For discussion on 26 April 2022

Legislative Council Panel on Development

PWP Item No. 200TB – Footbridge near MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A

PURPOSE

This paper briefs Members on the funding application to upgrade **200TB** to Category A at an estimated cost of \$175.8 million in money-of-the-day (MOD) prices, for the construction of a footbridge near MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A across Kwun Tong Road.

PROJECT SCOPE AND NATURE

- 2. We propose to upgrade **200TB** (the proposed works) to Category A, of which the scope comprises the following
 - (a) construction of a footbridge with a clear width of about 4 metres and about 45 metres in length across Kwun Tong Road near MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A;
 - (b) construction of a barrier-free access (BFA) ramp with a clear width of about 2.4 metres and about 45 metres in length connecting the footbridge mentioned in item (a) above and the existing elevated walkway near MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A;
 - (c) construction of a staircase with a clear width of about 2 metres at the western end of the footbridge mentioned in item (a) above;
 - (d) modification of the existing footbridge No. KF117C for connection to the footbridge mentioned in item (a) above;
 - (e) modification of the existing elevated walkway near MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A and the existing structure No. KF117B for connection to the access ramp mentioned in item (b) above; and

(f) construction of ancillary works, including associated road works, bus lay-by reprovisioning, drainage, waterworks, landscaping, public lighting works, as well as installation of street furniture and traffic aids, etc.

A layout plan and an artist's impression of the proposed works are at **Enclosure 1**.

3. We plan to commence the proposed works upon obtaining funding approval from the Finance Committee (FC) for target completion in around three years. To commence the construction works as soon as possible, we initiated parallel tendering for the construction works contract in January 2022. The returned tender price has been reflected in the estimated cost of the project. The contract will only be awarded after obtaining funding approval from the FC.

JUSTIFICATION

- 4. At present, pedestrians at MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A and the bus stops on the western footpath of Kwun Tong Road need to make use of the existing footbridge near MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A across Kwun Tong Road to reach the residential areas nearby, such as Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate, Upper Ngau Tau Kok Estate and the southern portion of Amoy Gardens. During peak hours, the existing footbridge is overcrowded and this is not satisfactory.
- 5. The Government promoted a "Walkable Kowloon East" by improving pedestrian facilities in the Kowloon Bay Business Area, as promulgated in previous Policy Addresses. With the rapid transformation of the Kowloon Bay Business Area, there is a need to provide an additional passage to divert pedestrian flow from the already congested existing footbridge near MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A.
- 6. The proposed footbridge and ramp will provide an alternative passage to connect the existing elevated walkway outside MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A and the existing footbridge No. KF117C as well as the western footpath of Kwun Tong Road, thus alleviating the congestion at the existing footbridge near MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A and enhancing the connectivity between MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A and the residential areas nearby.

- 7. The existing railway viaduct of MTR Kwun Tong Line imposes a headroom restriction at the western end of the existing footbridge near MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A. There is an existing staircase of about 1.8 metres high to bring pedestrians from the existing elevated walkway beneath the railway viaduct to the footbridge level. While a stairlift is installed to facilitate wheelchair users with an operating key to overcome the level difference, other pedestrians in need could not use the stairlift without the key, which is possessed by wheelchair users only. We take this opportunity to include in the proposed works a covered ramp connecting the existing elevated walkway outside MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A and the proposed footbridge, which will provide a convenient and reliable BFA. After completion of the proposed works, the existing elevated walkway system near MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A will be greatly improved.
- 8. The proposed works will be beneficial to the overall development of Kowloon Bay through improving the connectivity as well as creating a pedestrian-friendly environment for this rapidly-transforming district.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. We estimate the capital cost of the proposed works to be \$175.8 million in MOD prices.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 10. We consulted the Working Group on Access to Public Transport for People with Disabilities set up by the Transport Department and the Barrier-Free Community Concern Group of Caritas Community Centre Ngau Tau Kok on 29 June 2020 and 13 November 2020 respectively. Both groups supported the implementation of the proposed works including the ramp access as an additional BFA facility.
- 11. We consulted the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Kwun Tong District Council on 24 September 2020. The Committee had no objection to the proposed works and acknowledged the need and justifications for providing the footbridge in general.

