

## **Legislative Council Panel on Transport Relaxation of No-Stopping Restriction Time Periods**

### **Purpose**

The Transport Department (TD) reviews from time to time the no-stopping restriction hours to ascertain their continued applicability in the light of the prevailing traffic pattern. This paper informs Members of TD's latest review and recommendation to relax the no-stopping restriction (NSR) time periods.

### **The Review**

2. The peak hour NSR of "7am – 10am and 4pm – 7pm" have been in force for a long time. TD's latest review indicates that during the morning peak period, 7am – 8am has become one of the less busy hours for the territory as a whole and is only the thirteenth busiest hour. As for 8am – 10am and the evening peak hours of 4pm-7pm, their respective peak hour traffic flows remain high as the top five busiest hours. Given the change in traffic pattern, there is room and flexibility to shorten the existing peak hour NSR period in the morning peak to enable the general motorists and the transport trade to carry out necessary kerbside loading and unloading activities during the non-restriction period where traffic condition permits.

3. TD has consulted the relevant transport trade on the proposal to relax the 7am – 8am NSR time period. The red minibus, taxi, and goods vehicle trade support the proposal in general. The green minibus and franchised bus trade object to the proposal for fear of loss of business due to perceived congestion and competition from other transport modes. TD is aware that some quarters have pressed for further relaxation of 4pm-5pm NSR time period. However, given that 4pm-5pm is the fifth busiest hour overall, there is little justification to remove it from the NSR time periods on traffic management grounds. TD will continue to closely monitor the traffic situation and review whether further relaxation is justified.

### **Recommendations**

4. Taking on board the results of the consultation and upon more detailed examination of local conditions, it is recommended that a phased approach should be adopted to implement the new restriction period as follows:

- (i) the operating hours of all general purpose peak-hour NSR zones should be changed to commence from 8 am instead of 7am (i.e. 8am-10am and 4pm-7pm);
- (ii) the operating hours of special purpose peak-hour NSR zones applicable to certain types of vehicles (such as public light bus, taxi, goods vehicle) will remain at 7am-10am and 4pm-7pm; and
- (iii) the operating hours of non-peak hour NSR zones, general or special purpose, will remain unchanged, i.e., 7am-7pm, 7am-12 midnight, etc.

5. In those general purpose peak hour NSR zones under paragraph 4(i), there will not be any exceptions to the relaxation in the initial implementation stage. However, should it be found that any particular class of vehicles is abusing the relaxation after a reasonable period of observation, imposition of restriction for that class of vehicle will be considered at the locations concerned. TD will review whether further relaxation of the NSR zones under paragraph 4(ii) and (iii) is justified after the relaxation of paragraph 4(i) has been implemented. This phased approach is to avoid possible adverse traffic impact that may be generated if the restriction is relaxed across the board.

### **Implementation**

6. The new NSR time periods will be published in the Gazette on 13 September 2002 to advise the public of the changes. The relaxation on a particular section of road, however, will become effective as from the date of replacement of the signs concerned. As a large number of signs will have to be replaced, the work will be carried out in stages with the first batch of new signs to be installed in late September 2002. Publicity will be arranged nearer the time of implementation to alert motorists. TD and the Police will jointly monitor the traffic condition at those relaxed road sections.

### **Advice Sought**

7. Members are requested to note the content of this paper.

Environment, Transport and Works Bureau  
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