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By Fax & Post 2121 0420
14 May 2001

Mr Andy Lau
Clerk to Panel
Legislative Council Secretariat
3/F, Citibank Tower
3 Garden Road
Central
Hong Kong

Dear Mr Lau,

Development of Intelligent Transport Systems in Hong Kong

I refer to your letter of 27 April 2001 enclosing a submission from a Mr Jonathan Wong on the development of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) in Hong Kong. This letter sets out the Administration's response to the submission.

As presented to the LegCo Panel on Transport in March 2001, the Administration initiated an in-house study to review the ITS strategy in Hong Kong in May 2000. The Study examined the technical, administrative and financial requirements of implementing an ITS Strategy in Hong Kong, and recommended the establishment of a Transport Information System and the adoption of a new Traffic Management Framework in Hong Kong.

In conducting the study, the Administration has reviewed the administrative and technological framework as well as institutional issues in ITS deployment in other countries, including the United States, Japan, the European Union and Singapore. We have exchanged views with officials and ITS practitioners of these countries on their experience in developing ITS. We have also reviewed overseas publications and materials on the development of ITS. Our research and exchanges with our overseas counterparts identified the need for efficient collection and dissemination of traffic data and a comprehensive traffic control framework covering the whole territory as the two main elements of ITS currently deployed overseas.

Apart from learning from our overseas counterparts, the Administration also consulted the local experts and industries to solicit views on developing an ITS strategy that could meet the needs of Hong Kong. Parties consulted include academics from the local tertiary institutions, public transport operators, IT and telecommunications companies, information system suppliers and other service providers. The views of our local and overseas experts are reflected in our recommendations presented to the Panel in March 2001

The Administration is mindful of the need to implement the ITS strategy in a well coordinated and timely manner in order to ensure effective and efficient use of our resources. In this regard, the Administration will continue to maintain close liaison with public transport operators and the private sector to develop intelligent transport systems that can best serve the needs of Hong Kong.

Yours sincerely,

(Brian Lo)
for Secretary for Transport