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- 12. We consulted the Advisory Committee on the Appearance of Bridges and Structures and Associated Structures (ACABAS) 1 on the aesthetic design of the proposed works. The Committee accepted the proposed aesthetic design.
- 13. We gazetted the proposed works under the Roads (Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance (Cap. 370) on 29 January and 5 February 2021. During the 60-day statutory objection period, five objections were received. The objections were mainly about the project justification and tree impact arisen from the proposed works. In response, we have explained that the project aims at addressing the overcrowding issue of the existing footbridge and providing a BFA across Kwun Tong Road between MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A and Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate.
- 14. The design of the proposed footbridge has been optimised taking into account the site constraints and the possibility to preserve the trees along Kwun Tong Road to the greatest extent. Compensatory planting will be provided for the tree felled. The objectors did not withdraw their objections. After considering the objections, the Chief Executive-in-Council authorised the road works without modification on 4 January 2022. The authorisation notice for the proposed works was gazetted on 21 January 2022.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 15. The project is not a designated project under the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (Cap. 499). It will not cause long-term adverse environmental impact. We have included in the project estimate the cost to implement suitable mitigation measures to control the short-term environmental impacts arising from the proposed works.
- During construction, we will control noise, dust and site run-off nuisances to within the required levels according to the established standards and guidelines through the implementation of mitigation measures in the relevant contract. These include the use of silencers, mufflers and temporary acoustic lining or shields for noisy construction activities, frequent cleaning and watering of the site, and the provision of wheel-washing facilities.

ACABAS comprises representatives of the Hong Kong Institute of Architects, the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, the Hong Kong Institute of Planners, Architectural Services Department, Highways Department, Housing Department, Civil Engineering and Development Department, and a representative from an architecture or relevant faculty of a local academic institution. It is responsible for vetting the design of bridges and other structures associated with the public highway system, including noise barriers and enclosures, from the aesthetic and visual impact points of view.

- 17. At the planning and design stages, we have considered the alignment, design level and construction method of the proposed works to reduce the generation of construction waste where possible. In addition, we will require the contractor to reuse inert construction waste (e.g. excavated soil and rock fill) on site or in other suitable construction sites as far as possible, in order to minimise the disposal of inert construction waste at public fill reception facilities ². We will encourage the contractor to maximise the use of recycled/recyclable inert construction waste and the use of non-timber formwork to further reduce generation of construction waste.
- 18. At the construction stage, we will require the contractor to submit for approval a plan setting out the waste management measures, which will include appropriate mitigation means to avoid, reduce, reuse and recycle inert construction waste. We will ensure the day-to-day operations on site comply with the approved plans. We will require the contractor to separate the inert portion from non-inert construction waste on site for disposal at appropriate facilities. We will control the disposal of inert construction waste and non-inert construction waste at public fill reception facilities and landfills respectively through a trip-ticket system.
- 19. We estimate that the proposed works will generate in total about 5 400 tonnes of construction waste. Of these, we will reuse about 800 tonnes (15%) of inert construction waste on site and deliver about 3 800 tonnes (70%) of inert construction waste to public fill reception facilities for subsequent reuse. We will dispose of the remaining 800 tonnes (15%) of non-inert construction waste at landfills. The total cost for disposal of construction waste at public fill reception facilities and landfill sites is estimated to be \$0.43 million for the proposed works (based on a unit charge rate of \$71 per tonne for disposal at public fill reception facilities and \$200 per tonne at landfills as stipulated in the Waste Disposal (Charges for Disposal of Construction Waste) Regulation (Cap. 354N)).

HERITAGE IMPLICATIONS

20. The project will not affect any heritage site, i.e. all declared monuments, proposed monuments, graded historic sites/buildings, sites of archaeological interest and Government historic sites identified by the Antiquities and Monuments Office.

² Public fill reception facilities are specified in Schedule 4 of the Waste Disposal (Charges for Disposal of Construction Waste) Regulation (Cap. 354N). Disposal of inert construction waste in public fill reception facilities requires a licence issued by the Director of Civil Engineering and Development.

LAND ACQUISITION

21. The proposed works do not require any acquisition of private land.

TREE IMPLICATIONS

Of the 81 trees within the project boundary, 65 trees will be preserved. The proposed works will involve removal of 16 trees, including six trees to be felled, two trees to be transplanted to Lower Ngau Tau Kok Estate and eight trees to be replanted within the project site. Besides, one tree of particular interest will be affected during the implementation of the project. A summary of the trees of particular interest³ affected is provided at **Enclosure 2**. We will incorporate the planting proposal as part of the project, including estimated quantities of 23 trees and 22 800 shrubs.

TRAFFIC IMPLICATIONS

23. The proposed works will not cause significant traffic impact during construction. To facilitate the related construction works, we will implement temporary traffic arrangements (TTA) and set up a traffic management liaison group to discuss and vet the TTA. This group comprises representatives from the Highways Department and its contractor,

- Trees of particular interest are defined in paragraph 2.6.1 of the Guidelines for Tree Risk Assessment and Management Arrangement promulgated by the Development Bureau. Examples of trees of particular interest are listed as follows:
 - Old and Valuable Trees (OVTs) and trees that are potentially registerable in the Register of OVTs;
 - Trees of 100 years old or above;
 - Trees with trunk diameter equal to or exceeding 1.0 m (measured at 1.3 m above ground level), or with height/canopy spread equal to or exceeding 25 m;
 - Stonewall trees or trees of outstanding form (taking account of overall tree sizes, shape and any special features);
 - Rare tree species listed in "Rare and Precious Plants of Hong Kong" (http://herbarium.gov.hk/PublicationsPreface.aspx?BookNameId=1) published by Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department;
 - Endangered plant species protected under the Protection of Endangered Species of Animals and Plants Ordinance (Cap. 586);
 - Tree species listed in the Forestry Regulations (Cap. 96A) under the Forests and Countryside Ordinance (Cap. 96);
 - Well-known Fung Shui trees;
 - Landmark trees with evidential records to support the historical or cultural significance of the trees:
 - Trees which may arouse widespread public concerns; and
 - Trees which may be subject to strong local objections on removal.

the Hong Kong Police Force, the Transport Department and other relevant government departments. We have specified requirements for implementing the TTA in the works contract to minimise the traffic impacts during construction. We will also display publicity boards on site to provide details of the TTA and the anticipated completion dates of individual sections of works. In addition, we will set up a telephone hotline for public enquiries.

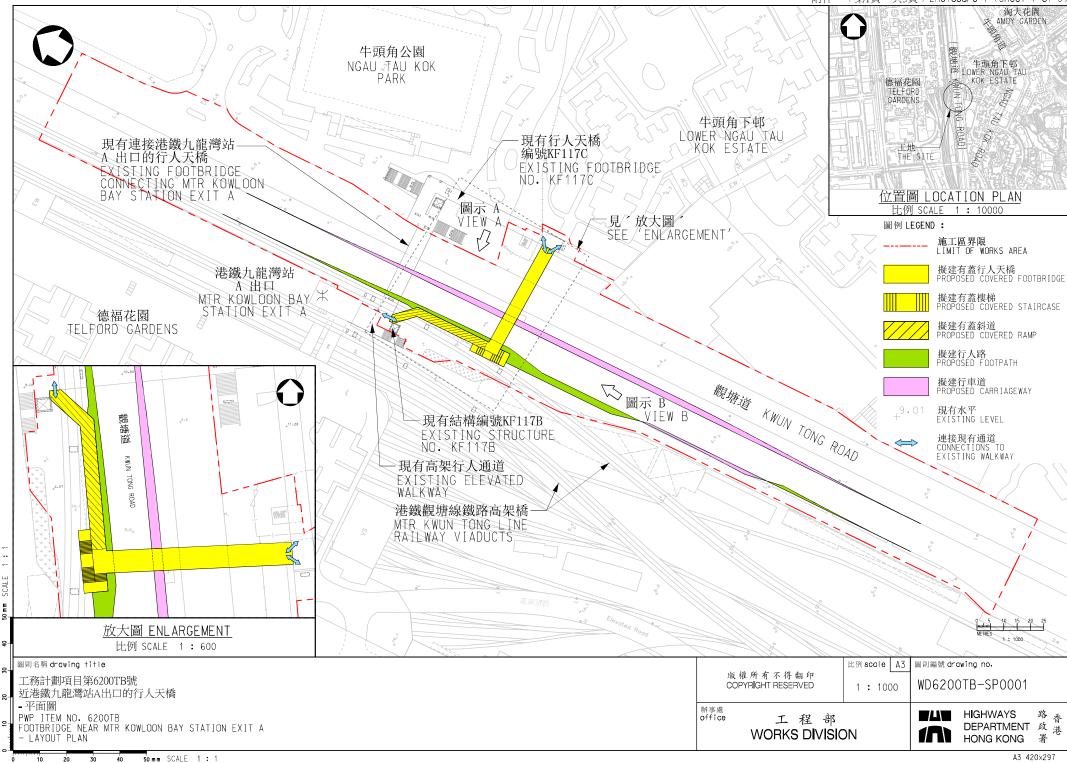
BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 24. We upgraded **200TB** to Category B in September 2018.
- 25. In August 2019, we engaged an engineering consultant to undertake the investigation, design and ground investigation works at an estimated cost of about \$5.7 million under block vote allocation **Subhead** 6100TX "Highway works, studies and investigations for items in Category D of the Public Works Programme". The investigation works and the detailed design have been completed.

WAY FORWARD

26. We plan to seek funding approval from the FC after consulting the Public Works Subcommittee.

Development Bureau Highways Department April 2022





圖示 A VIEW A

圖則名稱 drawing title

工務計劃項目第6200TB號 近港鐵九龍灣站A出口的行人天橋

擬建有蓋行人天橋-PROPOSED COVERED FOOTBRIDGE

PWP ITEM NO. 6200TB FOOTBRIDGE NEAR MTR KOWLOON BAY STATION EXIT A - ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

辦事處 office 工程部 **WORKS DIVISION**

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比例 scale | A3 | 圖則編號 drawing no.

