

(Translation)

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 7th Term Wan Chai District Council
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Date: 25 June 2024 (Tuesday)

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Venue: District Council Conference Room, Wan Chai District Office,
21/F Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Hong Kong

Present

Arrival

Departure

Chairperson

Ms CHEUNG Ngan-ling, Fanny, JP

2:00 p.m.

3:07 p.m.

Members

Mr NG Chak-sum, Sam

2:00 p.m.

3:07 p.m.

Mr LEE Man-lung, Joey, MH

2:00 p.m.

3:07 p.m.

Ms LEE Pik-yee, Peggy, MH

2:02 p.m.

3:07 p.m.

Mr CHOW Kam-wai, BBS, MH

2:00 p.m.

3:07 p.m.

Mr LAM Wai-man, Anson

2:00 p.m.

3:07 p.m.

Mr LAM Wai-kong, MH

2:00 p.m.

3:07 p.m.

Mr SUN Tao-hung, Stanley, JP

2:00 p.m.

3:07 p.m.

Ms MOK Ruby

2:00 p.m.

3:07 p.m.

Ms LAU Pui-shan, MH

2:00 p.m.

3:07 p.m.

Mr MUK Ka-chun

2:00 p.m.

3:07 p.m.

Representatives of Core Government Departments

Mr CHEUNG Ho-yat, Steven

Assistant District Officer (Wan Chai)/Home Affairs
Department

Miss CHAN Sum-ye, Rita

Senior Liaison Officer (Community Affairs)/Wan Chai,
Home Affairs Department

Mr LIAUW Ka-kei, Stephen	District Commander (Wan Chai District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr CHAN Wan-pui, Adrian	Police Community Relations Officer (Wan Chai District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms LAM Siu-ping	Operational Support Sub-unit Commander (North Point Division), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms YEUNG Min-jing, Anna	Chief Transport Officer/Hong Kong, Transport Department
Mr WONG Man-wong	Chief Leisure Manager (Hong Kong East), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr LEE Pao-wan, Ken	District Leisure Manager (Wan Chai), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Mr HUI Kar-nung	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Wan Chai), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms YUNG Chi-wai, Esther	Chief Engineer/S4, Civil Engineering and Development Department

Representatives of Other Government Departments

Mr YAU Kwok-ting, Tony, JP	Director of Highways, Highways Department
Mr CHAN Yip-lun, Alan	Chief Highway Engineer/HK, Highways Department
Mr LAU Tak-yin, Philip	Senior District Engineer/HNW, Highways Department
Mr CHEUNG Man-chung, Tim	District Engineer/Wan Chai, Highways Department
Mr TSANG Kwok-hung, Kenneth	Assistant District Social Welfare Officer (Eastern/Wan Chai) ³ , Social Welfare Department

Secretary

Mr HUI Wai-lun, Ken

Senior Executive Officer (District Council)/Wan Chai,
Home Affairs Department

Opening Remarks

The Chairperson welcomed Members and representatives of government departments to the 4th meeting of the 7th term Wan Chai District Council (WCDC), and it was an honour to have the Director of Highways (DHy) attended the meeting of WCDC in person.

Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 3rd Meeting of Wan Chai District Council

2. The Chairperson said that the Secretariat had received no proposed amendments to the minutes of the 3rd meeting from Members.

3. With a motion moved by Mr Joey LEE and seconded by Mr Anson LAM and Mr MUK Ka-chun, the minutes of the 3rd meeting were confirmed.

Item 2: Visit to WCDC by Director of Highways

4. The Chairperson welcomed Mr YAU Kwok-ting, Tony, DHy, and representatives of his Department to the meeting, including:

Mr CHAN Yip-lun, Chief Highway Engineer/HK, Highways Department

Mr LAU Tak-yin, Senior District Engineer/HNW, Highways Department

Mr CHEUNG Man-chung, District Engineer/Wan Chai, Highways Department

5. Mr Tony YAU, DHy, gave a briefing on the major work of HyD as summarised below:

- (i) The HyD had five Divisions, including the Headquarters, 2 Regional Offices (Urban, New Territories), Major Works Project Management Office (MWPMO), Railway Development Office (RDO) and Northern Metropolis Railways Office (NMRO). The Headquarters provided specialist services to other offices of the Department; the two Regional Offices were responsible for highway maintenance and minor improvements of public roads; MWPMO was responsible for implementation of major highway projects; RDO was responsible for the planning of Hong Kong's railway development and monitoring of railway projects and NMRO, which was set up on 23 June 2023, was responsible for coordinating and

taking forward the railway projects related to the Northern Metropolis;

