

Building for the future

Overview

Hong Kong invests heavily in infrastructure and other capital works to boost connectivity globally, with the Mainland and locally. These projects represent the vision for the city's long-term development. In coming years, annual capital works expenditure is expected to exceed \$100 billion (US\$12.8 billion), and the annual total construction output is expected to increase to around \$300 billion.

Northern Metropolis

The Northern Metropolis is a new engine for Hong Kong's future growth. Spanning about 300 square kilometres, the Northern Metropolis will create space to enhance capacity for Hong Kong. The development of the Northern Metropolis integrates deeply with the planning of Shenzhen and other Greater Bay Area (GBA) cities, improving collaboration in areas such as economic development, infrastructure, Innovation and Technology (I&T) and ecological conservation, and facilitating Hong Kong's integration into the overall development of the country, including the GBA.

- The Government announced the **Northern Metropolis Action Agenda** in October 2023. The Northern Metropolis adopts an "industry driven and infrastructure-led" approach as its key planning axle and can provide a large amount of land for the development of I&T and other industries, thereby injecting new impetus into Hong Kong's economy. On the I&T front in particular, the Northern Metropolis will help Hong Kong develop into an international I&T centre under a new industry pattern of "South-North dual engine (finance - I&T)".
- The Northern Metropolis can be divided into four major zones, namely the High-end Professional Services and Logistics Hub, the Innovation and Technology Zone, the Boundary Commerce and Industry Zone, and the Blue and Green Recreation, Tourism and Conservation Circle, each with distinctive strategic positioning and development theme. It will adopt the principle of "infrastructure-led" and construct strategic railway and major roads to enhance the connection of the Northern Metropolis with the Mainland and other parts of Hong Kong.
- Upon full development, the Northern Metropolis is expected to accommodate **a population of about 2.5 million** with the provision of some **900,000 residential units** and about **650,000 jobs**.

Railway Projects

Railways are the backbone of Hong Kong's public transport system, carrying millions of passengers daily. Major new rail expansion projects include:

- **Kwu Tung Station as Phase 1 of the Northern Link project, Tung Chung Line Extension, Oyster Bay Station and Tuen Mun South Extension** have commenced construction in 2023, with overall progress on schedule. The construction of **Hung Shui Kiu Station** commenced in 2024, and that of the

Northern Link Main Line is expected to commence in 2025, for tentative completion in 2030 and 2034 respectively.

- Cross-boundary railway projects, including the **Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Rail Link (Hung Shui Kiu-Qianhai)** and the **Northern Link Spur Line**, are in progress to enhance links between Hong Kong and Shenzhen.
- **World No.2 public transit system** (Oliver Wyman Forum in partnership with University of California, Berkeley: Urban Mobility Readiness Index 2024).

Smart and Green Mass Transit Systems

- The Government is devoted to take forward the smart and green mass transit systems in **East Kowloon, Kai Tak** and **Hung Shui Kiu/Ha Tsuen and Yuen Long South New Development Area**, and is compressing the time required for construction, with a view to providing residents with convenient and green feeder services to nearby railway stations and major public transport interchanges.
- Smart and green mass transit system is planned to be adopted to take forward **South Island Line (West)**, forming a transit loop with the South Island Line (East) and Island Line. Detailed planning and design will be commenced in 2025 for commencement of advance construction works in 2027.

Roads, Bridges and Cross-Boundary Projects

There are currently nine land crossings – six road-based crossings (including the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Port), and three rail-based crossings.

- The **Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB)** was commissioned in October 2018. The 55 km-long HZMB is the longest bridge-tunnel sea crossing in the world. It connects Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao and brings the Western Pearl River Delta region to within a three-hour drive of Hong Kong.
- **The Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (XRL)** commenced operation in September 2018, connecting Hong Kong to the over 46,000 km national high-speed rail network. The XRL Hong Kong Section is 26km long. The shortest one-way travelling time between Hong Kong and Shenzhen is 14 minutes, while that for Guangzhou is 46 minutes.
- **Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link (TM-CLKL) Northern Connection (including Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Tunnel)** was commissioned in December 2020. Together with the Southern Connection, the TM-CLKL in full provides an alternative land access between the airport and the urban area in addition to the Lantau Link.
- **Tseung Kwan O-Lam Tin Tunnel** and **Cross Bay Link, Tseung Kwan O** were commissioned on December 11, 2022, providing a new route between Tseung Kwan O and Kwun Tong as well as the Eastern Harbour Crossing, with a remarkable effect in diverting the traffic to and from Tseung Kwan O.
- Tseung Kwan O-Lam Tin Tunnel, together with the **Central Kowloon Route** and **Trunk Road T2** and **Cha Kwo Ling Tunnel** which are under construction, form the **Route 6**, providing an east-west express link between Tseung Kwan O and West Kowloon. Upon completion, the Route 6 will divert existing traffic between East Kowloon and West Kowloon and help relieve the traffic load on the existing major road links in Kowloon East.

