

27 March 2020

Dear Editor,

I refer to Mr. Andrew Ferguson's letter ("Shameful roads an example of incompetence", 15 March) expressing concerns about the pavement conditions between Tung Chung and Cheung Sha, namely involving Tung Chung Road and South Lantau Road.

The Highways Department attaches great importance to the repairs and maintenance of public roads and ancillary facilities under its ambit. Regular inspections of public roads are conducted territory-wide and repairs and maintenance are carried out timely to keep the roads in safe and serviceable conditions.

The carriageways of Tung Chung Road and South Lantau Road were mainly constructed with bituminous (tarmac) and concrete pavements respectively. Both pavement materials have their own merits, and concrete pavement is more durable. We have been monitoring the pavement conditions of the two roads and arranging appropriate resurfacing/reconstruction works according to actual circumstances and needs.

The pavement of Tung Chung Road is generally in serviceable condition with some localised unevenness. Resurfacing works will be carried out at a few short sections in the coming weeks to smoothen the localised uneven road surfaces.

We have been aware of the deteriorating concrete pavement conditions along South Lantau Road due to wear and tear, and have therefore undertaken more intensive pavement reconstruction works, mostly involving full-width and full-depth breaking of the concrete layer and re-paving with fresh concrete to match the surface level with existing manhole covers (if any), since early 2019. Pavement reconstruction has been completed at 41 discrete locations with a total area of about 2 500 square meters in the last 12 months, and will continue at about 40 locations with a total area of about 2 300 square meters in the coming months. Upon completion of these reconstruction works, the overall pavement condition of South Lantau Road will be improved.

As South Lantau Road only has one lane in each direction, temporary lane closure in one direction would be required at the road section concerned when carrying out the above pavement reconstruction works. The Highways Department will explore possibilities to expedite the pavement reconstruction works while balancing the need to

minimise disruptions caused to the road users due to the implementation of temporary traffic arrangement.

The Highways Department will continue to monitor the pavement conditions along Tung Chung Road and South Lantau Road, and will timely arrange appropriate maintenance works to keep the roads concerned in safe and serviceable conditions.

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