- (ii) HyD had all along been committed to the construction of roads and railways. Representative projects completed in Hong Kong in recent years included the Central-Wan Chai Bypass, Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link, Hiram's Highway Improvement Stage 1, Widening of Tolo Highway/Fanling Highway Stage 2, and Shatin to Central Link (East Rail Line Cross-harbour Extension);
- (iii) The Government promulgated the "Hong Kong Major Transport Infrastructure Development Blueprint" in December 2023, which formulated a planning framework for the city's future transport infrastructure development and outlined a vision for strategic railway and major road networks with a view to meeting Hong Kong's long-term transport and logistics demand up to 2046;
- (iv) Major road projects currently under planning and construction by HyD included the Hiram's Highway Improvement and Improvement of Lion Rock Tunnel in New Territories East, the Northern Metropolis Highway in New Territories North, the Tuen Mun Bypass, Route 11, the Tsing Yi-Lantau Link in New Territories West and the Central Kowloon Route in Kowloon;
- (v) HyD commenced several railway construction projects in 2023, including the Tung Chung Line Extension, Tuen Mun South Extension, Siu Ho Wan Station and East Rail Line Kwu Tung Station. Projects under planning included the Northern Link, Northern Link Extension, Hung Shui Kiu Station, Science Park Station/Pak Shek Kok Station (MTR), South Island Line (West) as well as Smart and Green Mass Transit System in East Kowloon;
- (vi) In Wan Chai, East Rail Line Cross-harbour Extension of Shatin to Central Link was commissioned in May 2022. At the same time, HyD, in collaboration with the Transport Department (TD), had reprovisioned and improved the facilities at the Exhibition Centre Station Public Transport Interchange to facilitate the traffic flow in the vicinity;
- (vii) Under the Universal Accessibility Programme, HyD had completed 13 lift installation projects in Wan Chai. Besides, the foundation works of the lift at the middle section of the footbridge across Gloucester Road and Fenwick Street, which connected to the bus stop at Gloucester Road, were underway and was expected to be commissioned in September 2024;

- (viii) To improve the street environment around Bowrington Road Market, HyD completed the beautification works for Wan Chai Road and Bowrington Road in October and December 2023 respectively as recommended by Deputy Chief Secretary for Administration, including the replacement of paving slabs and resurfacing of the associated carriageway with asphalt or non-slip steel grit on Wan Chai Road and Bowrington Road. The Department also planned to carry out resurfacing works for the pavement of the section of Wan Chai Road between Cross Street and Queen's Road East, which was expected to commence in the fourth quarter of 2024;
- (ix) HyD carried out regular maintenance of carriageway surfaces. The works completed in Wan Chai in recent years included the resurfacing of asphalt carriageway surfaces at Wan Chai Interchange southbound, Tung Lo Wan Road (southbound) and Eastern Hospital Road (southbound), the concrete road overlay with protective coating on the fast lane of Canal Road Flyover (CRF) northbound near Top View Mansion, and the reinstatement of deteriorated concrete road surfaces on the fast lane of CRF southbound near Craigengower Cricket Club. The Department was arranging to carry out anti-skid steel grit resurfacing works for the carriageway of Tai Hang Road in phases. HyD also planned to carry out resurfacing works for the carriageway surfaces of Gloucester Road (eastbound), Perkins Road and Tai Hang Path, which were expected to commence in the fourth quarter of 2024 and the first quarter of 2025 respectively. The section of Tai Hang Path would be resurfaced with asphalt paving material incorporating waste tyres, which not only helped reduce the amount of waste tyres being disposed of at landfills, but also effectively enhanced the durability of road surfaces;
- (x) In respect of minor road improvement works, HyD installed pedestrian crossing traffic signal facilities at Stubbs Road near Shiu Fai Terrace in June 2023 and at the junction of Johnston Road and Fleming Road in January 2024 to enable pedestrians to use the road network more safely. In addition, HyD had provided 30 additional parking spaces for the disabled on Hong Kong Island in recent years. 12 parking spaces had been provided in Wan Chai and the remaining one would be provided in the third quarter of 2024. The Department was also carrying out widening works of pavement at Jaffe Road between Tonnochy Road and Marsh Road to create a better walking environment at the above road section, which was expected to be completed in the third quarter of 2024. To pursue this project, the Department was also planning to carry out the widening works of next section of pavement

between Marsh Road and Canal Road West, which was expected to commence in the fourth quarter of 2024. Moreover, HyD planned to carry out widening works of pavement and height adjustment works at the tram terminus in Happy Valley to facilitate boarding and alighting of passengers, which was expected to be completed in the 4th quarter of 2024. HyD thanked the DC Members for consulting the local residents on the minor road improvement works, which facilitated the smooth implementation of the works according to the needs of residents;

