In addition, with a view to ensuring that the road maintenance works could be carried out more efficiently and properly, HyD has been actively researching different maintenance technologies while making reference to the experience in the Mainland and overseas, including the development of more durable bituminous paving materials to minimise the need of large-scale or the frequency of time-consuming maintenance works. As of September 2021, HyD has conducted trials on the use of more durable bituminous paving materials at 31 road sections with busy traffic. The research is expected to be completed in 2022 and HyD will formulate plans for wider application of this new material based on the research findings. HyD has also purchased unmanned aerial vehicles to facilitate inspection and record-taking by maintenance staff to support inspection and maintenance works at slopes and road facilities which are difficult to access. HyD has also introduced the Smart Lighting Management System to shorten the time in identifying road light failure from 24 hours or above to about 30 minutes, which allow maintenance staff to monitor the operation of the public lighting system more efficiently. In addition, HyD is developing an intelligent robotic system which can automatically place and collect traffic cones and hazard warning lanterns

to minimise the safety hazard of workers in carrying out maintenance works on high speed roads. Upon completion of the detailed design, the system is expected to be tested on high speed roads starting from next year.

In order to continually optimize road inspection and maintenance work, HyD will continue to develop and apply new technologies to enhance the quality and efficiency of the road maintenance works.

Yours sincerely,



(Miss Sibyl WONG)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

cc.:

Director of Highways (Attn: Mr Wai Keung NG) Fax : 2714 5216