

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD

Improvement and Expansion of Mountain Bike Trail Networks in South Lantau

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper briefs members on the proposal submitted by the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) on the Improvement and Expansion of Mountain Bike Trail Networks in South Lantau.

2. Background and Scope of Works

2.1 At present there are several mountain bike trails (MBTs) in Lantau South Country Park, namely the Mui Wo to Pui O MBT, Chi Ma Wan MBT and Pui O to Kau Ling Chung MBT. The total length of the MBTs is about 35km.

2.2 In 2011, CEDD completed the “Mountain Bike Trail Networks in South Lantau – Feasibility Study” (the FS), which recommended improving and expanding the MBTs in South Lantau and providing supporting facilities, such as a training ground, to further strengthen South Lantau as a place for leisure and recreation. CEDD sought the views of the Country Parks Committee (CPC) on the findings of the FS in December 2009 and April 2010. CPC has been further updated on the progress of the proposal in April 2015. In general, CPC acknowledged that the recommended works could enhance the recreational potential of country parks.

2.3 CEDD has consulted the relevant stakeholders, including the Hong Kong Mountain Bike Association, on the recommended works and would implement the works in two phases. Phase 1 comprises improvement works at the existing MBTs to enhance the safety and riding quality, minimise user conflict and control erosion as well as the construction of a gathering place at the Chi Ma Wan MBT trailhead with supporting facilities such as information/educational kiosks. The design and construction consultancy for Phase 1 works is now ongoing. Subject to CMPA’s consent, the actual field works will commence soon.

2.4 Phase 2 works mainly consists of construction of new MBT sections and training facilities in Chi Ma Wan and Mui Wo. It comprises a training ground of 4.5 hectares near Lai Chi Yuen Tsuen with supporting facilities, a new trail section to connect the Mui Wo trailhead to the proposed training ground and a new trail section to turn the existing Chi Ma Wan MBT into a circular route, a bikers' gathering place near the Mui Wo trailhead and other associated geotechnical, landscape and ancillary works. The consultant for design and supervision of the Phase 2 works was engaged in Aug 2016 and the construction works is planned for completion by end 2017.

2.5 The proposal prepared by CEDD is at **Appendix A**.

3. Country Park Considerations

3.1 The improvement and expansion of the MBT networks largely fall within Lantau South Country Park. While they are in line with the objective of promoting recreational use in country parks, written consent of the Country and Marine Parks Authority (CMPA) shall be obtained before commencement of works.

3.2 With regard to the potential impacts of the proposed works, CEDD completed a Preliminary Environmental Review (PER) in 2010 for the project under the FS. The PER concluded that with the implementation of the recommended monitoring and mitigation measures during the construction stage, the project will not have long term adverse environmental impacts. CEDD will engage its consultant to update the PER, carry out detailed design of the proposed works, and recommend construction methods for Phase 2 works for further consideration and agreement of the CMPA.

3.3 The proposal mainly involves provision of education and recreational facilities within the Country Park. Natural materials, such as soil, sands and stones, will be adopted in both Phase 1 and Phase 2 to match with the surrounding natural environment. In addition, the alignment of the new MBT sections will be designed to avoid tree felling as far as practicable in order to preserve the environment of the country park. According to the Environmental Impact Assessment Ordinance (EIAO), education and recreational facilities within country parks approved by the CMPA is exempted from the provisions of the EIAO. Hence, the project is not a designated project under the EIAO.

3.4 The management and maintenance of the completed works will be taken up by the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department as recreational and

educational facilities in country parks. Similar to the existing MBTs in country parks, the new mountain bike facilities constructed by CEDD will be for public use free of charge.

3.5 In view of the considerable size of the proposed training ground, it is anticipated that it will become a popular spot for mountain bike activities in Hong Kong. As such, apart from the provision of mountain bike training facilities, CEDD has proposed to construct a toilet in the training ground for visitor's use. In addition, this department will look into the possibility of providing auxiliary services such as setting up of first-aid station during public holidays to enhance the training facilities there.

4. Advice Sought

4.1 Members are invited to offer views on the proposal.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
August 2016
File Ref: AF GR CPA 19/15/2