- (xi) Since 2017, HyD had fully converted the public lighting system to Light Emitting Diode (LED) light, which had a long lifespan of 50 000 to 100 000 hours, significantly reduced maintenance costs and saved about 30% of energy. At present, nearly 99% of street lamps and 45% of lightings on footbridges and in subways in Wan Chai had been replaced with LED lights, and the replacement of lightings for remaining footbridges and subways were expected to be completed gradually in the next five years;
- (xii) Two studies on the provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems were underway in Wan Chai, one connecting Wood Road and Queen's Road East and the other connecting Lau Sin Street and Tin Hau Temple Road. HyD had consulted the nearby St. Joseph's Primary School on the uphill escalator system connecting Wood Road and Queen's Road East and was considering how to improve the design of the project to minimise the impact on the school and nearby residents. Moreover, due to the constraints of the geographical environment at the junction of Lau Sin Street and Tin Hau Temple Road, the Department was addressing technical issues such as the technical need to carry out foundation and lift tower construction works on the very narrow pavement, consideration of relocating a number of underground pipelines and treatment of trees affected by the works. HyD would consult the residents, liaise with the utility companies concerned and consider compensation options for removal of trees; and
- (xiii) HyD planned to construct covers at the pedestrian section of Queen's Road East to Tang Shiu Kin Hospital in July 2024 and at the pedestrian section of Eastern Hospital Road between Tung Wah Eastern Hospital and the nearby bus stop in 2025 respectively, so as to create a comfortable walking environment for visitors and staff going to and from the above hospitals.

6. Mr Joey LEE, Ms Peggy LEE, Mr Sam NG, Mr LAM Wai-kong, Mr CHOW Kam-wai, Ms LAU Pui-shan and Mr MUK Ka-chun were concerned about the problem of uneven road surfaces. Their questions and comments were summarised below:

- (i) Many of the road surfaces of the uphill sections in Wan Chai were uneven, thereby posing safety hazards. In this connection, the contractors were asked whether they conducted regular inspections on road surfaces;
- (ii) The paving slabs of some of the footpaths in the area were dilapidated, and some of the paving slabs in Lockhart Road had roots of tree trunks protruding from them, resulting in raised footpaths. In this connection, HyD was asked whether the Department had any long-term and comprehensive plans for renovation of footpaths;
- (iii) At the Hennessy Road/Johnston Road Sitting-out Area, there was a part of the footpath which was resurfaced some years ago where concrete was used instead of paving slabs, which was not only incompatible with the original pavement surface, but also posed a potential safety hazard. In this connection, HyD was asked whether the Department would resurface the slabs there;
- (iv) There were uneven road surfaces in the vicinity of Causeway Bay Market, which were prone to accumulation of water after rain. Water would be spattered onto the pavements when vehicles driving over them. In this connection, HyD was requested to follow up the matter; and
- (v) During the onslaught of typhoon in October 2023, there was a case of road subsidence on Mount Butler Road. Although the relevant departments had completed the repair work, HyD was still requested to closely monitor the road conditions in the said area and took necessary precautionary measures to avoid recurrence of similar incidents.

7. Ms Peggy LEE said that HyD had experienced problems such as lack of materials and insufficient manpower in carrying out works by its contractors, which led to delays in the works. In this regard, HyD was requested to strengthen its monitoring on the performance of contractors and to exercise caution in selecting contractors to be engaged in future.

8. Mr Joey LEE said that there was frequent flooding due to blockage of branch drains in Tai Yuen Street Market. Although the relevant departments had initially dealt with the problem, there

was still a risk of further blockage of branch drains. In this connection, HyD, the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department (FEHD) and Drainage Services Department (DSD) were requested to collaborate with each other to assist in clearing the blocked drains to minimise the occurrence of flooding.

9. Mr Joey LEE, Ms Peggy LEE and Mr MUK Ka-chun said that over the years, they had received many enquiries from residents on the work progress of the hillside elevator link and escalator system connecting Lau Sin Street and Tin Hau Temple Road. In this connection, HyD was requested to take forward the project as soon as possible and provide a confirmed schedule for the works.

10. Mr Anson LAM said that in relation to the project of hillside escalator link and elevator system connecting Wood Road and Queen's Road East, there was a need to commence the project as soon as possible since the access to Tang Shiu Kin Hospital involved multiple staircases, causing inconvenience to patients, seniors and disabled persons on their way to the hospital.

11. Mr LAM Wai-kong remarked that traffic congestion was serious in the vicinity of Happy Valley and Wong Chuk Hang. In this connection, HyD was requested to explore options to alleviate the traffic congestion in these two areas.

12. Mr MUK Ka-chun enquired about the necessity for HyD to carry out works of widening the footpath at the above location in view of the low pedestrian flow along Jaffe Road between Marsh Road and Tonnochy Road.

