

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. Over the coming two to three years, annual capital works expenditure is expected to be over \$120 billion (US\$15.4 billion), and the annual total construction output is expected to increase to around \$300 billion (US\$38.5 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.
- In the next five years, there would be about 900 hectares of land formed in the Northern Metropolis, providing some 70,000 housing units and about one million square metres of economic floor space. 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**.
- In the 2025 Policy Address, the Chief Executive announced measures in three aspects to further accelerate development of the Northern Metropolis, i.e. enhancing the governance structure for the Northern Metropolis, introducing dedicated legislation to accelerate the development of the Northern Metropolis, and implementing administrative procedures to remove barriers and ease restrictions.

Railway Projects

Railways are the backbone of Hong Kong's public transport system, carrying millions of passengers daily.

- Local railway projects are progressing in a timely and orderly manner. The construction works of the **Tung Chung Line Extension, Oyster Bay Station, Tuen Mun South Extension, Kwu Tung Station and Hung Shui Kiu Station** have commenced for progressive completion from 2027 onwards; The Government has signed the Part 1 Project Agreement with the MTR Corporation Limited to implement the **Northern Link Main Line** in combination with the **Spur Line**, so as to achieve synergies and enhance speed and efficiency. The target is to achieve simultaneous commissioning by 2034 or earlier.
- 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.1 public transport system** (2025 Time Out magazine index survey).

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 will also be adopted to take forward **South Island Line (West)**, forming a transit loop with the South Island Line (East) and Island Line, with target to commission by 2034 or earlier.

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 48,000 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 47 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. The Central Kowloon Bypass (Yau Ma Tei Section) was commissioned on December 21, 2025, while full commissioning of Route 6 is targeted for 2026.

Hong Kong International Airport Expansion

Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), **one of the world's busiest airports for air cargo and passengers**, connects to over 220 destinations by about 140 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

- Supported by the Government, the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AAHK) promulgated in January 2025 a development plan for expanding the **Airport City**. With the aviation industry as its focal point, the Airport Island as well as the land and waters in its vicinity will be utilised for the development of a new highlight encompassing high-end commercial, art, tourism and leisure activities. The new projects 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 is also continuing to advance the transportation support projects under the Airport City. Among others, the AAHK is commissioning by phases the **automated car parks** on the Hong Kong Port (HKP) Island of the HZMB to enable non-commercial private cars from Guangdong and Macao to travel to Hong Kong via the HZMB. Passengers can transfer to a flight or visit Hong Kong after parking their cars. As for the **Airportcity Link** connecting the HKP Island and SKYCITY, the AAHK has commenced trials of **the autonomous transportation system** for carrying passengers since end-2025. As a next step, the AAHK will extend the Airportcity Link to Tung Chung Town Centre, known as the Airport Tung Chung Link.

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 I&T centre. Key initiatives include:

Hong Kong Science Park

- Batch 1 of **Stage 2 of the Science Park Expansion Programme** was completed in March 2025, providing about 13,000 square metres of gross floor area mainly for wet laboratories to sustain the growth of the park ecosystem.

Cyberport

- The **Cyberport 5 Project** is expected to be completed in early 2026, thereby increasing the gross floor area of Cyberport by more than 40%.
- Cyberport's **Artificial Intelligence (AI) Supercomputing Centre** commenced operation in December 2024, currently providing computing power of 3,000 PFLOPS to strengthen Hong Kong's R&D capabilities in various technological research and application fields and to promote industrial development of AI industry.

Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone

- The Government is taking forward the development of the **Hetao Shenzhen-Hong Kong Science and Technology Innovation Co-operation Zone** which is located on both sides of the Shenzhen River. Construction of the first three buildings in Phase 1 has been completed. Tenants from life and health technology, microelectronics, new energy, AI and other pillar industries are gradually moving in. The construction of the other five buildings will be completed progressively from 2027.

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 and has now reached over 90 per cent of the Hong Kong population, achieving full coverage in the central business district.
- To further enhance the coverage of 5G mobile network and prepare for future development of more advanced mobile communications technology, the Government amended the Telecommunications Ordinance (Cap. 106) to authorise mobile network operators to access reserved space in specified buildings to install and maintain mobile communications facilities.
- To expand network capacity at more major public event venues by developing more mobile infrastructure.
- Open up more suitable government properties, bus shelters, telephone kiosks and multi-functional smart lampposts for mobile network operators to set up **5G base stations**.
- Subsidise fixed network operators to **expand optical fibre network** to remote villages and mobile network operators to enhance mobile network coverage in rural areas.

“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 December 2025, more than 4 million users have registered for “iAM Smart”, with daily usage exceeding 180,000. “iAM Smart” provides access to more than 1,300 online services and e-Forms of the government, public and private organisations, achieving the goal of a “single portal for online government services”.

Digital Corporate Identity Platform

- The Government is setting up the Digital Corporate Identity Platform (“CorpID”), aiming for launch by end-2026 and expansion of applications progressively. 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**. It also offers Application Programming Interfaces (API) services for streaming 3D digital map to support diverse uses by the general public, the academia and the professionals. Moreover, 3D digital map is available for download in the Common Spatial Data Infrastructure Portal with other themes of geospatial data.
- 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 2025, 83 projects have been approved by the Management Committee on Smart Traffic Fund, involving a total funding of around \$587 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. The

Government has also taken over the Tai Lam Tunnel in May 2025, implementing the HKeToll and time-varying tolls.