Hong Kong International Airport Expansion

Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), **one of the world's busiest airports for air cargo and passengers**, connects to nearly 200 destinations by about 130 airlines.

Three-Runway System

- The **Three-Runway System of HKIA** came into operation in November 2024, signifying an important milestone for the development of HKIA.
- After its expansion, HKIA's annual passenger and cargo handling capacities are expected to increase to around 120 million and 10 million tonnes respectively from 2035 onwards.

Airport City

- The Government will plan with the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) for expanding the scale of the **Airport City** by more than double, building a new, world-leading landmark in the bay area among the Airport Island, Hong Kong Port Island of the HZMB and Tung Chung East New Town. New projects will be developed to promote high-end commercial, tourist and leisure activities. These include creating an ecosystem for the arts industry, building the AsiaWorld-Expo Phase 2, developing a yacht bay with ancillary facilities, opening a food market for imported fresh food and providing more public spaces. The AAHK will formulate a development plan for the expanded Airport City in the first half of 2025, and will complete within 2025 the construction works of the Airport City Link, connecting the SKYCITY and the Hong Kong Port Island of the HZMB with a passenger-carrying autonomous transportation system.
- **SKYCITY**, strategically located between HKIA's passenger terminals and the HKP Island of the HZMB, will be **one of the largest commercial projects** in Hong Kong comprising retail, dining, hotels, entertainment facilities and offices, spread over about 350,000 square metres of floor space. The first stage of SKYCITY development projects will be completed in phases between 2021 and 2027.
- **Automated car parks** on the **Hong Kong Port (HKP) Island of the HZMB** will be completed in phases from end-2024, enabling self-drive visitors from Guangdong and Macao to drive via the HZMB and fly out from the HKIA or visit Hong Kong to park cars there.
- Take forward the **Airport City Link project** connecting the SKYCITY and the HKP Island by constructing a bridge system and by applying **autonomous transportation system** to strengthen the overall transportation network and capacity, thereby connecting the SKYCITY, the HZMB HKP and the HKIA as one. Next, the Airport City Link project's autonomous transportation system will be extended to Tung Chung Town Centre, providing a **comprehensive and environment-friendly transport link** connecting the Tung Chung Town Centre, Airport Island and HZMB HKP Island.

I&T Infrastructure

With opportunities brought by the National 14th Five-Year Plan and the GBA, Hong Kong can capitalise on its advantages in research and development (R&D) capabilities, technology, infrastructure, legal system and

intellectual property to act as a strategic bridge for innovative companies looking to access the Mainland market, thereby developing into an international innovation and technology centre. Key initiatives include:

Hong Kong Science Park

- The Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation is implementing Batch 1 of **Stage 2 of the Science Park Expansion Programme** to provide about 13,000 square metres of gross floor area mainly for wet laboratories to sustain the growth of the park ecosystem. The project is expected to be completed in 2025.

Cyberport

- The **Cyberport 5 Project** has commenced and is expected to be completed by the end of 2025 at the earliest, increasing the gross floor area of Cyberport by more than 40%.
- The first-phase facility of the Cyberport's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Supercomputing Centre has commenced operation in December 2024 to enhance Hong Kong's R&D capabilities in various technological research and application fields and to promote industrial development of AI industry.

Hong Kong-Shenzhen Innovation and Technology Park (HSITP)

- The Government is taking forward the development of the HSITP in the Lok Ma Chau Loop. Construction of the first three buildings will be completed in phases starting from end-2024. The Development Outline for the Hong Kong Park of the Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone was promulgated in November 2024, setting out innovative policies to facilitate the flow of personnel, materials, capital and data between the two parks, making the co-operation zone a crucial source of new quality productive forces for the country.

