

TAC briefed on NWNT Traffic Review and Tuen Mun Road

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Members of the Transport Advisory Committee (TAC) today (March 15) discussed the Northwest New Territories Traffic and Infrastructure Review 2004 (the NWNT Review) and reconstruction and improvement of Tuen Mun Road.

"We are pleased to note the Government's work plan on the NWNT Review and the tentative implementation timetable for the possible road projects in the NWNT and Lantau regions," said Ms Teresa Cheng, Chairman of TAC.

"Members noted that no major highway infrastructure projects would be required for the region in the medium-term planning horizon (around 2016). As regards long-term planning, there are at present uncertainties with regard to the input assumptions, namely the location, and the extent and pace of various major development proposals in the NWNT and Lantau regions.

"It is therefore prudent for the Government to monitor development of the proposals before making a decision on implementation of the highway proposals that involve significant investment.

"We are pleased to note that the Government will, as a first step, embark on investigation and engineering feasibility studies on various projects," she added.

At the meeting, TAC also noted the Government's plan to reconstruct and improve the expressway section of Tuen Mun Road between Tsuen Wan and Sam Shing Hui in its present dual three-lane configuration by end-2006 for completion in 2010-11.

"We note that the findings of the study conducted by the Government showed that widening Tuen Mun Road to dual four-lane will be technically feasible for most sections of the road. However, given that Tuen Mun Road would be able to

cope with the anticipated traffic demand at least up to the medium term and the significant implications of widening the road to dual four-lane on nearby road networks, we agree that the priority should be to improve the road immediately to meet the prevailing expressway standard so as to improve overall operation of the road," said Ms Cheng.

TAC also noted that the Government has a series of short- to medium-term measures to improve the traffic conditions of Tuen Mun Road.

Ends/Tuesday, March 15, 2005

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