

**立法會**  
**Legislative Council**

LC Paper No. CB(1)2307/02-03  
(These minutes have been seen  
by the Administration and  
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB1/SS/8/02

**Subcommittee on**  
**Road Traffic (Temporary Reduction of New Territories Taxi Fares)**  
**Regulation 2003 and**  
**Road Traffic (Temporary Reduction of New Territories Taxi Fares) (No. 2)**  
**Regulation 2003**

**Meeting on**  
**Monday, 7 July 2003, at 10:45 am**  
**in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

**Members present** : Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, JP (Chairman)  
Dr Hon David CHU Yu-lin, JP  
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP  
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo  
Hon LI Fung-ying, JP

**Non-Subcommittee** : Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP  
**Member present**

**Members absent** : Hon LEUNG Yiu-chung  
Hon Andrew WONG Wang-fat, JP  
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP  
Hon LEUNG Fu-wah, MH, JP

**Public Officers** : Environment, Transport and Works Bureau  
**attending**  
Mr Patrick HO  
Principal Assistant Secretary for the Environment, Transport  
and Works

Mr LAW Kin-wai  
Assistant Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works

Transport Department

Mr Stephen IP  
Assistant Commissioner for Transport/Management &  
Paratransit

Department of Justice

Mr W L CHEUNG  
Senior Government Counsel

**Clerk in attendance** : Mr Andy LAU  
Chief Assistant Secretary (1)2

**Staff in attendance** : Mr Stephen LAM  
Assistant Legal Adviser 4

Ms Alice AU  
Senior Assistant Secretary (1)5

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**I Confirmation of minutes**  
(LC Paper No. CB(1)2147/02-03 - Minutes of meeting held on 19 June 2003)

1. The minutes of meeting held on 19 June 2003 were confirmed.

**II Meeting with the Administration**  
(LC Paper No. CB(1)2148/02-03(01) - Information paper provided by the  
Administration)

2. The Subcommittee deliberated (Index of proceedings attached at **Annex A**).
3. The Subcommittee took note of the findings presented by the Administration on its surveys to review the effectiveness of the New Territories (NT) taxi temporary fare concession. The major findings were:
  - (a) there were increases in the average daily number of paid trips per NT taxi, the average daily paid kilometres (km) per NT taxi and the average

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daily fare revenue per NT taxi in general during the period between 8 June and 3 July 2003 after the implementation of the fare concession;

- (b) there had been noticeable increase in long trips which were eligible for the concession whereas short trips (below 3.4 km) which were not part of the concession scheme registered a decline in ridership; and
- (c) about 80% of the respondents of the survey on the NT taxi trade did not agree to the continuation of the temporary fare concession.

*(Post-meeting note: A set of diagrams showing "Major Operating Statistics of NT Taxis (January 2003 - July 2003)" was tabled at the meeting by the Administration and subsequently issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)2175/02-03(01).)*

4. The Subcommittee also noted the plan of the Administration on the way forward, and agreed that the Administration should seek the approval from the Chief Executive-in-Council to terminate the temporary fare concession as soon as possible.

5. The Subcommittee also noted the Administration's suggestion that in order to expedite the process, the temporary fare concession would be terminated the next day after gazettal of the relevant subsidiary legislation without waiting for the completion of the negative vetting period. Members agreed to the Administration's suggestion.

6. The Subcommittee reiterated their concern about certain aspects of the Administration's policy on the operation of the taxi trade, and agreed that the matter be referred to the Panel on Transport for follow up. Specifically, members expressed the following views for the Administration to consider:

- (a) The Administration should ensure the effectiveness of the communication mechanism for consultation with the NT taxi trade.
- (b) The Administration should review and improve its measures against illegal taxi touting practices which had seriously affected the interest of the law-abiding taxi operators. On the one hand, the offer of fare discount by drivers was prohibited by law while the bargaining of taxi fare by passengers was allowed although not encouraged. The Administration should consider introducing legislative amendments if necessary to address this anomaly.
- (c) The Administration should continue its enforcement actions against illegal touting practices including the offer of fare discounts by individual taxi drivers through the illegal use of radio transceivers and the distribution of discount cards to passengers. The Administration should consider issuing clear guidelines to taxi operators on whether and

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in what circumstances would the distribution of name cards to passengers be allowed.

- (d) The Administration should also consider further measures to improve the business opportunities of the taxi trade, in particular allowing them to operate to boundary control points.

Admin 7. The Administration agreed to review the matter taking into account members' views, and revert to the Panel in due course.

Admin 8. At the Chairman's request, the Administration also undertook to provide supplementary information on the number of bookings made by Government departments for hourly-hired taxis under the Taxi Hiring Scheme in the past three months.

**III Any other business**

9. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:30 am.

**Proceedings of the meeting of the Subcommittee on  
Road Traffic (Temporary Reduction of New Territories Taxi Fares) Regulation 2003 and  
Road Traffic (Temporary Reduction of New Territories Taxi Fares) (No. 2) Regulation 2003**

**Monday, 7 July 2003, at 10:45 am  
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
<i>Agenda Item I - Confirmation of minutes</i>			
000000-000126	Chairman	Confirmation of minutes of meeting on 19 June 2003	
<i>Agenda Item II – Meeting with the Administration</i>			
000127-000858	Admin Chairman	Presentation of the findings on the NT taxi trade survey and the plan of the Administration on the way forward [LC Paper No. CB(1)2148/02-03(01)]	
000859-001742	Mr CHENG Kar-foo Admin Chairman	Overall review on Admin's measures against illegal touting practices including the need for legislative amendments to address the anomaly with the bargaining of taxi fare by passengers	Admin to review the situation in consultation with the trade, and revert to the Transport Panel in due course
001743-002539	Mr LAU Kong-wah Chairman Admin	- Further measures to improve the business opportunities of the taxi trade, in particular allowing them to operate to boundary control points - Steps taken by Admin to enhance the effectiveness of communication mechanism with the NT taxi trade and strengthen enforcement actions against illegal touting practices	
002540-002733	Chairman Admin	Effectiveness of Admin's measures to help improve the business of the taxi trade	Admin to provide supplementary information on the Taxi Hire Scheme in the past three months
002734-003235	Ms LI Fung-ying Admin	- Timetable of Admin's review on its measures against illegal touting practices including the need for legislative amendments to address the anomaly with the bargaining of taxi fare by passengers - Need to enhance the effectiveness of communication mechanism with the NT taxi trade	
003236-003942	Chairman Mr LAU Kong-wah	- Admin to continue enforcement actions against illegal touting practices	Admin to follow up and revert to the

<b>Time marker</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Subject(s)</b>	<b>Action required</b>
	Admin	including the offer of fare discounts by individual taxi drivers through the illegal use of radio transceivers and the distribution of discount cards to passengers - Admin to consider issuing clear guidelines to taxi operators on whether and in what circumstances would the distribution of name cards to passengers be allowed	Transport Panel in due course
<i>Agenda Item III - Any other business</i>			
003943-004050	Chairman Admin Members	Subcommittee's agreement on the way forward proposed by the Administration	

Council Business Division 1  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
31 July 2003