Hong Kong Microelectronics Research and Development Institute

- The **Hong Kong Microelectronics Research and Development Institute (MRDI)** has been established in 2024 to promote microelectronics development in Hong Kong, aiming to make it one of the leading organisations for supporting microelectronics development in the Asia-Pacific region. The MRDI will strengthen collaboration with universities, R&D centres and the industry and expedite the "1 to N" transformation of technological outcomes. This will help pool Mainland and overseas talents in particular fields and strengthen the nurturing of local R&D talents, thereby further enhancing the I&T ecosystem.

Digital Infrastructure

- Major telecom operators launched **5G services** in Hong Kong in Q2 2020.
- Open up more suitable government properties, bus shelters and telephone kiosks for operators to set up **5G base stations**.
- Subsidy scheme for mobile network operators to **expand optical fibre network** to remote villages.

"iAM Smart" Platform

- Launched in December 2020, the "iAM Smart" platform enables Hong Kong residents to login and use public and commercial online services with a single digital identity with their personal mobile phones.
- As of November 2024, more than 3.1 million users have registered for "iAM Smart".
- To expedite the building of a smart government, the Government has been implementing a comprehensive upgrade of "iAM Smart" to support full adoption of "iAM Smart" by e-government services for the provision of one-stop digital services by 2025, so as to realise "single portal for online government services". Following the launch of the online self-registration service for "iAM Smart+" and "iAM Smart Personal Code", a new user interface of "iAM Smart" was also rolled out in December 2024, enabling citizens to search for and use the services in an easier way and enhancing user experience.

Digital Corporate Identity Platform

- The Government is setting up the Digital Corporate Identity Platform ("CorpID"), targeted for launch progressively from end-2026. This will facilitate Hong Kong corporations to undergo corporate identity authentication and corporate signature verification in a secure, convenient and efficient manner when using e-government services or conducting online business transactions, thereby accelerating their digital transformation.

Geospatial Data

- The Geospatial Lab, established in May 2021, helps raise public interest in spatial data, and **explores** together with the **community value and application of spatial data** in support of smart city development.
- The online platform Open3Dhk was launched in September 2023 for the public to view and download the high-quality territory-wide **3D digital map**, which is also available in the Common Spatial Data Infrastructure Portal with other themes of geospatial data. The 3D digital map is being rolled out in phases and is expected to be fully available by the first quarter of 2025.
- To foster Smart City development in Hong Kong, the Government also maintains the Government Building Information Modelling Data Repository and the Underground Utilities Information System to further promote the digitalisation of the built environment.

Smart Mobility

- Providing funding support, through the \$1 billion **Smart Traffic Fund**, to local institutions and enterprises for conducting research and application of technology to enhance commuting convenience and efficiency of road network or space, and improve driving safety. As at November 2024, 68 projects have been approved by the Management Committee on Smart Traffic Fund, involving a total funding of around \$493 million.
- Rolled out the **HKeToll** in 2023, a **free-flow tolling service**, at the Tsing Sha Control Area and all government-tolled tunnels for more efficient and convenient payment. **Time-varying tolls** were implemented at the three road harbour crossings from December 2023 to encourage motorists to change their commuting patterns and hence alleviate cross-harbour traffic congestion during peak hours.

- Actively implementing a number of **automated parking system projects** in suitable short-term tenancy car parks and public works projects. The short-term tenancy projects in Tsuen Wan, Pak Shek Kok and Sham Shui Po were commissioned, while the one in Yau Ma Tei is expected to be commissioned in 2025.
- Replace about 9,800 older model of roadside parking meters with about 10,800 **new generation roadside parking meters** which allow remote payment.
- “HKeMobility” mobile app continues to provide real-time information on traffic, as well as vacant spaces in car parks.
- Promote “**Walk in HK**” with a view to creating a pedestrian-friendly environment, thereby encouraging people to walk more.
- Pedestrian facilities in various districts such as Admiralty, Wan Chai North, Kowloon Bay and Kwun Tong business areas are being improved and beautified with greening.

Decarbonisation and Green Technologies

- The \$400-million Green Tech Fund (GTF) supports the R&D and application of decarbonisation and green technologies.
- **The Green Technology and Finance Development Committee** is set up, inviting industry representatives from green technology, green finance and green standard certification, etc. to help devise a plan to develop Hong Kong into an international green technology and finance centre.

