

\$48m improvement to airport approach roads

UP to \$48 million is to be spent on improving the southern approach roads to Kai Tak airport to cope with an anticipated large increase in traffic.

The government contract, signed yesterday, also involves the re-construction of several badly-deteriorated sections of Prince Edward Road East.

According to the Highways Department, the Kai Tak approach roads project is due to a projected 33 per cent increase in the number of passengers using the airport by 1993.

There were 18 million passengers in 1990.

The project is expected to be completed by November next year.

Mr Chiu Wing-hung, regional highway engineer, said the approach roads were "fairly crowded" and "near saturation" at present, with occasional jams especially during peak hours and at signal junctions.

Senior engineer Mr Edward Roblin said that the work on Prince Edward Road East was prompted by the road sinking to a condition of being "beyond economic repair" — meaning the expense of constant maintenance is more costly than re-construction.