Harbour-front Enhancement Committee

Central Reclamation Phase III – Engineering Works Proposed Protection Works for the Reclamation

Purpose

1. To consult Members on the proposal of implementing protection works at the Central Reclamation Phase III (CRIII) in order to remove constraints to the development of the new Central harbourfront arising from the delays to the implementation programme of the Central-Wan Chai Bypass (CWB).

Background

- 2. We commenced construction works for the CRIII project in February 2003 in order to provide land for the construction of the following essential transport infrastructure
 - (a) CWB;
 - (b) Airport Railway extended overrun tunnel;
 - (c) North Hong Kong Island Line; and
 - (d) other supporting roads network.
- 3. The land provided by CRIII would also allow the development of the new Central harbourfront for public enjoyment. In this regard, Planning Department has already commissioned the Urban Design Study for the New Central Harbourfront to refine the urban design framework for the new Central harbourfront and provide detailed planning and design guidelines. According to the present progress of works, CRIII could be substantially completed around end 2009.
- 4. The section of CWB within the CRIII comprises a dual three-lane underground tunnel of approximately 950 metres in length. To minimise interface issues, the original intention was to construct this part of the CWB tunnel box together with the reclamation upon authorization of the CWB project. A section subject to excision has been included in the CRIII contract for this purpose. However, the implementation programme of CWB has yet to be determined as a result of recent judicial review applications. Therefore, it is most unlikely that the CWB works could be implemented under the CRIII contract. Arising from this programme mismatch, development of a substantial part of the reclaimed land would have to be stalled pending implementation of the CWB works later. Judging from recent developments, we reckon that completion of this section of CWB and hence release of the land

¹ A section subject to excision is a separately identified part of the works included in the contract and this could only be implemented upon the decision made and conveyed to the contractor within a period prescribed in the contract.

above for harbourfront development would not be possible before mid 2013 at the earliest. This would be most undesirable given the Administration's intention to commence development of the new Central harbourfront at the earliest opportunity to meet public aspiration.

Proposal

- 5. To remove early the constraints to development, we propose to implement protection works under CRIII which comprise essentially building diaphragm sidewalls with a top slab along the future CWB alignment ("Protection Works"). A schematic diagram and a typical section of the Protection Works are shown in Annexes 1 and 2. The Protection Works would provide the necessary environment to ensure that the CWB tunnel box can be safely constructed underground later without opening up the reclaimed land.
- 6. We intend to implement the Protection Works under the current CRIII project. This would allow immediate commencement of the Protection Works subject to funding approval by the Legislative Council (LegCo) and the early completion of the works. Besides, it would help reduce abortive road, drainage and utility works to be constructed under the CRIII contract above the future CWB tunnel and minimise the interface problems. We plan to commence the Protection Works in early 2009 for completion by mid 2011. Upon completion of the Protection Works, the newly reclaimed land in the Central harbourfront will be available for development.

Way forward

7. We will further develop the design of the Protection Works and ascertain the cost involved. Upon completion these necessary steps, we would then submit an application to the LegCo Finance Committee to extend the scope of the CRIII project and increase the Approved Project Estimate for funding the Protection Works. Subject to approval of the funding application, we would commence the Protection Works immediately.

Conclusion

8. Members are invited to provide comments and suggestions on the proposal.

Attachments

Annex 1 – Central Reclamation Phase III – Proposed Protection Works

Annex 2 – Typical Section of Proposed Protection Works

Hong Kong Island and Islands Development Office Civil Engineering and Development Department 20 October 2008



