

Framework for Expert Panel Forum

Background

1. The transport issue attracted much discussion at the public engagement activities organized under the Envisioning Stage of Harbour-front Enhancement Review - Wan Chai, Causeway Bay and Adjoining Areas (HER). However, views were diversified. Whereas some participants supported building the Central-Wan Chai Bypass (CWB) for resolving the traffic congestion problems along the north shore of Hong Kong Island, there were other participants who considered that traffic management measures, in particular electronic road pricing, alone could solve the traffic congestion problems.
2. In view of those diversified views, the Sub-committee on Wan Chai Development Phase II Review (Sub-committee) considers that a thorough discussion on the issue among the experts in the relevant field is required before embarking on the next stage of HER, i.e. the Realization Stage. In this regard, the Sub-committee decided to convene an 'Expert Panel Forum on Sustainable Transport Planning and Central-Wan Chai Bypass' (Expert Panel Forum) as part of the HER project.

Scope and methodology

3. While acknowledging that a holistic approach is required for the transport planning for resolving traffic congestion problems along the north shore of Hong Kong Island and to ensure a sustainable solution which is in line with the harbour planning principles, the HER Task Force is of the view that a conclusion one way or the other on the need of the CWB is essential before proceeding to the Realization Stage. For this reason, it is agreed that the scope of the Expert Panel Forum will be on whether CWB is needed for that purpose, and if so, the need of immediate connections with local roads.
4. With the adoption of a holistic approach, it is expected that the experts will give due consideration to relevant key considerations, such as demand growth, traffic management measures that could be implemented and rail links being planned. The Expert Panel Forum will not be requested to address design

details which could be dealt with at a later stage.

The Panel

5. The Panel will consist of a Chairperson and 7 to 8 members.
6. The Chairperson of the Panel should be a renowned academic with sound knowledge and recognized achievement in transport planning and preferably one who has not expressed openly views on the main focus of the Expert Panel Forum.
7. Composition of the other members of the Panel will be as follows:
 - (a) 3 academics with sound knowledge and recognized research achievement in transport planning, both local and overseas. They are to be nominated by the Department of Civil Engineering of University of Hong Kong, the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering of Hong Kong Polytechnic University and the Department of Civil Engineering of Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.
 - (b) 3 persons who are experienced in transport planning to be nominated by each of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Hong Kong, Hong Kong Institution of Engineers and Hong Kong Institute of Planners.
 - (c) 1 academic with sound knowledge and recognized achievement in transport economics/ERP considerations to be nominated by the HER Task Force.
 - (d) 1 person being a local or overseas expert in transport planning and / or environmental protection, to be nominated by the HER Task Force.
8. While secretariat support and logistics arrangements will be provided by the Secretariat of the Sub-committee, the Chairperson can employ an assistant to assist him in preparing the report.

Detailed arrangement

9. In line with the operation of the HEC, the Expert Panel Forum will be opened to the public. Opportunity will be provided for stakeholders and interested parties to make written submissions to the Expert Panel Forum. On the basis of these principles, the Panel will decide on the detailed arrangement of the Expert Panel Forum.
10. The Expert Panel Forum will be convened on 3 September 2005.
11. The Expert Panel Forum will be promoted through the HEC website, printed media, press releases and suitable notices.

Reporting

12. The report of the Expert Panel Forum will be drafted by the Chairperson and agreed by all Panel members. All arguments including dissenting views should be properly recorded. The report will be published.

Secretariat,
HEC Sub-committee on WDII Review
August 2005