

Islands District Council
Traffic and Transport Committee
Paper T&TC 33/2017
(For discussion on 22 May 2017)

New Wang Tong River Bridge

Purpose

This Paper presents the preliminary design of New Wang Tong River Bridge to members of the Traffic and Transport Committee (T&TC) of Islands District Council to seek their comments on and/or support to the project.

Background

2. The existing Wang Tong River Bridge (“Old Bridge”) is only approximately 1.5m wide. Apart from pedestrians, cyclists and village vehicles also use the Old Bridge as a means of connection between Wang Tong (and Silver Mine Bay Beach) and the area of Mui Wo south of River Silver. However, there is no segregation between different types of traffic on the existing bridge deck (see location plan at **Annex 1 and 2**).
3. Owing to the narrow width of the Old Bridge, congestion frequently occurs during peak periods when both the local residents and tourists use the Old Bridge simultaneously. The lack of segregation also raises road safety concerns as pedestrians, cyclists and village vehicles may come into conflict with each other during peak periods.
4. To improve the situation, the Government plans to construct a wider bridge (New Bridge) with segregate footway and cycle/village vehicle track to alleviate congestion and enhance road safety. This would also help maintain continuity of the footway and cycle/village vehicle track system all the way from Mui Wo Ferry Pier to reach the proposed cycle parking area. The proposed New Bridge would also meet the future traffic demand, including tourists to be generated from streetscape enhancement and the improvement works for Mui Wo Facelift, as well as the promenade along the Silver Mine Bay Beach.
5. We have recently completed the preliminary scheme design for the project, and are currently conducting detailed design by using in-house resources.

Brief Description

6. To provide a better segregation of pedestrians, cyclists and village vehicles, as well as to minimise drainage impact to Wang Tong River, a Twin Bridge Scheme is proposed (see **Annex 3**).

7. General Layout Plan of the project is enclosed at **Annex 4**. The scope of the project includes:
- (i) replacement of the existing Wang Tong River Bridge in Mui Wo with a new twin-bridge with 35m span comprising 3.5m wide cycle/village vehicle track, 2.0m wide footpath and 0.715m wide utility trough;
 - (ii) demolition of the Old Bridge; and
 - (iii) ancillary works including modification of existing seawall, slope and drainage works, retaining walls, 12 bicycle racks, traffic aids and street lighting modification, environmental mitigation measures and landscaping works.
8. Upon completion of the works, the pedestrian and cycling/village vehicular traffic between Mui Wo and Silver Mine Bay Beach, as well as the scenery of the beach promenade will improve. In addition, the drainage impact due to the existing Wang Tang River Bridge will be relieved.
9. Photomontage of the New Bridge is enclosed at **Annex 5**.

Construction Arrangement

10. The works mainly involve construction of mini-piles, bridge pier, steel beams, concrete bridge deck, retaining walls and associated works.
11. The proposed construction sequences are to construct the new cycling/village vehicular bridge, followed by the reconstruction of the existing bridge (Old Bridge).
12. Construction materials will be transported from Mui Wo Ferry Pier Road via Silver Mine Bay Road.
13. In order to cope with the works, the affected facilities including roads, utilities and other public facilities will be altered or reprovisioned when necessary. The relevant departments and organizations will be consulted.
14. Temporary traffic management such as temporary closure of the existing Old Bridge or the new cycling bridge will be implemented during different phases of construction of the New Bridge. We will ensure sufficient temporary traffic arrangement will be provided in order to minimize impact to the public.

Advice Sought

15. Members are invited to offer comments on the above proposal and support the project.

Highways Department

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