#### Sai Kung District Council

# **Hiram's Highway Improvement Stage 2**

### 1. Introduction

1.1 This paper is to report the latest progress of the Hiram's Highway Improvement Stage 2 project ("the Project") to the Sai Kung District Council (SKDC).

# 2. Background

- 2.1 Hiram's Highway is a road linking Sai Kung to Kowloon East and Tseung Kwan O. There is traffic congestion along some sections of the road during peak hours on weekdays and weekends. In view of the current traffic condition at Hiram's Highway, the Highways Department (HyD) is implementing improvement works to Hiram's Highway in stages, with the objectives to relieve traffic congestion and improve road design.
- 2.2 Hiram's Highway Improvement Stage 1 project commenced in 2016. It covers the section of Hiram's Highway between Clear Water Bay Road and Marina Cove and is anticipated to be mostly completed by end 2020. Hiram's Highway Improvement Stage 2 project will improve the remaining section of Hiram's Highway from Marina Cove to Sai Kung Town, Po Tung Road and Tai Mong Tsai Road to the South of Sha Ha.

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# 3. <u>Latest Progress</u>

- 3.1 HyD has engaged consultants to conduct investigation study and preliminary design for the Project. The consultants proposed to widen the section of Hiram's Highway between Marina Cove and Sai Kung Town to dual 2-lane carriageway.
- 3.2 Since 2013, HyD has consulted the major stakeholders on the proposed dual 2-lane on-line improvement scheme and arranged meetings with local residents and communities for exchange of views. From time to time, HyD has also reported the study progress to the SKDC and its Working Group and collected their views.
- 3.3 HyD presented the proposed road improvement scheme and implementation programme to SKDC in SKDC's full council meeting on 6 November 2018. SKDC supported the proposed improvement scheme and requested HyD to implement the Project as early as possible.
- 3.4 In the past few months, HyD conducted follow-up meetings with local stakeholders at critical road sections, including the stakeholders from Pak Sha Wan, Sha Ha, Sha Kok Mei and Sai Kung Town, as well as Sai Kung Rural Committee.
- 3.5 Based on the comments received, HyD has enhanced the design of the proposed improvement scheme as follows:-
  - (i) improving the Pak Sha Wan section of Hiram's Highway as single 4-lane carriageway, in order to minimize the impact on existing roadside structures and reduce the land to be resumed;
  - (ii) provision of a pedestrian subway crossing at Pak Sha Wan;
  - (iii) provision of a new loading / unloading layby and improvement of a pick-up / drop-off layby for public transport at Pak Sha Wan;

- (iv) modification of the Pak Kong Road junction to allow vehicle turning right from Pak Kong Road to Hiram's Highway (Kowloon Bound);
- (v) omission of proposed noise barriers at Pak Sha Wan and Sai Kung Town;
- (vi) modification of the design to minimize impact to nearby historic structures, such as maintaining the "Tin Hau Temple" and the "Hip Tin Temple", as well as the "Pai Lau" of "Man Yee Wan New Village and Sha Tsui New Village" in Sai Kung Town at their existing locations; and
- (vii) modification of the location and design of a pedestrian crossing at Tai Mong Tsai Road near Sha Kok Mei.

### 4. Proposed Road Scheme

- 4.1 The proposed works under the Project includes
  - (a) widening of an approximately 4.0 km long section of Hiram's Highway and Po Tung Road (between Marina Cove and Sai Kung Town) to dual 2-lane carriageway, and widening of the Pak Sha Wan section to single 4-lane carriageway;
  - (b) improvement of an approximate 600 m long section of Tai Mong Tsai Road between Sai Kung Town and Wai Man Road;
  - (c) improvement of pedestrian crossing facilities;
  - (d) provision of noise barriers; and
  - (e) associated civil and road works, slope and geotechnical works, street lighting, drainage and water works, and landscaping works.
- 4.2 Please refer to **Annex 1** for the general layout plan of proposed works.
- 4.3 According to the current design and relevant project details, HyD is conducting an environmental study for the proposed works to evaluate its potential implications to the environment (including air quality, noise, water quality, and waste

management), ecology, landscape and visual, cultural heritage, etc. Appropriate and practical mitigation measure will be proposed in order to mitigate the relevant implications. Based on the preliminary findings of the environmental study, HyD has proposed noise barriers and low noise road surfacing materials to be provided at certain road sections in order to minimize the traffic noise impact.

4.4 Subsequently, due to public's views opposing the provision of noise barriers at Pak Sha Wan section and Sai Kung Town section, HyD has modified the extent of noise barrier. The modified list of noise barriers is presented in the following table and in the general layout plan in **Annex 1**.

Noise Barrier No.	Location
V01	Near Pak Wai
C01	Between Ta Ho Tun Road and Che Keng Tuk Road
V02	Near Che Keng Tuk Road
C02 – C03	Between Po Lo Che Road and Sai Kung Rural Committee Lane
V03 – V06	Detween 10 Lo Che Road and Sai Rung Rurai Committee Lane
V07	Near Sai Kung Rural Committee Lane
V08 – V09	Near Sha Kok Mei Road

- 4.5 During construction, HyD will implement suitable temporary traffic arrangements to maintain the traffic flow at Hiram's Highway.
- 4.6 The Project will require resumption of private land and clearance of government land. The design of the improvement works has minimized the land impact as far as possible. Eligible owners of the lots to be resumed will be offered compensation in accordance with the prevailing policy, while the affected households will be offered public housing (including Interim Housing) or ex-gratia allowances, where eligible.

5. **Implementation Plan** 

5.1 HyD is currently co-ordinating with relevant departments for gazette of the road

scheme. The earliest gazette time of the road scheme according to the Roads

(Works, Use and Compensation) Ordinance (Cap. 370) is now anticipated in end

2019 for the public to comment on the road scheme. HyD will then seek

authorization to execute the works in accordance with the statutory requirements.

5.2 HyD will continue to implement the Project according to the Public Works

Programme procedures. If the relevant statutory procedures can be completed

smoothly by end 2020, we anticipate that the detailed design of the Project can

commence in 2021.

**Conclusion 6.** 

6.1 SKDC members' comments on the latest improvement scheme are welcomed. We

would also like to seek SKDC members' support for gazette of the Project.

Enclosure

**Annex 1**: Layout Plan

Highways Department

June 2019

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