

July 20, 2005

LTA remiss in accident that left cyclist paralysed

I BELIEVE many Singaporeans like myself applaud Tampines GRC MP Ong Kian Min for doing 'the right thing' by removing the barriers erected to discourage cyclists from riding on a pedestrian bridge ('Paralysed, after hitting barrier'; ST, July 16).

If Mr Ong had waited for the Land Transport Authority (LTA) to take action, another accident could have happened.

Obviously, the LTA had not carried out the necessary due diligence. No incident or adverse feedback in the past does not mean that accidents would not happen. In this case, it was an accident waiting to happen.

Did the LTA consider using conspicuous luminous signboards to warn cyclists? Did the LTA issue specific instructions to the contractor as to how the work should have been done?

If the family of the 40-year-old victim decides to sue LTA, would it use public funds to pay for the cost of the lawsuit?

Loh Peng Cheong