

## HyD commences investigation for Northern Metropolis Highway (with photo)

The Highways Department (HyD) officially commences the investigation for the Northern Metropolis Highway (NMH) and targets to prioritise the completion of works for the NMH San Tin Section in 25 months and its technical readiness for tendering the main works in 2027. It includes the optimisation of alignment and interchange locations, carrying out the Environmental Impact Assessment and the gazettal procedures, as well as completing site investigations, other impact assessments and the preliminary design of the San Tin Section in parallel, with a view to expediting the implementation of the project.

The HyD today (March 3) signed an investigation consultancy agreement with the AECOM Asia Company Limited and AtkinsRealis Asia Limited Joint Venture for the NMH. The professional team formed by the Joint Venture comprises an engineering design consultant from the Mainland, Shanghai Urban Construction Design & Research Institute (Group) Co Ltd, a local land surveyor firm, KELand Surveying, Planning & GIS Co Ltd, a financial consultant, Deloitte Advisory (Hong Kong) Limited, and professional members from other various disciplines. The Joint Venture will take forward the investigation for the project at full speed.

A spokesman for the HyD said, "The proposed NMH will link the development nodes in the Northern Metropolis, including Ngau Tam Mei, San Tin Technopole, Kwu Tung North/Fanling North and New Territories North (NTN) New Town, enhancing accessibility to the New Development Areas. The NMH will also further enhance cross-boundary road connections for passengers and goods, enabling members of the public and visitors to travel conveniently to and from various major land boundary control points in the Northern Metropolis. Upon commissioning of the NMH, it can effectively divert about 40 per cent of the traffic flow between the New Territories East and West during peak hours, thereby alleviating traffic pressure on existing roads. We target to have the San Tin Section of the NMH technically ready for tendering in 2027, so that funding approval can be sought from the Legislative Council as appropriate for carrying out the advance works and detailed design as well as commencing the main construction works of the San Tin Section, with a view to commissioning the San Tin Section in or before 2036."

The preliminary alignment of the proposed NMH is about 23 kilometres long, including at-grade roads or viaducts of about 13km in length and a tunnel of about 10km in length. It connects Tin Shui Wai to the NTN New Town near Ping Che and consists of four road sections – Tin Shui Wai Section, San Tin Section, Kwu Tung Section and NTN New Town Section.

