



運輸署
Transport Department

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23 August 2017

Mr. Tak WONG
Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects
P.O. Box 20561, Hennessy Road Post Office
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Dear Mr. WONG,

**Creating a Better Pedestrian Environment
to Improve Streetscape and Promote Walking**

Thank you for your letter dated 5 July 2017 addressed to the Secretary for Transport and Housing regarding your suggestions on creating a better pedestrian environment to promote walking and improve streetscape. On promoting walkability in general, the Transport and Housing Bureau has asked us to follow up with you. A meeting was convened on 10 August 2017 with you and representatives of Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects to discuss your suggestions in greater detail. We would like to summarize the salient points of our discussion on your request as below.

Promoting Walk in HK

Over the years, the Hong Kong Government has been striving to enhance pedestrian amenities and create a “pedestrian-friendly” environment in the territory. Various efforts, including footbridge networks, barrier-free facilities such as fitting footbridges/subways with elevators, and various traffic calming and pedestrianisation schemes, helped lay a solid foundation for a “pedestrian-friendly” environment.

Building on the solid foundation laid and developments in recent years, Hong Kong aspires to further strengthen its position as a world class walkable city. In the 2017 Policy

Address, the Chief Executive of Hong Kong Government pledged to enhance the city's walkability and make walking an integral part of Hong Kong as a sustainable city. In the light of the unique environment of Hong Kong, a series of new measures along four themes, namely, "Make it Smart", "Make it enjoyable", "Make it connected" and "Make it safe" will be implemented under a comprehensive strategy to enhance our pedestrian networks, with a view to making walking a pleasant experience creating a safe and quality pedestrian environment, and providing user-friendly information on walking routes.

Strengthen Policy Steer and Resource to Support Pedestrianisation

Your suggestions on strengthening the policy steer and support to encourage implementation of more pedestrianisation schemes and streetscape enhancement projects are well received.

To take forward "Walk in HK", Transport Department has formed a Task Force on Walkability (Task Force) in May 2017. The Task Force will conduct a series of studies for formulating a planning and design philosophy which puts priority on pedestrians and a strategy to develop Hong Kong into a walkable city that is of world-class quality, enhancing pedestrian connectivity in some of the busiest commercial and shopping districts in Hong Kong, and assessing the feasibility of further provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems. In addition, institutional arrangements involved in the implementation of both short-term and long-term measures to promote walkability in Hong Kong will be reviewed and recommended in the study. Key outcomes and findings of the studies would be showcased in pilot areas to test out innovative measures for a comfortable walking environment.

Proactive Approach in Management of Pedestrian Streets

Proper street management will be vital to creating a safe, comfortable and enjoyable walking environment. As you suggested, in the study we will make reference to overseas experience, exemplars and best practices to formulate an overall strategy in promoting walking including effective management of the pedestrian streets.

Introduction of Quality Street Furniture for a Friendly Pedestrian Setting

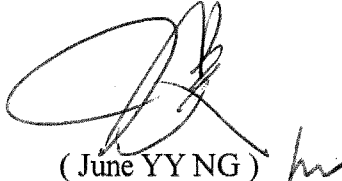
In general, new streetscape initiatives, such as legible and permeable street patterns, street furniture, co-ordinated signage, hard and soft landscaping, paving and lighting will be reviewed in the consultancy study with a view to creating an enjoyable and comfortable

walking environment. In fact, your ideas of introducing seating facilities and special design of railing and bollard to enhance the streetscape and local distinctiveness, etc., are compatible with our study objectives and would be examined together with other suggestions to be gathered in the course of the study.

As we also discussed at the meeting, your appeal for Government's consideration to reactivate the project on relocation of the Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Bus Terminus was well-noted. We understand that the relocation request has been sent to the Transport and Housing Bureau.

We would like to express our gratitude to you again for the valuable suggestions and support to enhance walkability in Hong Kong. Should you have any enquiries, please contact our Senior Engineer, Mr. K.C. HO at telephone no. 2294 2506 or the undersigned at 2294 2580.

Yours faithfully,



(June YUNG)

for Commissioner for Transport