

## **Boardwalk underneath Island Eastern Corridor Study**

### **Purpose**

This paper is to update the progress of the Investigation Study for the Boardwalk underneath Island Eastern Corridor (IEC) and to seek members' views on the Study.

### **Background**

2. Planning Department completed the Hong Kong Island East Harbour-front Study (HKIEHS) in 2012 and proposed a 2-km long boardwalk from Oil Street to Hoi Yu Street underneath the IEC. The proposal was well received by the public. The HKIEHS also recommended conducting further technical assessments, including its compliance with the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance (PHO).

3. Civil Engineering and Development Department commissioned the "Boardwalk underneath Island Eastern Corridor - Investigation" (the Study) in March 2015. The main objectives of the Study are to review the feasibility of the proposed boardwalk underneath the IEC and to demonstrate whether the proposal can comply with the PHO. The Study will also identify recommended scheme for the proposed boardwalk.

### **Proposed Boardwalk and PHO**

4. A 2-km long boardwalk is proposed to link up Oil Street to Hoi Yu Street underneath IEC (**Enclosure I**), same as that recommended under HKIEHS. In addition to the walkway, we would consider other facilities such as cycleway, viewing platforms, fishing platform, cycle rental kiosk/ bicycle parking and food & beverage kiosk subject to compliance with the PHO.

5. The PHO seeks to protect and preserve the Harbour by establishing a presumption against reclamation in the Harbour. Reclamation is defined in the PHO as "any works carried out or intended to be carried out for the purpose of forming land from the sea-bed or foreshore". The presumption against reclamation in the Harbour must be interpreted in such a way that it can only be rebutted by establishing an overriding public need for reclamation. According to past judgments of the Court, public needs are community needs, which include social, economic and environmental needs.

6. To implement the proposed boardwalk underneath IEC, some new piled protection dolphin structures with pile caps would need to be constructed, and they are to be regarded as reclamation under the PHO. Furthermore, the boardwalk structure will deck over the sea and may restrict access to the water underneath IEC. To take forward reclamation works which the boardwalk would entail, the Government is required to establish an overriding public need for such works. As part of the Study, we would like to collect public views through the Community Engagement Exercise as part of the relevant work.

### **Benefits of Proposed Boardwalk**

7. According to the preliminary design, the proposed boardwalk will connect the future waterfront park north of Oil Street to the existing Hoi Yu Street harbourfront in Quarry Bay. Access points will be provided at Tong Shui Road Pier and ex-North Point Estate to the harbourfront. We anticipate that the proposed boardwalk will have the following benefits:

- (a) Social aspect – Proposed boardwalk will re-connect the broken linkage at current North Point harbourfront due to private lots, enabling the public to get closer to the Harbour along a continuous harbourfront. The boardwalk enables better connection and integration with existing isolated open spaces hence enhancing the open space network. The proposed boardwalk will be an attractive facility to encourage local residents and the general public to exercise and cycle, thus helping to promote healthy living;
- (b) Economic aspect – Proposed boardwalk will attract more visitors and tourists to visit the harbourfront, enhancing economic activities in the surrounding area; and
- (c) Environmental aspect – Proposed boardwalk will improve the landscaped amenity underneath the IEC. Columns and piers of IEC will also be renovated.

### **Community Engagement**

8. We will commence a four-month, two-stage Community Engagement Exercise in February 2016. Stage 1 Community Engagement seeks to collect public opinions through questionnaires. The questionnaires will mainly focus on:

- (a) Whether the interviewees agree that there is a compelling and present need for the IEC boardwalk to satisfy different community needs;
- (b) Whether the interviewees agree that the proposed boardwalk may help

the public enjoy the Harbour;

- (c) Whether the interviewees agree that the series of facilities that may be constructed on the boardwalk (cycleway, viewing platforms, fishing platform, cycle rental kiosk/ bicycle parking and food & beverage kiosk) meet the compelling and present need; and
- (d) Other views of interviewees.

9. During Stage 1 Community Engagement Exercise, we will consult the Eastern District Council and the Harbourfront Commission, conduct questionnaire surveys, roving exhibitions, community workshops and focus group meetings. A project website (<http://www.boardwalk.gov.hk>) has been prepared for the Study. Details of the Community Engagement Exercise and the consultation digest can be found at the website.

### **Way Forward**

10. Public views collected from Stage 1 Community Engagement Exercise will assist us to establish the overriding public need on the proposed boardwalk. Afterwards, we will formulate detailed boardwalk scheme and carry out Stage 2 Public Engagement in second quarter of 2016 to seek public views on recommended detailed scheme.