Promoting the use of electric and other new energy vehicles

- Formulate the first **Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles** (EV) and take forward various relevant measures, including ceasing the new registration of fuel-propelled and hybrid private cars in 2035 or earlier and expanding the EV charging network on all front, with a view to attaining zero vehicular emissions and zero carbon emissions from the transport sector before 2050.
- About 200,000 EV-charging parking spaces are expected to be available by mid-2027 through the **EV-charging at Home Subsidy Scheme** and the gross floor area concession arrangement.
- Continue to promote the development of **new energy public transport and commercial vehicles**, including conducting trials for hydrogen fuel cell (HFC) heavy duty vehicles for street cleaning purpose. At the same time, the first public hydrogen refuelling station will come into operation for servicing the HFC heavy duty vehicles.
- The Government announced the Green Transformation Roadmap of Public Buses and Taxis in December 2024 which will incentivise franchised bus operators and taxi owners to procure about 600 electric buses and 3,000 electric taxis, and also subsidise trials of HFC heavy duty vehicles.
- The Government announced the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong in June 2024 and will introduce a bill into the Legislative Council within 2025 to ensure the safe use of hydrogen fuel in Hong Kong, and formulate the approach of hydrogen energy certification suitable to Hong Kong by 2027, with a view to promoting the long-term development of green and low-carbon hydrogen application in Hong Kong.
- The Government has earmarked \$300 million for a new scheme encouraging the private sector for installing fast charging facilities such that a total of 3,000 fast chargers will be made available for use by 2030.

Submarine cable links

- Being a **leading digital economy**, Hong Kong has 12 **submarine cable systems** and operates nine **satellites** for external communications. Several submarine cable systems will be ready in the coming years, enhancing the city's connectivity with other parts of the world.

Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands

The Kau Yi Chau Artificial Islands (KYCAI) will create 1,000 hectares (ha) of land by reclamation to expand the scope and capacity of Hong Kong's development, extend and expand the Victoria Harbour Central Business District, and enhance Hong Kong's competitiveness as a financial, commercial and trade centre. KYCAI will be developed with a strategy focusing on livability, smart, green and resilience, together with a pair of newly built strategic transport infrastructure connecting the Hong Kong Island, Lantau Island, the airport, New Territories West and even Qianhai of Shenzhen. Part of KYCAI (300 ha out of 1,000 ha) has been included in the forecasted developable land of 3,000 ha to be supplied in the coming 10 years.

The statutory environmental impact assessment process for the reclamation works under the project was commenced in end-2024, and the target is to complete the relevant approval procedures in 2025. The related detailed engineering design will commence progressively.

Vibrant Harbourfront

Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour has its iconic appeal. The Harbourfront Commission and the Government have all along been undertaking concerted efforts to enhance the harbourfront on both sides of the harbour, providing residents and visitors with continuous, connected and vibrant promenades and high-quality public open spaces for a range of events and activities to take place. Highlights include:

- **Extending the total length of the promenade along Victoria Harbour to 34 km in 2028.** Among others, the **East Coast Boardwalk (Western Section)** underneath the Island Eastern Corridor has been opened in January 2025. Once the Eastern Section of the Boardwalk is to be completed progressively in the second half of 2025, there will be **a continuous harbourfront of some 13 km long, spanning from Kennedy Town to Shau Kei Wan.**
- Opening to the public the first fence-free breakwater within Victoria Harbour at the **East Coast Park Precinct** (Phase 1), which allows locals and visitors to enjoy an unobstructed view of Victoria Harbour.
- Opening harbourfront leisure spaces progressively in places such as Sai Ying Pun, Hung Hom, Kai Tak, as well as areas in East Kowloon.
- Introducing commercial facilities such as food and beverages, retail and entertainment facilities at selected suitable harbourfront locations on a pilot basis to bring convenience and better experience to visitors, including setting up smart specialty vending facilities in 2024 at Wan Chai, Kwun Tong and Cha Kwo Ling harbourfront which offer a variety of light snacks, specialty drinks and "pop-up" products.

Wan Chai North

The Government is actively pursuing the redevelopment of the three government towers in Wan Chai North and Kong Wan Fire Station into convention and exhibition facilities, offices and a hotel. The sites are expected to be vacated by 2026 at the earliest for redevelopment.

