

Harbourfront Commission
Task Force on Harbourfront Developments
in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing

Minutes of Forty-third Meeting

Date : 25 April 2023
Time : 4:00 p.m.
Venue : Room 1303, 13/F, Wing On Kowloon Centre, 345 Nathan Road, Kowloon

Present (attending in person)

Prof Becky LOO	Chairlady
Dr Vivian WONG	Representing Friends of the Earth (HK) Charity Limited
Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN	Representing Society for Protection of the Harbour
Mr Sam CHOW	Representing the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong

Present (attending online)

Mr Vincent NG	Chairman, Harbourfront Commission
Mr Jacky CHEUNG	Representing the Hong Kong Institute of Architects
Ir Ringo YU	Representing the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers
Ms Iris HOI	Representing the Hong Kong Institute of Landscape Architects
Mr Edward LO	Representing the Hong Kong Institute of Planners
Sr Francis LAM	Representing the Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors
Mr Jeff TUNG	Representing the Real Estate Developers Association of Hong Kong

Official Members (attending in person)

Ms Leonie LEE	Commissioner for Harbourfront, DEVB
Mr Clarence YEUNG	Chief Engineer/South 1, Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD)
Mr Henry WONG	Assistant Director (Leisure Services) 1, Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD)
Mr Derek TSE	District Planning Officer/Tsuen Wan & West Kowloon, Planning Department (PlanD)
Mr Nelson SO	Secretary

Official Members (attending online)

Ms Anny TANG Senior Manager (Tourism) 21, Tourism Commission (TC)

Absent with Apologies

Mr Andy LEWIS Representing Business Environment Council
Mr Joel CHAN Representing Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design
Dr CHUNG Shan-shan Representing the Conservancy Association
Ir Janice LAI Individual Member
Ms Christina LEE Individual Member
Dr Lawrence LI Individual Member

For Agenda Item 3

Mr NG Shing-kit Senior Engineer (Harbour) 2, DEVB
Mr Samson LAM Chief Engineer/South 2, CEDD
Mr Lendus MAK Senior Engineer/5(South), CEDD
Miss Natalie AU Contract Structural Engineer, CEDD
Mr Patrick LAU Chairman, Earthasia Ltd.
Mr Ringo LEE Director, Earthasia Ltd.

Action

Welcoming Message

The Chairlady welcomed all to the 43rd meeting of the Task on Harbourfront Developments in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing (KTF) and informed the meeting that -

- (a) Ms Leonie LEE, Commissioner for Harbourfront of Development Bureau, attends on behalf of Ms Louisa YAN, Acting Deputy Secretary (Planning and Lands) 1; and
- (b) Ms Anny TANG, Senior Manager of the Tourism Commission (TC), attends on behalf of Ms Elsa HUNG, Assistant Commissioner for Tourism (2).

Item 1 Confirmation of Minutes of the 42nd Meeting

- 1.1 **The Chairlady** informed Members that the draft minutes of the 42nd meeting were circulated on 21 April 2023. No comment had been received from Members. There being no further amendment, the draft minutes were confirmed at the meeting.

Item 2 Matters Arising

2.1 No matters arising were raised at the meeting.

Item 3 Proposed Pedestrian Walkway Linking West Kowloon Cultural District and Tai Kok Tsui (Paper No. TFK/01/2023)

Introduction

3.1 **The Chairlady** welcomed representatives of the project proponent to the meeting, and invited Members to declare any conflict of interest.

3.2 Upon **the Chairlady's** invitation, **Mr NG Shing-kit** briefed Members on the background of the project as follows:

(a) There had been a strong aspiration for a direct and comfortable pedestrian walkway connecting the West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) and Tai Kok Tsui (TKT), which, if completed, would form a north-south continuous pedestrian passage along the West Kowloon waterfront. Further to the 37th KTF meeting in June 2020 during which an at-grade walkway was suggested, various preparatory works had been done with a view to facilitating the future provision of a pedestrian walkway connecting the two areas. Among other, CEDD was tasked to conduct a feasibility study on the project in 2022; and

(b) CEDD would present the proposed pedestrian walkway of about 950m connecting the existing public footpath at New Yau Ma Tei Public Cargo Working Area ("NYPCWA") entrance at Hoi Fai Road in the north, and the existing public footpath near the bus-bus-interchange at Western Harbour Crossing in the south, thereby linking up WKCD and TKT.

Presentation by the Project Proponent

3.3 With the aid of a PowerPoint, **Mr Samson LAM** from CEDD presented to Members the proposal.

Discussion

3.4 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN, Dr Vivian WONG, Mr Sam CHOW, Sr Francis LAM, Mr Edward LO, Mr Jacky CHEUNG and Mr Ringo YU** supported the proposal and looked forward to

its early implementation.

- 3.5 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** opined that the proposal should be an interim solution and expected a long-term solution to be developed. He suggested that Highways Department (HyD) and Transport Department (TD) under Transport and Logistics Bureau (TLB) collaborate among themselves to provide pedestrian links in future highway projects, having regard to the needs of pedestrians in addition to those of drivers. He also suggested that TLB and Marine Department (MD) adopt a firmer stance towards the operators of NYPCWA when renewing the Berth Licence Agreements in 2028. **Mr Sam CHOW** concurred.

[Post-meeting note: The Secretariat has forwarded the comments of Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN concerning the provision of pedestrian links in future highway projects to relevant Bureaux/Departments (B/Ds) for follow-up.]