13. Mr CHOW Kam-wai said that following an earlier traffic accident occurred on Morrison Hill Road, some residents suggested that HyD should improve the location of installing roadside railings so as to minimise casualties in traffic accidents. Besides, some residents reflected that there were trees obstructing the pavement at No. 33 Perkins Road. In this connection, HyD was requested to note and take follow-up action.

14. Ms MOK Ruby stated that illegal disposal of construction waste had been identified on the roads in Wan Chai. In this connection, she requested the relevant departments to step up monitoring to ensure that construction waste was properly disposed of in order to reduce the risk of accidents.

15. Mr Tony YAU, DHy, thanked Members for their comments and responded as follows:

- (i) Regarding the problem of uneven surfaces on pavements or footpaths, staff of HyD

inspected the busier footpaths once a week and other pavements once a month on average. If the contractor's regular road inspections identified or the Department received reports from the public that road facilities were in a dilapidated condition, the Department would arrange for appropriate repair works in a timely manner having regard to actual situations and needs. Moreover, HyD had improved the design of footpaths by stabilising the base layer of paving slabs to reduce unevenness. Depending on circumstances, the Department would also carry out resurfacing or replacement works for uneven pavements, such as considering the replacement of paving blocks with concrete subject to factors like aesthetics and design consistency;

[Post-meeting note: Regarding the request for resurfacing the paving slabs at Hennessy Road/Johnston Road Sitting-out Area, as the location was under the purview of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), HyD had referred the request to LCSD for follow-up.]

- (ii) As for vehicular roads, the causes of uneven road surfaces included the impact of adjacent foundation works and soil erosion caused by damaged underground pipelines. HyD would make use of various digital technologies, such as intelligent monitoring systems, optical devices and video analytical techniques to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of road inspections, while at the same time improve the relevant records to facilitate contractors to follow up on the repairs in future;
- (iii) Regarding the performance of contractors, HyD conducted regular site inspections to monitor their performance. If the performance of contractors was found to be below standard, the Department had put in place a well-established mechanism of penalties, such as fines and substitution of contractors. HyD would closely monitor the performance of contractors to enhance the overall standard of work;
- (iv) Regarding the blockage of drains in Tai Yuen Street Market, HyD, in collaboration with DSD and FEHD, would clear drains prone to accumulation of water before the onset of rainy season in order to prevent flooding. In addition, the Department would also arrange contractors to carry out road inspections when the rainstorm warning signal was in force to clear blocked drains and fallen trees as early as possible. HyD would continue to strengthen its contingency measures in case of inclement weather;

- (v) HyD had taken note of Members' comments on the hillside escalator link and pedestrian link connecting Lau Sin Street and Tin Hau Temple Road. They would draw up a concrete works schedule as soon as possible, and would like to thank Members and the public for their support and assistance to the project;
- (vi) Even for the project of hillside escalator link and elevator system from Wood Road to Queen's Road East, HyD was taking the initiative to communicate with the neighboring St. Joseph's Primary School with a view to implementing the project in line with the redevelopment schedule of the school;
- (vii) As TD had observed that many pedestrians travel to and from Wan Chai and Causeway Bay via Jaffe Road, widening of this section of pavement was proposed to improve the walking environment. Meanwhile, Members might also suggest other locations in the district for widening of footpaths and HyD would work with TD to examine their feasibility;
- (viii) HyD noted the issue of roadside railings at Morrison Hill Road and would follow up with TD;

[Post-meeting note: As the location of installing roadside railings was a matter of road design, which was under the purview of TD, HyD had forwarded Members' comments to TD for follow-up and would be pleased to provide technical advice on any proposal.]

- (ix) HyD had been conducting joint inter-departmental operations against fly-tipping of construction waste. The Department would take immediate follow-up actions if roads were obstructed by abandoned materials. The Department would also advise contractors to use skips for proper disposal of construction waste; and
- (x) HyD thanked Members for their comments and suggestions on the work of HyD and would follow up closely with relevant departments.

16. The Chairperson thanked Mr Tony YAU, DHy, and representatives of his Department for attending this meeting and asked them to leave first.

Item 3: Information Papers: Progress Reports of the Committees under WCDC

- (a) **District Facilities and Works Committee**
(WCDC Paper No. 23/2024)
- (b) **Food and Environmental Hygiene Committee**
(WCDC Paper No. 24/2024)
- (c) **Community Involvement, Recreation and Culture Committee**
(WCDC Paper No. 25/2024)
- (d) **Traffic and Transport Committee**
(WCDC Paper No. 26/2024)

17. Members noted the above Papers.

Item 4: Any Other Business

18. There were no other discussion items raised by Members.

Item 5: Date of Next Meeting

19. The next meeting would be held on at 3:00 p.m. on 3 September 2024 (Tuesday).

20. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Wan Chai District Council Secretariat
October 2024