

Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island

For discussion
on 29 February 2016

TFHK/04/2016

Proposed Boardwalk underneath the Island Eastern Corridor

PURPOSE

This paper updates members on the progress of the Investigation Study for the Boardwalk underneath the Island Eastern Corridor (IEC) and to seek members' views on the Study.

BACKGROUND

2. A 2-km long boardwalk is proposed to link up Oil Street to Hoi Yu Street underneath IEC (**Annex A**). A Topical Study for Boardwalk underneath Island Eastern Corridor (Topical Study) was completed in early 2014. We briefed members the findings of the Topical Study including a refined alignment of the boardwalk on 24 October 2013 and 18 February 2014. Members generally agreed with the refined scheme.

3. We commissioned the "Boardwalk underneath Island Eastern Corridor - Investigation" (the Study) in March 2015. The objectives of the Study are to review the feasibility of the proposed boardwalk under the IEC and to demonstrate whether the proposal can comply with the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance (PHO). The Study will also identify recommended scheme(s) for the proposed boardwalk.

THE PROTECTION OF THE HARBOUR ORDINANCE

4. The PHO seeks to protect and preserve the Victoria Harbour by establishing a presumption against reclamation in the Harbour. Reclamation is defined in the PHO as "any works carried out or intended to be carried out for the purpose of forming land from the sea-bed or foreshore". The presumption against reclamation in the Harbour must be interpreted in such a way that it can only be rebutted by establishing an overriding public need for reclamation. According to past judgments of the Court, public needs are community needs, which include social, economic and environmental needs.

5. To implement the proposed boardwalk underneath IEC, some new piled protection dolphin structures with pile caps would need to be constructed to support the boardwalk, and they are to be regarded as

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reclamation under the PHO. Furthermore, the boardwalk structure will deck over the sea and may restrict access to the water underneath IEC. To take forward reclamation works which the boardwalk would entail, the Government is required to establish an overriding public need for such works. As part of the Study, we would like to collect public views through the Community Engagement Exercise as part of the relevant work.

BENEFITS OF PROPOSED BOARDWALK

6. According to the preliminary design, the proposed boardwalk will connect the future waterfront park north of Oil Street to the existing Hoi Yu Street harbourfront in Quarry Bay to enhance the connectivity. Access points will be provided at Tong Shui Road Pier and ex-North Point Estate to the harbourfront. We anticipate that the proposed boardwalk will have the following benefits:

- (a) Social aspect – Proposed boardwalk will re-connect the broken linkage at current North Point harbourfront due to private lots, enabling the public to get closer to the Harbour along a continuous harbourfront. The boardwalk enables better connection and integration with existing isolated open spaces hence enhancing the open space network. The proposed boardwalk will be an attractive facility to encourage local residents and the general public to exercise and cycle, thus helping to promote healthy living;
- (b) Economic aspect – Proposed boardwalk will attract more visitors and tourists to visit the harbourfront, enhancing economic activities in the surrounding area; and
- (c) Environmental aspect – Proposed boardwalk will improve the landscaped amenity underneath the IEC. Columns and piers of IEC will also be renovated.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

7. We commenced a four-month, two-stage Community Engagement Exercise on 1 February 2016. Stage 1 Community Engagement seeks to collect public opinions through questionnaires. The Community Engagement Digest and the questionnaire are at **Annex B** and **Annex C** respectively. The questionnaire mainly focuses on:

- (a) Whether the interviewees agree that the proposed boardwalk

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may help the public enjoy the Harbour;

- (b) Whether the interviewees agree that there is a compelling and present need for the IEC boardwalk to satisfy different community needs;
- (c) Whether the interviewees agree that the series of facilities that may be constructed on the boardwalk (cycleway, viewing platforms, fishing platform, cycle rental kiosk/ bicycle parking and food & beverage kiosk) meet the compelling and present need; and
- (d) Other views of interviewees.

8. During Stage 1 Community Engagement Exercise, we will also consult the Eastern District Council in addition to the Harbourfront Commission, conduct questionnaire surveys, roving exhibitions, community workshops and focus group meetings. A project website (<http://www.boardwalk.gov.hk>) was prepared for the Study. Details of the Community Engagement Exercise and the consultation digest can be found at the website.

WAY FORWARD

9. Public views collected from Stage 1 Community Engagement Exercise will assist us to establish the overriding public need on the proposed boardwalk. We will conduct further technical assessments. Afterwards, we will formulate detailed boardwalk scheme and carry out Stage 2 Public Engagement in second quarter of 2016 to seek public views on recommended detailed scheme.

ADVICE SOUGHT

10. Members are invited to note the progress of the Study and comment on the proposed boardwalk.

**Civil Engineering and Development Department
February 2016**

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ATTACHMENTS

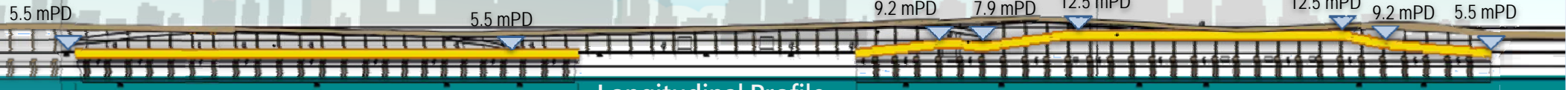
- Annex A** - Proposed Boardwalk underneath IEC
- Annex B** - Community Engagement Digest of the Boardwalk underneath Island Eastern Corridor - Investigation
- Annex C** - Questionnaire on the need for the Boardwalk underneath Island Eastern Corridor

Proposed Boardwalk underneath Island Eastern Corridor

To future open space north of Oil Street in North Point

Existing North Point Ferry Pier

To existing Quarry Bay Promenade



Note: mPD stands for metre above Principal Datum.

Longitudinal Profile

LEGEND

- - - Proposed Cycle Track
- Proposed Walkway
- Planned Open Space (Subject to detailed design)
- ↔ Access Point
- ▭ Major Activity Node

- Viewing Platform
- Fishing Platform
- Cycle Rental Kiosk
- Bicycle Parking
- Food & Beverage Kiosk



通往北角油街以北將來的休憩空間
To future open space north of Oil Street in North Point

通往現有鯽魚涌海濱花園
To existing Quarry Bay Promenade



Artist's Impression near Provident Centre



Artist's Impression near Tong Shui Road Pier



Artist's Impression at Tong Shui Road



Artist's Impression at Hoi Yu Street Access Point