

22 JAN 2018

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12 January 2018

Tak Wong
President
The Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects
P.O. Box 20561, Johnston Road Post Office
Wan Chai, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Wong,

Transforming Tsim Sha Tsui Star Ferry Bus Terminus into a Piazza

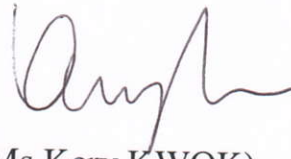
Thank you for your earlier letter to the Commissioner for Tourism suggesting the Government transform the Tsim Sha Tsui (TST) Star Ferry Pier Bus Terminus into a piazza.

You may wish to note that the Government's previous plan of turning the TST Star Ferry Pier Bus Terminus into a piazza (TST Piazza Project) was led by this Commission some ten years ago with a view to creating a new tourist-themed node in TST. Yet, despite our endeavours to take forward the project over the years, when conducting the initial technical assessment, the relevant works departments discovered that the foundation of the existing TST Star Ferry Pier would not be able to support substantial renovation and expansion with a meaningful increase of floor area for additional open space for public enjoyment of the harbourfront. Besides, there were strong aspirations from the District Councils and local residents for maintaining the existing level of bus service, which if to be addressed, the size of the planned piazza would have inevitably been reduced by 40%. This would not allow adequate room for a substantial piazza development.

On the other hand, with the development of TST into a popular tourist shopping area in recent years, we consider that the additional tourism and economic benefits that the project may bring have become relatively limited. In view of the aforesaid circumstances, it was decided in 2012 to shelve the TST Piazza Project. We are not aware of any significant change of the circumstances that warrant a revision of the decision.

Thank you again for sharing your views with us.

Yours sincerely,



(Ms Kery KWOK)
for Commissioner for Tourism

c.c. Secretary for Transport and Housing (Fax: 2523 9187)