- 3.6 **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** supplemented that there was ample space available adjacent to the NYPCWA portion which was near the WKCD. The key issue was the presence of the offices, high mast lights and weighbridges, which formed part of the NYPCWA. Relocating these facilities was not supposedly considered technically infeasible but it was likely to incur considerable costs. Although their relocation would not be part of the current proposal, he considered that the long-term solution should be to move the entrance of the NYPCWA and these facilities, with the facilitation and support by TLB and MD. Besides, he considered that the entrance to NYPCWA should be formalised. **Dr Vivian WONG** agreed that the cargo handling facilities should be relocated to allow for pedestrian access along the harbourfront leading to WKCD.
- 3.7 **Mr Sam CHOW** suggested providing adequate lighting for pedestrians due to safety and security concerns. **Mr Samson LAM** responded that they would provide sufficient lighting for the walkway.
- 3.8 **Sr Francis LAM** suggested providing an aesthetically pleasant walkway during the detailed design stage. **Mr Jacky CHEUNG** pointed out that the proposed walkway should be designed primarily to facilitate pedestrian movement, rather than being designed as a space for staying. He suggested the side wall of the elevated road, which was adjacent to the proposed walkway, be decorated with stickers, paintings and other creative means to enhance vibrancy. Moreover, to engage with the community, he suggested organising a public

competition for decorating the wall of the proposed walkway. He also suggested that the project proponent consider vertical greening along the wall.

- 3.9 **Mr Samson LAM** noted Members' comments and responded that CEDD would put more efforts to enhance the walkway environment by working with relevant B/Ds to include additional elements, such as pocket open spaces, interesting graphics, and vertical greening during the detailed design stage.
- 3.10 **Mr Sam CHOW** raised concerns over the management of the tree grove, particularly with regard to accessibility of wheelchair users and potential occurrence of tripping hazards among pedestrians. He suggested using waterproof materials, such as timber decking, to cover the roots of the trees to make the pavement safe.
- 3.11 **The Chairlady** added that a paved corridor would be provided on one side of the walkway for wheelchair users, while the existing tree grove would be preserved on the other side to provide a fun element for public enjoyment.
- 3.12 **Mr Jacky CHEUNG** enquired about the responsible management and maintenance party of the walkway upon its completion. He opined that the construction period should be less than two years.
- 3.13 **Mr Samson LAM** responded that both HyD and TD agreed with the proposed scheme and would take up the management and maintenance responsibility for the walkway respectively upon its completion. The proposed construction period was considered pragmatic, considering the challenge of having to carry out construction within the PCWA's area, which involved, in particular, the relocation of various PCWA facilities and container offices. CEDD would continue to explore the feasibility of carrying out some works off-site in order to shorten the construction period. During the detailed design stage, CEDD would work with the PCWA operators to develop the detailed design and make arrangements for the construction and relocation.
- 3.14 **Mr Edward LO** noted that the walkway was narrow and suggested exploring options beyond at-grade level, such as the provision of elevated structures or footbridges which could in turn provide open spaces for leisure activities and offer a broader viewing platform facing the harbour.

- 3.15 **The Chairlady** expressed that while an elevated structure would be an interesting option, it might cause inconvenience to pedestrians given that it involved steps, making universal and barrier-free access impossible. **Mr Paul ZIMMERMAN** added that the piling required for an elevated structure might reduce the space available. He considered the current proposal as the most suitable in view of the site's constraints. He emphasised the importance of effective cooperation among relevant B/Ds when renewing the Berth Licence Agreement in the future.
- 3.16 **The Chairlady** suggested providing more directional signage to indicate the way leading to the waterfront promenade. Given the narrowness of the walkway, she suggested putting some graphics and signage on the ground. In addition, to ensure the safety of pedestrians, particularly those with visual impairments, it was necessary to coordinate with TD to explore the need of signalized crossings in light of the frequent entry of heavy vehicles in the area. Moreover, given the high-speed traffic on Section G, i.e. West Kowloon Highway Toll Road, suitable and sufficient fences along the walkway should be provided to protect the pedestrians, particularly children.
- 3.17 **The Chairlady** expressed gratitude to MD for adding a clause in the Berth Licence Agreements in 2021, which allowed for the construction of a walkway. She also appreciated the efforts and assistance of CEDD, Harbour Office, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority, TD, and HyD on this matter.

Way forward

- 3.18 **The Chairlady** concluded that the proposed walkway provided an interim measure to connect the harbourfront areas under the incremental approach before fully developing the area in the long run. The Task Force supported the proposal and looked forward to its early implementation. She invited the project team to refine the design with due regard to Members' comments at the detailed design stage. She remarked that the next contract, scheduled to commence in 2028, would provide an opportunity to review and enhance the pedestrian linkage.

Item 4 Any Other Business

- 4.1 **Mr Nelson SO** reported that Mr Paul Zimmerman suggested discussing (a) the removal of the quarantine facilities; and

(b) short term tenancy parking in support of Kai Tak visitors and the cruise terminal users, which was raised with Kowloon City district councillors recently. Since the relevant sites are beyond the purview of this Task Force, the Secretariat will relay Mr Zimmerman's views to the Secretariat of Task Force on Kai Tak Harbourfront Development (KTTF), which would take them into account when drawing up the agenda for the next KTTF meeting.

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

4.3 There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Secretariat
Task Force on Harbourfront Developments
in Kowloon, Tsuen Wan and Kwai Tsing
Harbourfront Commission
June 2023