

Underground Space Network for Commercial Development in Tsim Sha Tsui, Hong Kong

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Abstract

Underground spaces, which usually connect to metro stations, are commonly used as the second level of street network of the high-density urban areas. As one of the most compacted city of the world, Hong Kong has a well-developed metro system and strategy of TOD. At the end of 1990s, a new strategy of underground network to connect shopping districts and new malls emerged during the development of the newly established East Tsim Sha Tsui KCR Station and its subway connections to the existing Tsim Sha Tsui MTR Station. Eventually an underground space network system had been established to optimize pedestrian accessibility of the entire Tsim Sha Tsui (TST) commercial district. The paper reviews construction history of the system to interpret the development idea. Several milestones of the system development are indicated. Then pedestrian flow data from site survey and observation is investigated to evaluate its efficiency. Historical development and pedestrian flow distribution all support the hypothesis that the planning and design of TST underground space network deliberately create more commercial opportunity for the shopping facilities in TST.

Keywords: underground space, pedestrian, metro station, commercial, urban development