

Date: 20 Apr 2016

MVA secures World Bank study in Suzhou - China to review options to control and regulate private cars, relieve traffic congestion and reduce greenhouse gas emissions



MVA was awarded the contract “Formulation of Congestion Charging Scheme in Suzhou Old Town” by the Suzhou City Transport Bureau in January 2016, to be funded by Global Environmental Fund (GEF) of World Bank. Working with the Suzhou Planning & Design Research Institute Co., Ltd., MVA aims to formulate a congestion charging scheme to control and regulate the use of private cars in the historic core of the city. The study is expected to take about 15 months with the aim of it being completed by April 2017.

The old town of Suzhou was founded around 500 B.C. and upto the present day, the location and structure of the town have largely remained unchanged, a valuable and almost unique example of the architecture of the Song and late Ming Dynasties in China. In 1986, Suzhou city planning guidelines were approved to protect the most historic parts of Suzhou but, with the rapid development of the China economy and related rapid growth of traffic, Suzhou was becoming under increasing pressure to adopt more effective transport policy initiatives to ensure sustainability of mobility in its urban areas. The primary challenge in Suzhou is its limited road capacity and the equally limited potential to upgrade or provide new road infrastructure. Therefore, the contract awarded to MVA will study and analyze the traffic characteristics in the old town and the surrounding areas; to formulate a congestion charging scheme and to conduct a comprehensive assessment of potential benefits, including social and environmental gains and impacts. The final study report is expected to contribute towards the formulation of the much-needed next stage in Suzhou’s policy evolution and to guide decision-making by local and the provincial governments.

MVA’s Project Manager, Mr. Danny Shek, expressed his confidence in being able to complete the project to a high quality - on time: *“Globally there is a growing body of evidence - and often heated debates - on the benefits and impacts of Congestion Charging. This demand-side policy proves the potential to manage the growth of traffic in*

major cities of China on a sustainable basis. We will also recommend complementary measures as part of a package that could improve the efficiency and attractiveness of the public transportation system, potentially enabling the demand for travel within Suzhou to be more optimally balanced amongst transportation modes. For a fee, road users will also benefit from improved journey time and reduced journey time variability. Overall, we strongly believe that this project will develop best practice in the development of transport packages that include congestion charging, that may be used as a precedence for other towns and cities in China”.

MVA Project Manager – Danny Shek

MVA Project Director in Charge – Francis Sootoo

AT A GLANCE	
Total Cost: RMB\$2.4 million	Commencement Date: Jan 2016
Total Cost (MVA): RMB\$1.1 million	Completion Date: April 2017
Client: Suzhou City Transport Bureau	Funding Agency: World Bank Global Environmental Fund (GEF)

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About SYSTRA

The global leader in public transport infrastructure, SYSTRA, an engineering subsidiary of RATP and SNCF, has specialized in the mass transit and rail market since 1957. Its ambition is to serve emerging needs for collective and sustainable mobility throughout the world.

With a presence in 80 countries, SYSTRA manages over 3,500 contracts for high-speed systems, traditional rail lines, metros and tramways throughout the world MVA, a SYSTRA Group company and a global transportation specialist and leading market research consultancy with its operation established in Asia since 1970s. Its Asia headquarters, located in Hong Kong operates through offices in Mainland China, Singapore, Thailand and other various project offices across the region.

