

Official Members

Miss Rosalind CHEUNG	Principal Assistant Secretary (Harbour), Development Bureau (DEVB)
Ms Anny TANG	Senior Manager (Tourism)21, Tourism Commission (TC)
Mr Tommy NG	Chief Transport Officer/Housing Project, Transport Department (TD)
Mr George MAK	Chief Engineer/East 5, Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)
Mr Wicky CHEUNG	Chief Leisure Manager (Management), Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)
Mr Adrian CHAN	General Manager, Planning, Development & Port Security, Marine Department (MD)
Ms Amy CHEUNG	Assistant Director of Planning/Territorial, Planning Department (PlanD)
Mr Gavin YEUNG	Secretary

In Attendance

Mr Henry LAI	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) 1, DEVB
Ms Jenny WONG	Assistant Secretary (Harbour) Special Duties, DEVB
Mr William CHAN	Project Manager (Harbour), DEVB
Ms Daphne LI	Architect (Harbour) 1, DEVB
Mr TONG Hui-ching	Architect (Harbour) 2, DEVB
Mr Carlos FUNG	Engineer (Harbour), DEVB
Mr NG Shing-kit	Engineer (Harbour) Special Duties, DEVB

Absent with Apologies

Ms Iris HOI	Representing Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects
Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN	Representing Society for Protection of the Harbour
Mr Hans Joachim ISLER	Individual Member

For Item 4

Ms Carrie LEUNG

Senior Engineer / Walkability 1, TD

Ms June NG

Engineer 4/ Walkability, TD

Mr Paul LENGTHORN

Project Manager, Mott Macdonald HK Ltd

Mr Chris LEUNG

Assistant Project Manager, Mott Macdonald HK Ltd

Mr Alan MACDONALD

Deputy Project Director, Urbis Limited

Welcoming Message

Mr Vincent NG, Chair of the Harbourfront Commission (HC), welcomed all to the meeting.

Item 1 Election of Task Force Chair

1.1 **Mr Vincent NG** invited nominations from Members for chairmanship of the Task Force.

1.2 **Mr Andy LEWIS** nominated **Mr KY LEUNG** as the Chair of the Task Force. With unanimous support from Members, **Mr Vincent NG** announced that **Mr KY LEUNG** would be the Chair of the Task Force. **Mr KY LEUNG** took over the chairmanship of the meeting.

1.3 **The Chair** welcomed Members to the meeting, in particular **Mr Edward LO**, representing Hong Kong Institute of Planners, and **Mr Desmond NG**, representing Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong, who newly joined the Task Force.

1.4 **The Chair** informed the meeting that -

- (a) **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG**, Principal Assistant Secretary (Harbour) of Development Bureau, attended on behalf of Ms Doris HO, Deputy Secretary for Development (Planning & Lands)¹;

- (b) **Ms Anny TANG**, Senior Manager of Tourism Commission, attended on behalf of Mr Anson LAI, Assistant Commissioner for Tourism 2;
- (c) **Mr George MAK**, Chief Engineer/ East 5 of the Civil Engineering and Development Department, attended on behalf of Mr Michael LEUNG, Project Manager (East);
- (d) **Mr Wicky CHEUNG**, Chief Leisure Manager (Management) of the Leisure and Cultural Services Department, attended on behalf of Mr Simon LIU, Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 3; and
- (e) **Mr Adrian CHAN**, General Manager, Planning, Development & Port Security of the Marine Department, attended on behalf of Mr Tony CHAN, Assistant Director/Planning & Services.

Item 2 Confirmation of Minutes of 19th Meeting

2.1 **The Chair** informed the meeting that the draft minutes of the 19th meeting were circulated to Members for comments on 20 June 2017. There being no comments received from Members, the minutes have taken as confirmed.

Item 3 Matters Arising

3.1 No matters arising were raised at the meeting.

Item 4 Developing Hong Kong into a Walkable City- Proposed Strategy and Conceptual Pedestrian Plans in Central and Sham Shui Po Pilot Areas (Paper No. TFWLHA/01/2019)

Briefing by the Transport Department (TD) and the Consultant Team

4.1 **Ms Carrie LEUNG** from the Transport Department and consultants from **Mott Macdonald Hong Kong Limited** and **Urbis Limited** briefed Members on the proposed walkability strategy and conceptual pedestrian plans in the two pilot areas, namely Central and Sham Shui Po, with the aid of a Powerpoint.

Discussion

Chinese Translation on Walkability

4.2 **Mr TAM Po-yiu** and **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** opined that the term “walkability” should be translated into “宜行” instead of “易行” in Chinese as the term referred to not only walking at ease, but also walking in comfort.

4.3 **Ms Carrie LEUNG** responded that the mission of the proposed strategy and plans was to make walking connected, safe, enjoyable and smart, which was in line with the concept of “宜行”. To achieve this mission, higher priority would be placed on pedestrians in transport planning to provide attractive and vibrant walkways.

Targets

4.4 **Mr Ken SO** opined that people with different backgrounds and social needs should be considered in the proposed strategy and measures.

4.5 **Ms Carrie LEUNG** responded that safe and barrier-free crossing facilities were included in the proposed strategy to enable connectivity and enhance walkability for people of all age and with different mobility abilities.

