

\$500m plan to ease traffic in new towns

FAST-developing Yuen Long and Tuen Mun new towns are to get a \$500 million trunk road network by 1992.

The present Castle Peak Road will not be able to cope with the extra growth expected after the completion of the Lok Ma Chau border crossing later this year.

The new road system also aims to alleviate traffic congestion caused by the completion of residential developments at Tin Shui Wai in 1992.

A Highways Department spokesman said the capacity of the only existing carriageway — Castle Peak Road — would be cut by level crossing points for the new light rail transit system, which comes into operation towards the middle of the year.

"Traffic predictions for the year 1995 have indicated that this trunk road will be required to handle a traffic flow of about 49,000 vehicles a day and the existing Castle Peak Road about 46,000 vehicles a day," the spokesman said.

Work on the Yuen Long-Tuen Mun Eastern Corridor and Yuen Long West Link will begin towards the end of the year and be completed by early 1992.

Work on the Yuen Long southern bypass, which forms another part of the trunk road system, will begin late next year and be completed by 1992.

The trunk road system will be built on embankments three to four metres above the original ground level.

"This will provide segregation from the existing local accesses and help reduce the possible noise pollution generated by the expected high traffic density," said the spokesman.