11. Members are invited to note the progress of the Study and comment on the proposed boardwalk.

### **Enclosure**

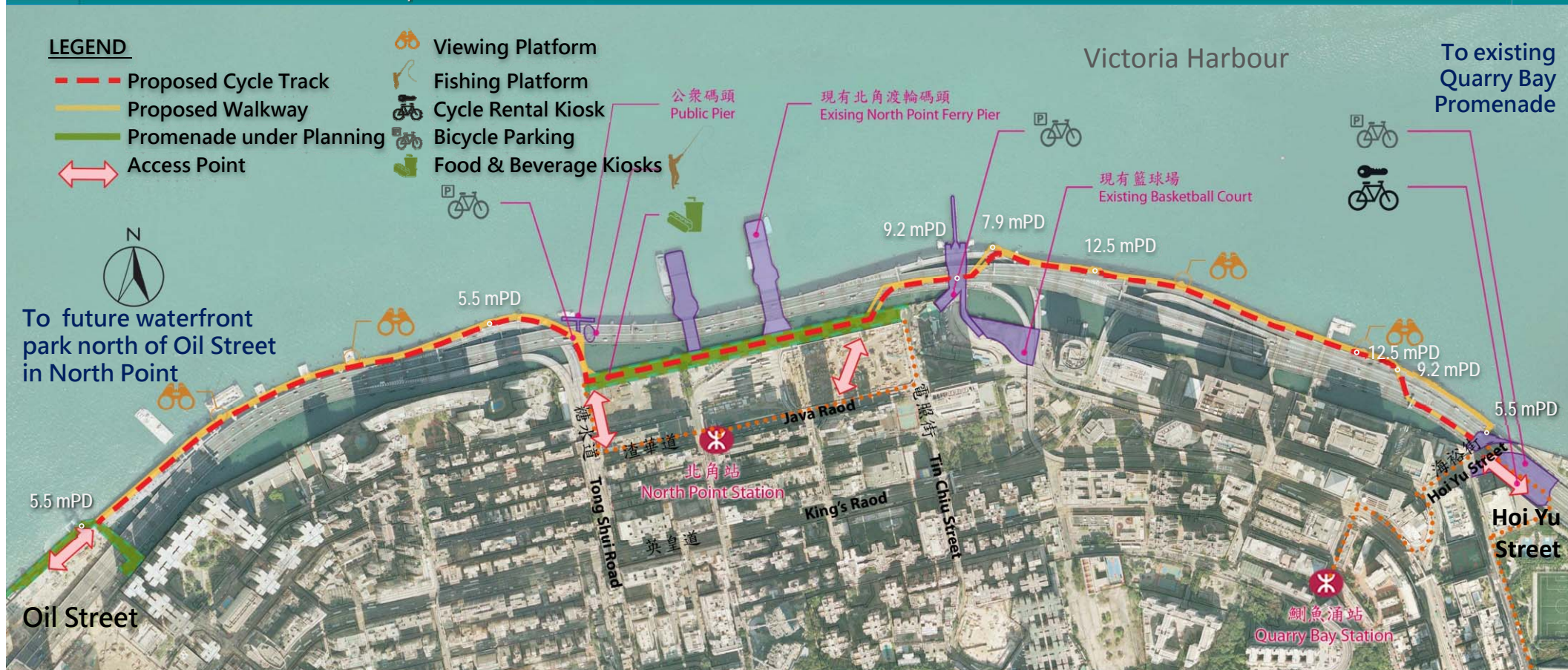
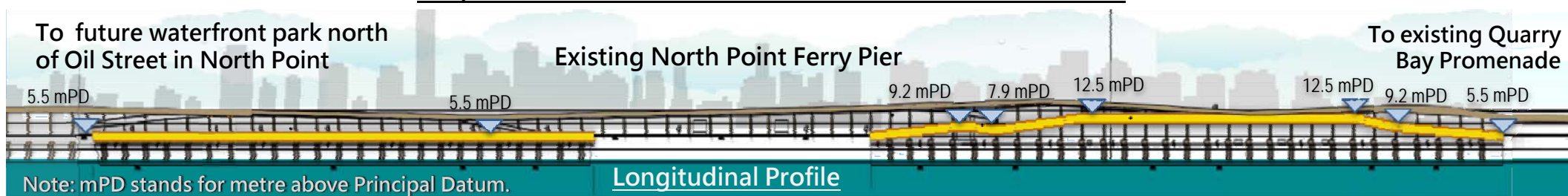
Enclosure I – Proposed Boardwalk underneath IEC

**Civil Engineering and Development Department**  
**January 2016**



# Proposed Boardwalk underneath Island Eastern Corridor

## Enclosure I



Artist's Impression near Provident Centre



Artist's Impression near Tong Shui Road Pier



Artist's Impression at Tong Shui Road



Artist's Impression at Hoi Yu Street Access Point