West Kowloon Cultural District

West Kowloon Cultural District (WKCD) is one of the world's largest cultural infrastructure projects. Blending traditional local culture with international and contemporary elements, WKCD showcases the unique identity of Hong Kong as a metropolis where East meets West, and establishes Hong Kong as **one of the most vibrant arts and cultural hubs in the world**. Spanning 40 hectares along Victoria Harbour, WKCD offers **world-class integrated arts and cultural facilities**:

- **Xiqu Centre** – a new landmark offering a superb platform for the production, education, preservation and promotion of Cantonese opera and other forms of Chinese traditional theatre.
- **Freespace** – a creative venue for multiple forms of contemporary performing arts, where artists and audiences can exchange and explore new ideas.
- **Art Park** – a quality open green space and a vibrant venue for open-air performances and other cultural programmes.
- **M+** – Asia's first global museum of contemporary visual culture exhibiting visual art, design and architecture, moving image, and Hong Kong visual culture of the 20th and 21st centuries.
- **Hong Kong Palace Museum** – displaying invaluable artefacts from the Palace Museum.
- **Lyric Theatre Complex** – a centre of excellence showcasing the best of Hong Kong and international dance and theatre productions (expected to be completed in 2025/26).

Energizing Kowloon East

The Energizing Kowloon East initiative sets out to facilitate transformation of old industrial areas and the former Kai Tak Airport into **Hong Kong's second core business district** and a desirable place to work, live and enjoy a high-quality lifestyle:

- Covering over 500 hectares, **Kowloon East** comprises the **Kai Tak Development Area, Kwun Tong, Kowloon Bay and San Po Kong Business Areas**.
- Since the launch of the initiative, the commercial floor space in Kowloon East has increased more than one fold to about 3.7 million square metres, progressively getting closer to the scale of the core business district in Central. Kowloon East has established as the Second Core Business District (CBD2) of Hong Kong with a diversity of industries.
- **Kai Tak Sports Park**, covering 28 hectares, is going to open on March 1, 2025. The Sports Park includes a world-class, 50,000-seat main stadium with a retractable roof, a 10,000-seat indoor sports centre, a 5,000-seat outdoor public sports ground, landscaped open space, retail and F&B facilities.
- **East Kowloon Cultural Centre**, opened by phases from 2024, will comprise five facilities of various sizes for music, drama and dance performances. A testbed studio will be provided to pioneer the convergence of arts and advanced technology (arts tech).

- Proposed a **multi-modal Environmentally Friendly Linkage System**, including the development of a travellers network and an elevated landscape deck to connect the Kwun Tong MTR Station, to enhance the accessibility of Kowloon East.

Invigorating Island South

The Invigorating Island South initiative aims to develop the Southern District into a vibrant place for people to work, live, explore new ideas and have fun. Key projects include:

- **Implementation of Ocean Park future strategy:** Following the official opening of the Water World at Ocean Park in 2021, the Ocean Park Corporation is identifying partners for the development of new themed zones of the Park. Technical studies on proposed pier projects at Deep Water Bay and Tai Shue Wan have also commenced.
- **Exploring new marine tourism routes** with Ocean Park as the core to link up with other districts and islands.
- **Enhancing cultural and leisure facilities** in Wong Chuk Hang, Aberdeen and Ap Lei Chau.
- Exploring the development of a **water sports centre** at the rehabilitated Shek O Quarry site.
- Expediting the redevelopment or conversion of old industrial buildings in Wong Chuk Hang to provide more **operating space for arts and culture**.
- Exploring **redevelopment or consolidation of the existing "Government, Institution or Community" sites or facilities** in the district to promote "single site, multiple use".
- Studying the expansion of **Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter** to provide more space for vessels to berth.

Improving the Cycle Track Network

- For **the approximately 80 km-long cycle track network in the New Territories**, the section from Ma On Shan to Tuen Mun, **totalling to about 60 km**, has been fully open since September 2020; the Tsuen Wan waterfront section of about 2 km has been open since July 2021; the Sam Mun Tsai waterfront section of about 1 km has been open since July 2023; and the implementation of the **remaining track** (about 17 km) **between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun** will complete the cycle track network connecting the eastern and western New Territories.
- A section of the approximately **13 km-long GreenWay for shared use by pedestrians and cyclists** has been open since September 2024. The remaining sections will dovetail with the implementation programme of the infrastructure projects and open spaces in the Kai Tak Development Area.
- **Cycling related elements** are being suitably incorporated into **major harbourfront development projects**.

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