Measures to Enhance Walkability

4.6 **Ir Victor CHEUNG** opined that to enhance walkability, a long-term planning and a structural change in land use were required. It was also imperative to provide pedestrians with sufficient supporting facilities.

4.7 **Mr TAM Po-yiu** and **Sr Raymond CHAN Yuk-ming** stressed the importance of managing hawkers on the streets and occupation of public places by shops in the shopfront, which might block pedestrians' passageway and worsen the walking environment.

4.8 **Ms Carrie LEUNG** responded that street management was one of the issues highlighted in the consultation with the Transport Affairs Committee of the Sham Shui Po District Council and the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Central and Western District Council in June 2019. TD would continue to liaise with the government departments concerned on measures to enhance street management.

4.9 **Mr Andy LEWIS** supported all proposed initiatives to enhance walkability. He further suggested adopting the initiative of level surface, a type of street layout where the road surface was flush with the adjacent footpaths, as it could bring about a more pleasant pedestrian environment as demonstrated in overseas experiences.

4.10 **Mr Chris LEUNG** said that in previous meetings with the District Council, there was concern on road safety in adopting level surface, particularly when people with disabilities were concerned. More consultations with different stakeholders were needed before further considering the share use by pedestrians and vehicles in road design.

Community Responses

4.11 **Mrs Karen BARRETTO** enquired how the proposed strategy was perceived in Sham Shui Po as the majority of residents there might put higher priority on other areas of social development.

4.12 **Ms Carrie LEUNG** said that during the consultation with the Sham Shui Po District Council in June 2019, District Council Members supported the walkability concept in principle, but had reservations over some of the initiatives such as implementation of low speed limit (30 km/h) at appropriate street sections in Sham Shui Po. As such, TD would continue to collect views from different stakeholders through the Stage 3 public engagement exercise and revise the proposal accordingly. She added that it would be opportune to enhance the connectivity in Sham Shui Po in that it would help build a more accessible harbourfront between a relatively old urban core and large-scale residential developments in the new reclamation area.

Connections to the Harbourfront

4.13 **Mr Desmond NG** and **Mr TAM Po-yiu** opined that strategies on enhancing the connectivity between the hinterland and the harbourfront through public walkways such as footbridges and subways should be included.

4.14 **Ms Carrie LEUNG** responded that in the proposed strategy, the pedestrian way-finding system in Central would be enhanced to facilitate convenient linkages from the hinterland to the harbourfront. On the other hand, given the geographical limitations in Sham Shui Po, especially the linkage from the hinterland to the new reclamation area, emphasis would be put on enhancing the pedestrian's linkage such as crossings in the area.

4.15 Noting that the pilot study areas were mainly located in the hinterland, **Mr Anthony CHEUNG** considered it important to enhance the connection to the harbourfront through place-making in order to bring people from the hinterland to the harbourfront. He also suggested providing underground car parks in the hinterland so as to provide a choice for people to "park and walk", i.e. park their cars and walk to the harbourfront.

4.16 **Ms Carrie LEUNG** responded that one of the proposed walkability strategies was to enhance the pedestrian links connecting to the major public car parks in Central so as to encourage drivers to "park and walk" and reduce the number of vehicles entering the Central Business District.

Implementation

4.17 **Mr Vincent NG** called for the implementation of the proposed strategy in the two pilot areas, which would be conducive to formulating the overall walkability strategy for Hong Kong.

4.18 **Mr Desmond NG** suggested that more resources be deployed to implement the proposed strategy and co-ordinate the work among different government departments, so as to firm up a concrete implementation plan and timetable.

4.19 In response, **Ms Carrie LEUNG** said that the proposed strategy would be carried out in short-, medium- and long-terms respectively. TD together with the consultant would formulate the implementation plan and timetable after collecting stakeholders' views through the three-stage public engagement exercise. Stage 3 engagement exercise would be conducted in the second quarter of 2020 for recommending the outline pedestrian plans and improvement schemes for the two pilot areas, and devising the walkability strategy for Hong Kong.

Way Forward

4.20 **The Chair** concluded that Members were generally supportive of this study. He shared the importance of implementing the proposed strategy on walkability in the two pilot areas which would serve as a good reference for enhancing walkability in different harbourfront areas in future. Another issue he highlighted was to study the possible directions for exploring share-use among pedestrians and other road space users in the pilot scheme. On this note, he invited the project team to take

into account Members' comments when taking forward the project.

Item 5 Any Other Business

Consultancy Studies

5.1 **Miss Rosalind CHEUNG** briefed the meeting on the latest development of the two consultancy studies on (a) Enhancing Visitors' Experience and Connectivity from the Hinterland to and within Harbourfront Areas and (b) Design Guidelines and Promenades and Measures for Better Water-land Interface. She informed Members that the two studies were awarded to the same consultant in early July 2019. The consultant would engage the Task Force closely in the process and present their findings to Members when ready.

Date of next meeting

5.2 **The Chair** said that the Secretariat would inform Members of the date of next meeting in due course.

5.3 There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Secretariat

**Task Force on Water-land Interface and Harbourfront Activation
September 2020**