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THE Federal Territories Ministry will decide whether to go ahead with the proposed widening of the Jalan Yew-Jalan Sungai Besi flyover in Kuala Lumpur.

Concerns raised by stakeholders regarding the project would be taken into consideration in the deliberation, said Federal Territories Ministry deputy secretary-general (Planning and Development) Datuk Ruzain Idris.

"The federal project was planned several years ago but has been delayed until now.

"The government sees that there is a need to widen the road because of traffic congestion complaints along the stretch.

"In fact, we had called for an open tender and a contractor has been appointed; the design of the project is also done," he said during a meeting with members of the Action Committee Against the Widening of Jalan Yew at Bangunan Persatuan Chha Yong Fay Choon Kuan in Jalan Pasar, Pudu, Kuala Lumpur.

The Federal Territories Ministry and Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), he added, wanted to ease traffic movement in the area.

"However, the project cannot proceed because there are concerns raised by the stakeholders here," Ruzain said.

Action Committee Against the Widening of Jalan Yew chairman Yong Pok Yau said the committee, comprising 10 groups of stakeholders, wanted the project to be scrapped.

FT Ministry to decide on flyover widening project

Jalan Yew stakeholders' concerns to be factored in its deliberation



Business owners worry that if the flyover is widened, the road will end up being too close to shoplots on Jalan Yew.

"One of our major concerns is that if the road is widened, a multi-storey building there will end up too close to the road.

"The proposed construction will be detrimental to the interests of Pudu morning market traders and business owners in the vicinity,"

he said.

To prove its point, the committee showed photos of abandoned shoplots next to the Loke Yew roundabout in Kuala Lumpur and Jalan Kem in Port Klang, Selangor, explaining that business in those places had suffered drastically as a



Ruzain says the flyover project was planned several years ago.

main road had been built too close to the buildings.

Stakeholders did not want the shoplots along Jalan Yew to share the same fate.

Cheras MP Tan Kok Wai said the committee had highlighted 12 major concerns in an objection letter to DBKL.

"However, these complaints did not reach the Federal Territories Ministry as it appears that Ruzain is seeing the letter for the first time

in the meeting.

"But now, the people's concerns have been brought to the ministry's attention and it is hoped that the road can remain as it is now.

"The bottleneck occurs at the Kampung Pandan roundabout and traffic gets backlogged all the way to the flyover.

"But the Setiawangsa-Pantai Expressway, Maju Expressway and Smart Tunnel can help to disperse traffic in the vicinity," he said, adding that the flyover need not be widened.

Among the stakeholders who attended the meeting were representatives of Pudu wet market traders, business owners, residents and a nearby mosque and temple.

Malaysian Hawkers and Traders Association Coalition president Datuk Rosli Sulaiman said the project was not timely as the construction, which might take three years, would affect business owners.

"People's livelihood should be given priority, especially when traders here are recovering from the adverse impact of the Covid-19 pandemic," he said.