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19 September 2016

Mr Tak Wong
President,
Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects

Dear Mr. Wong,

Thank you for your letter to the Chief Secretary dated 11 December 2015 concerning the landscape works on the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (HKBCF) of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB).

Landscape and greening works are important and significant to the HKBCF project. It has been clearly laid down in the Environmental Impact Assessment for the HKBCF project that it is the Government's intention to plan, design and implement in the HKBCF project appropriate landscape area to ensure a green and harmonious interface with the surrounding land uses. We have therefore planned for about 50 hectares of landscape area under the HKBCF project which would be implemented under various construction contracts.

You might have picked up from some newspaper articles earlier that there would be a deletion of the landscaping works at the southern portion of the HKBCF. These might not have fully reflected the situation. The "potential deletion" mentioned by the Government was not intended to be a permanent one but rather a deferment. As you may know, the Government has sought from the Legislative Council (LegCo) an increase in funding for the HZMB HKBCF project. Before obtaining LegCo's approval, the Government did not have sufficient funds to complete all the originally planned facilities at the HKBCF. To ensure that the HKBCF could be

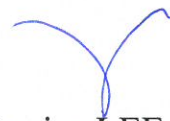
commissioned in time, the Government had to prepare for a contingency arrangement in case the approval for the funding increase from the LegCo comes late.

The Government therefore informed the LegCo in December 2015 that as a contingency arrangement, the Highways Department would have no choice but to excise some facilities which are required but not absolutely essential for the commissioning of the HKBCF. Apart from landscape works, facilities that would be excised also include domestic car parks, taxi queuing area, some vehicle clearance kiosks, private car annexures, maintenance depots, detective dog base, dangerous goods store, public toilets in the Vehicle Clearance Plazas, etc. The above contingency arrangement is described in our letter to LegCo dated 11 December 2015 which could be found at the following link: <http://www.legco.gov.hk/yr15-16/english/fc/pwsc/papers/pwsc20151201pwc-51-1-e.pdf>

As we were unable to obtain the needed funding approval before the due date of the concerned contract on 31 December 2015, the Highways Department had to excise the landscape works at the southern portion of HKBCF from the associated contract. With the funding approval eventually obtained on 30 January 2016, the Highways Department is exploring possible arrangements to implement the excised landscape works as early as possible. However, as the funding approval did not arrive in time, the completion of the excised portion of landscape works would have to be delayed; and the needed landscaping works may not be fully completed during the early operation of the HKBCF. Having said that, please rest assured that the Highways Department is dedicated to complete the originally planned landscape works in the HKBCF at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for your interest in the HZMB project.

Yours sincerely,



(Jessica LEE)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.

Chief Secretary for Administration (Attn: Ms Emily Ng)
Director of Highways (Attn: Mr Albert Lee)