NΑ

WD6200TB-SP0002

HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT 政港 HONG KONG 署

50 mm SCALE 1 : 1



圖則名稱 drawing title

工務計劃項目第6200TB號 近港鐵九龍灣站A出口的行人天橋

PWP ITEM NO. 6200TB FOOTBRIDGE NEAR MTR KOWLOON BAY STATION EXIT A - ARTIST'S IMPRESSION

50 mm SCALE 1 : 1

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辦事處 office

NA

WD6200TB-SP0003

HIGHWAYS 路香 DEPARTMENT 政港 HONG KONG 署

A3 420x297

200TB - 近港鐵九龍灣站 A 出口的行人天橋 200TB - Footbridge near MTR Kowloon Bay Station Exit A 受影響的具特別價值樹木摘要 Summary of "trees of particular interest" affected

樹木	樹木品種		樹木大小			觀賞價值	形態	健康狀況	結構狀況		適合移植的程度	保育狀況	建議	補充備註
Tree ref.	Species		Measurements			Amenity Value ¹	Form	Health	Structural		Suitability for	Conservation	Recommendation	Additional Remarks
no.						value*		Condition	Condition		Transplanting ²	Status ³		
	學名 中文名		高度	胸徑	樹冠	(高/中/低)	(良好/一般/欠佳)		(高/中/低)	備註		(保留/移植/砍伐)		
	Scientific	Chinese	Height	DBH ⁴	闊度	(High/	(Good/			(High/	Remarks		(Retain/	
	Name	Name			Crown	Medium/	Fair/			Medium/			Transplant/	
					Spread	Low)	Poor)			Low)			Fell)	
			(米)	(毫米)	(米)									
T47	F:	6円 本転 4次	(m) 15	(mm) 1 300	(m) 24	中	ńл.	ńп.	ńл.	Irr.	树 上从黑朗松类了和七年亦 树上	*	Th 43	再准供应权和目目处担格的担保处于司任
14/	Ficus	細葉榕	13	1 300	24	'	一般	一般	一般	低	樹木位置與擬議工程有衝突。樹木	否	砍伐	要準備完好和具足夠規模的根球並不可行。
	microcarpa					Medium	Fair	Fair	Fair	Low	非常大但健康狀況一般,移植後的	Nil	Fell	Preparation of intact and sufficient-sized root ball is not
											存活率為低,因此不建議移植。			practical.
											Tree location is in conflict with the			
											proposed works. The size of the tree			移植 T47 涉及長期暫時封閉觀塘道,對交通造成重
											is very large but the health condition			大影響。
											is fair. The survival rate after			Transplantation of T47 requires prolonged temporary
											transplantation is low.			closure of Kwun Tong Road leading to substantial
											Transplantation is therefore not			traffic impact.
											recommended.			

Amenity value of a tree is assessed by its functional values for shade, shelter, screening, reduction of pollution and other environmental factors, etc, and classified into the following categories -

High: important trees which should be retained by adjusting the design layout accordingly.

Medium: trees that are desirable to be retained in order to create a pleasant environment, which includes healthy specimens of lesser importance than "High" trees.

Low: trees that are dead, dying or potentially hazardous and should be removed.

Assessment has taken into account conditions of the tree at the time of survey (including health, structure, age and root conditions), site conditions (including topography and accessibility) and intrinsic characters of tree species (survival rate after transplanting).

Conservation status is based on the rarity and protection status of the species under relevant ordinances in Hong Kong, such as Rare and Precious Plants of Hong Kong, the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of threatened Species and the Forests and Countryside Ordinance.

Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) of a tree refers to its trunk diameter at breast height (i.e. measured at 1.3 metres above ground level).

評估樹木的觀賞價值是基於它的遮蔭、避風雨、屏障、減低污染的效用,及其他環境因素等,分級如下 -

高:屬重要樹木,應予保留,並相應調整設計佈局。

中:屬適宜保留的樹木,以締造優美環境,包括稍遜於「高」級的健康樹木。

低:屬枯死、垂死或有潛在危險的樹木,應予移除。

² 評估時已考慮這棵樹在調查時的狀況(包括健康、結構、樹齡及根部情況)、現場情況(包括地勢及便達性),以及樹種的內在特性(移植後的存活率)。

³ 保育狀況基於該品種是否屬於香港有關法例下所訂明的稀有性和受保護物種的狀態,例如《香港稀有及珍貴植物》、《國際自然保護聯盟瀕危物種紅色名錄》和《林區及效區條例》。

⁴ 樹木的胸徑是指樹木在地面以上1.3米量度的樹幹直徑。