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Cycle Track between Tsuen Wan Bayview Garden and So Kwun Wat

Designing Hong Kong is writing to offer views on the captioned public consultations.

- Designing Hong Kong supports the construction of the cycle track between Tsuen Wan and So Kwun Wat to connect and complete the cycle track network in New Territories.
- The construction of cycle track between Bayview Garden and So Kwun Wat does not only serve recreational purposes, but also provides a transportation option for residents along the route (including Ting Kau, Sham Tseng, Tai Lam and So Kwun Wat) to commute the short distance to Tsuen Wan or Tuen Mun.

Reclamation in Victoria Harbour

- We understand that there will be minor temporary and permanent reclamation within the Victoria Harbour boundary. In fact, we believe that there may be a need to widen the track in place to ensure the track is sustainable in the long term.
- According to the Protection of the Harbour Ordinance, there is a presumption against reclamation in the harbour, in order to protect and preserve the harbour as a special public asset and a natural heritage of Hong Kong people.
- Designing Hong Kong recognizes that the proposed project answers an overriding public need, and acknowledges that only a limited area is affected by the reclamation. As such Designing Hong Kong has no objection to the project.
- We do urge the Government to provide detailed environmental and ecological studies in advance, and to communicate closely with Green Groups on the possible mitigation measures to minimize the potential environmental impacts, if any.

Reclamation outside Victoria Harbour

- We understand that there will be other reclamation work along the coast to provide a safe and

connected cycling routes. Designing Hong Kong supports the proposal in principles, as it can enhance the bike usage in Hong Kong and brings people closer to the coast to enjoy the waterfront of our city.

- We urge the government to provide more details on each location. In the current consultation, the Department only highlight the Sham Tseng promenade reclamation. We understand that there will be other small scale reclamation along the route. We urge the Government to expose more information on other locations for public understanding and discussion.
- A detail ecological and environmental impact assessment should also be conducted at the reclaimed site, especially on natural coastline. We hope the government can communicate closely and as soon as possible with Green Groups and other stakeholders throughout the process to minimize the impacts on natural coastline.

Alignment and design of the cycle track

- The Castle Peak Road between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun is a popular route for runners. The 2m wide footpath is insufficient for the daily road users. We recommend to widen the footpath to ideally at least 4m wide in order to provide a better pedestrian environment for the users.
- Designing Hong Kong also suggested the pavement should be located at the coast if possible. The scenic view also the Castle Peak Road may attract pedestrian and cyclists stop for photos. Allocation of pavement along the coast and prevent accidents caused by sudden stoppage of cyclists.
- The material of pedestrian pavement should be smooth, to prevent runners occupy the cycle track for jogging, which commonly seen in other New Towns such as Sha Tin and Tuen Mun.

Supporting Facilities

- Supporting facilities such as water refill stations and toilets should be installed along the route. Snack bar or kiosks should also be provided at the proposed resting stations.
- A better signage system with direction and distance should be installed along the whole cycling network in New Territories. Information board such as maps, nearby points of interest and weather forecast should also be provided to give in time information for the cyclists.
- Bike rental facilities with maintenance services should also be included to facilitate the use of bicycle along the cycling tracks.
- Sufficient parking for bicycles should also installed at the resting stations, points of interest (e.g. Lido Beach, Gold Coast and Sham Tseng). Discussion with nearby housing estates to install parking safe parking for residents can also increase the intension for residents to use bicycle to commute.

Public Education

- There is lack of public education on cycling in Hong Kong. With the opportunity to extend the coverage of cycling network, relevant Department should also input more resources to educate general public about the safety and basic manner of cycling.
- Cycling could be developed as a green transportation mode along the Castle Peak Road, more promotion and education can be made to encourage the usage of bicycle for short-distance commute, in order to ease the traffic pressure in the area.

Here we submit our comment for your consideration. We are looking forward to meet with the relevant Departments in future and work together to ensure a high-quality cycle track is delivered.

Best regards,

Designing Hong Kong Limited