

Office of the Chief Executive-elect,
9/F, Champion Tower, 3 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong.
(Attn.: Mrs. Carrie LAM, GBM, GBS) – By Fax: 2352 3171

17 May, 2017

Dear Carrie,

**Reactivate the Project on Relocation of the
Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Bus Terminus for Development of a Piazza**

From landscape and urban design points of view, the Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry bus terminus is located at a prime location in the heart of the city adjacent to our unique and beautiful harbour, it deserves high quality design to transform it into a public space for enjoyment by the public. Currently, its potential is significantly restricted by keeping it as a bus terminus where many buses are sitting idle at this precious location.

The government had a good intention to transform the bus terminus into a piazza and the proposal was initiated in 2002. According to the proposal, the bus terminus would be relocated to a new bus terminus under a landscaped deck near Wing On Plaza at Tsim Sha Tsui East where the buses could be parked there. This wise arrangement could release the precious waterfront space near the Star Ferry Pier for pedestrians and enhance connectivity and vibrancy of the promenade. The proposal could also address the need to maintain bus service near the piazza to serve the public. Relevant stakeholders including district councils, professional institutions, adjacent commercial owners, public transport operators and the public were consulted and they generally supported the proposal. Preparation works were undertaken in steps and the bus terminus at Wing On Plaza was completed in 2007 to cater for further transport arrangement. It was unfortunate that the proposal was politicalized without due consideration of its benefit and it was then withdrawn by the government in response to the objections in 2012.

The Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry bus terminus was built in 1920. At that time, it played a key role in the transport network because people heavily relied on ferry service to cross the harbour and alternative means of public transport was not yet well-developed. With the development of Mass Transit Railway and other cross-harbour tunnels to facilitate land-based transport across the harbour, the significance of this bus terminus to serve as a public transport connection between bus and ferry services is now largely reduced. Its historical role to serve as a key public transport link is fulfilled. Changes in the land use for the bus terminus are required to suit the new needs and to optimize the use of our limited land resource for the benefit of the society.

We share the sentiment on preserving the bus terminus in view of its past history by some members of the public. In this regard, old-style or vintage buses served in the past can be displayed in the piazza to reflect the history and enhance local distinctiveness of the piazza. Some of these buses can offer bus tours so that the public can have access for direct experience. This special arrangement can address the need to preserve the history and create quality open place for the public.

Hong Kong is a densely populated city and spatial elements such as piazza and pedestrian streets are lacking in the urban framework for the public to appreciate our place. There is a genuine need to create more quality public spaces for urban dwellers by reshaping the urban space allocated for vehicular traffic and pedestrians. Implementation of more pedestrianization schemes is required to uplift the quality of urban area. This can benefit both local people and tourists as it can enhance the streetscape and provide more destinations with local character for them to visit.

The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects has great concern on creating more open spaces and pedestrian streets in urban area to serve the public. We should not adopt “do nothing” approach and leave this bus terminus at such prime location without improving it for us and our future generations. For the benefit of the community, we appeal the government to reactivate the project to transform Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry bus terminus into a piazza so that it can raise the attractiveness of the city for enjoyment by the public.

We would highly appreciate it if positive feedback can be received from the government. Please feel free to contact the undersigned at 2896 2833 or via email to president@hkila.com for further follow up discussion on the issue.

Yours sincerely,



Tak Wong
President

Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects

c.c.

The Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development (Attn.: Mr. SO Kam Leung, Gregory, GBS, JP) – Fax 2537 6720

The Secretary for Development, Development Bureau (Attn.: Mr. MA Siu Cheung, Eric, JP) – Fax 2151 5303

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