- 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 by January 2026.
- Replace about 9,800 older model of roadside parking meters with about 11,000 **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.
- The information on the accessibility features of **3D Pedestrian Network**, like elevators and ramps, provided a digital inclusive environment to the needy groups and served as a core dataset to support walkability studies and planning.
- 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

- Formulated the first **Hong Kong Roadmap on Popularisation of Electric Vehicles** (EVs) 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 fronts, with a view to attaining zero vehicular emissions and zero carbon emissions from the transport sector before 2050.
- Announced the Strategy of Hydrogen Development in Hong Kong in June 2024 and introduced the Gas Safety (Amendment) Bill 2025 to LegCo in April 2025 to ensure the safe use of hydrogen fuel in Hong Kong, and will formulate the approach of hydrogen energy certification suitable for Hong Kong by 2027, to promote long-term development of green and low-carbon hydrogen application in Hong Kong.
- Announced the Green Transformation Roadmap of Public Buses and Taxis in December 2024. Major measures include subsidising franchised bus operators to purchase about 600 electric buses and the taxi trades to purchase 3,000 electric taxis.
- Continue to promote green transport by increasing the total number of parking spaces with charging facilities in Hong Kong to about 200,000 by mid-2027.

- Continue to promote the development of **new energy public transport and commercial vehicles**. Hong Kong's first public hydrogen refuelling station and the three hydrogen fuel cell (HFC) street washing vehicles started operation in June 2025.
- Launched the \$300 million Fast Charger Incentive Scheme in July 2025, aiming to provide 3,000 fast chargers to support some 160,000 EVs additionally. It is expected that fast chargers will be put into service gradually from end 2025 to the end of 2028.

Submarine cable links

- Being a major regional telecommunications hub with sound and excellent external telecommunications infrastructure, Hong Kong has 12 **submarine cable systems** and operates 10 **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.

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 **Western Section of the East Coast Boardwalk** underneath the Island Eastern Corridor opened in January 2025, and the **Eastern Section** also opened in December 2025, marking **a continuous harbourfront of some 13 km long, spanning from Kennedy Town to Shau Kei Wan**.
- Opening harbourfront leisure spaces progressively in different places on Hong Kong Island and in Kowloon. For example, Hung Hom Urban Park, as well as Dining Cove and Shing Fung Road Park in Kai Tak were opened in recent years, as was the recently opened Sai Ying Pun Harbourfront Park.
- 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. The Development Bureau set 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; and will progressively set up **refreshment stalls** at Central, Wan Chai, North Point and Tsim Sha Tsui harbourfront from December 2025.
- Promoting **water-friendly culture** for bringing the public closer to water bodies. For example, the first **fence-free breakwater** within Victoria Harbour was opened at the East Coast Park Precinct in North Point; **harbour steps** are provided in certain harbourfront sections in Kai Tak, Wan Chai and Causeway Bay; and the operation in Wan Chai of the first **water sports centre** in the urban area of Hong Kong Island by a non-governmental organisation, which offers diverse water activity courses and feature options, such as the classic duck-shaped paddle boats, the stand-up paddling polo, water bikes, etc., providing novel water-friendly experiences for the public.

Wan Chai North Redevelopment

The Government is taking forward the Wan Chai North Redevelopment project near the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre as planned, including the redevelopment of the sites of the Wan Chai Government Offices Compound, Gloucester Road Garden and the Kong Wan Fire Station into convention and exhibition facilities, hotel and office.

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 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 and leisure 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 and important cultural institutions and museums worldwide.
- **WestK Performing Arts Centre** – a centre of excellence showcasing the best of Hong Kong and international dance and theatre productions (expected to be completed in 2026).

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 3.8 million square metres, progressively getting closer to the scale of the core business district in Central. Kowloon East has transformed as the Second Core Business District (CBD2) of Hong Kong with a diversity of industries.
- **Kai Tak Sports Park**, covering 28 hectares, opened on March 1, 2025. The Sports Park features a world-class 50,000-seat main stadium with a retractable roof, a 10,000-seat Kai Tak Arena, a 5,000-seat Kai Tak Youth Sports Ground, a wide variety of retail and dining outlets, etc.

- **East Kowloon Cultural Centre** (EKCC), Hong Kong's flagship performance venue for long-running performances and arts technology, was opened on November 3, 2025. The Centre comprises five performance venues of various sizes (The Hall, The Theatre, The Turns, The Beats, The Lab), and Incubators designed for rehearsals, experiments and research. In addition, EKCC has set up an Academy for Arts Tech for talent nurturing, promoting the convergence of arts and technology.
- Proposed a **multi-modal Environmentally Friendly Linkage System**, including the development of a travellators 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:

- Continue to progressively enhance the open spaces on both sides of Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter by way of minor works while **improving pedestrian connectivity and the local environment**.
- Exploring **redevelopment or consolidation of the existing "Government, Institution or Community sites or facilities** in the district to promote "single site, multiple use".
- Explore the feasibility of constructing **new facilities in the area around the Aberdeen Wholesale Fish Market** for food and beverage, retail and processing of sheries products, etc.
- Take forward the **Expansion of Aberdeen Typhoon Shelter** project, including the integration of public landing facilities with the proposed breakwater at Tai Shue Wan to create synergies.

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 of **about 60 km**, has been fully open since September 2020. The Tsuen Wan waterfront section of about 2 km and the Sam Mun Tsai waterfront section of about 1 km have been open since July 2021 and July 2023 respectively. The **remaining section** (about 17 km) **between Tsuen Wan and Tuen Mun** under planning will connect the cycle track network between New Territories East and West.
- For the approximately **13 km-long GreenWay for shared use by pedestrians and cyclists, about 3.5 km-long sections** have been open since its first opening in 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 waterfront development projects**.

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