



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1974.

DAILY INFORMATION BULLETIN

MAJOR KOWLOON ROAD PROJECTS PROGRESSING SMOOTHLY
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WORK ON THE FIRST STAGE OF ONE OF HONGKONG'S BIGGEST ROAD PROJECTS, THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR, IS PROGRESSING ON SCHEDULE.

THE CORRIDOR WILL TAKE THE FORM OF AN ELEVATED HIGHWAY. ITS MAIN FUNCTION IS TO REDISTRIBUTE THE HEAVY VOLUME OF TRAFFIC IN WEST KOWLOON AND TO PROVIDE AN EXPRESS ROUTE FROM LAI CHI KOK TO THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL.

CONSTRUCTION WORK IS DIVIDED INTO TWO STAGES.

STAGE ONE INCLUDES THE FIRST SECTION OF THE ELEVATED ROAD WHICH THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IS AT PRESENT BUILDING IN YAU MA TEI. THIS SECTION WILL SERVE AS A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL AND THE WESTERN SIDE OF KOWLOON.

IT IS ABOUT 4,200 FEET LONG. STARTING FROM GASCOIGNE ROAD, IT SPANS NATHAN ROAD TO REACH THE NEW RECLAMATION AT THE YAU MA TEI TYPHOON SHELTER.

AN UNUSUAL FEATURE OF THE ROAD IS THAT IT WILL RUN RIGHT THROUGH THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF THE YAU MA TEI MULTI-STORY CAR PARK.

A PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE FIRST PART OF THE ELEVATED HIGHWAY IS EXPECTED TO COST ABOUT \$46 MILLION, INCLUDING THE MONEY SPENT ON THE RESUMPTION OF LAND.

IT IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED BY END OF 1976.

ANOTHER PROJECT CLOSELY RELATED TO THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR IS THE EXTENSION OF TONG MEI ROAD ALONG THE WATERFRONT.

BUILT AT A COST OF ABOUT \$12 MILLION, IT IS NEARING COMPLETION. IT WILL EVENTUALLY BE JOINED BY THE FIRST PART OF THE ELEVATED HIGHWAY.

WHEN BOTH OF THEM ARE OPENED TO TRAFFIC, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO TRAVEL FROM THE CROSS-HARBOUR TUNNEL TO NORTHWEST KOWLOON, WITHOUT HAVING TO GO THROUGH OTHER BUSY ROADS IN CENTRAL KOWLOON.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THE NEW SIX-LANE TONG MEI ROAD WOULD ALSO SERVE AS A RELIEF ROUTE WHEN THE MASS TRANSIT RAILWAY IS UNDER CONSTRUCTION ALONG NATHAN ROAD.

IT WILL ALSO BE THE SITE OF CONSTRUCTION FOR STAGE TWO OF THE WEST KOWLOON CORRIDOR. THE SECOND PART OF THE ELEVATED HIGHWAY WILL BE BUILT ABOVE THE TONG MEI ROAD EXTENSION. IT WILL EXTEND NORTHWARD FOR OVER TWO MILES TO LAI CHI KOK.

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SCOPE OF VEHICLE INSPECTION ENLARGED
OVER 31,900 VEHICLES INSPECTED IN 1973/74

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MORE VEHICLES WERE MECHANICALLY INSPECTED FOR ROADWORTHINESS BEFORE LICENSING DURING THE YEAR 1973-74 TO HELP IMPROVE ROAD SAFETY, THE COMMISSIONER FOR TRANSPORT, MR. BRIAN WILSON, SAID IN HIS LATEST ANNUAL DEPARTMENTAL REPORT.

HE SAID THAT, WITH MORE STAFF, THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT WAS ABLE TO INCREASE THE SCOPE OF VEHICLES INSPECTION TO INCLUDE ALL PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES.

FROM EARLY THIS YEAR, HE SAID, IT BECAME POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR ALL PUBLIC VEHICLES -- BUSES, LIGHT BUSES, TAXIS AND HIRE CARS -- TO BE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL INSPECTION AS A PREREQUISITE TO LICENSING.

MR. WILSON SAID THAT DURING THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW, HIS DEPARTMENT'S FOUR VEHICLE INSPECTION CENTRES CARRIED OUT A TOTAL OF 31,957 INSPECTIONS WHICH INCLUDED RE-CHECKS -- AN INCREASE OF 16.9 PER CENT OVER THE PREVIOUS YEAR.

THE NUMBER OF SUSPECTED DEFECTIVE VEHICLES INSPECTED ALSO ROSE TO 6,334, AND A FURTHER 1,335 VEHICLES WERE INSPECTED AS A RESULT OF TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, HE SAID.

BUT THIS IS STILL A LONG WAY SHORT OF WHAT IS DESIRABLE, HE COMMENTED. FOR INSTANCE, THERE IS NO REGULAR INSPECTION YET OF ALL PRIVATE CARS AND GOODS VEHICLES.

AT PRESENT, HE ADDED, AN ITEM FOR A NEW SEMI-AUTOMATED VEHICLE INSPECTION CENTRE IS IN THE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAMME AND, WHEN IT IS IN OPERATION, IT IS HOPED THAT MORE VEHICLES WILL BE SUBJECT TO ANNUAL INSPECTION.

THE COMMISSIONER POINTED OUT THAT STAFF IMPROVEMENT ENABLED THE FOURTH VEHICLE INSPECTION CENTRE AT TSUEN WAN TO BE RE-OPENED IN OCTOBER LAST YEAR, ITS SOLE FUNCTION BEING THE ANNUAL INSPECTION OF ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES.

THE NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS INVOLVING HEAVY GOODS VEHICLES INCREASED DURING THE YEAR, AND TO COMBAT THIS DISTURBING TREND, THREE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION UNITS HAVE BEEN SET UP, STAFFED BY MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTORS OF THE TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT ON SECONDMENT TO THE POLICE. THE UNITS ARE LOCATED AT TRAFFIC POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN HONG KONG, KOWLOON AND THE NEW TERRITORIES.

AT PRESENT, THE WORK OF THE VEHICLE INSPECTION SECTION, HEADED BY A SENIOR MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTOR, COVERS A WIDE SCOPE.

IT INSPECTS, ANNUALLY, TAXIS WITH THEIR METERS CHECKED EVERY SIX MONTHS, PUBLIC CARS, ALL PRIVATE AND PUBLIC OMNIBUSES, AND ALL PUBLIC LIGHT BUSES.

IN ADDITION, MECHANICAL INSPECTIONS ARE CARRIED OUT ON ALL GOODS VEHICLES AND PUBLIC SERVICE VEHICLES BEFORE INITIAL REGISTRATION AND LICENSING, ALL USED IMPORTED VEHICLES PRIOR TO REGISTRATION AND LICENSING, THE FIRST OF EVERY NEW MODEL OF PRIVATE CARS, DEFECTIVE VEHICLES REFERRED TO THE SECTION BY THE POLICE AND VEHICLES INVOLVED IN FATAL TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS.