

**Legislative Council Panel on Transport  
Subcommittee on matters relating to railways**

**Better Co-ordination of Public Transport Services  
arising from the Commissioning of West Rail**

**PURPOSE**

At the meeting of the Sub-committee on 20 December 2002, Members discussed the Administration's plan to consult the public about the proposed public transport service plan ("PT Plan") to tie in with the opening of West Rail ("WR"). This paper informs Members of the latest development.

**BACKGROUND**

2. WR is a high capacity railway. During the initial stage of its operation, the frequency of WR will be at about 3 minutes and the carrying capacity will be as high as 47,000 passengers per hour per direction. It will increase the public transport capacity in the corridor by about 80%.

3. The objective of the proposed PT plan is to provide an efficient, reliable and environmentally friendly public transport system to serve the passengers upon the opening of the new railway. The proposed PT plan includes the following key elements:

- (a) proposals for the provision of feeder services to ensure good connectivity of the WR for easy access by passengers; and
- (b) proposals for frequency adjustments, cancellation of low demand route, route diversion and rationalization etc. to better match changing demand and maintain an efficient public transport network in Northwest New Territories.

## **PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

4. Transport Department (“TD”) started a consultation programme in January 2003 to solicit public views on the proposed PT plan. The relevant District Councils (“DCs”)/Traffic and Transport Committees (“TTCs”) including the five districts along the WR corridor viz. Yuen Long, Tuen Mun, Tsuen Wan, Kwai Tsing and Sham Shui Po were consulted.

5. Apart from consultations at DC/TTC level, Area Consultative Forums (“ACFs”) were formed to facilitate local consultation. The membership of the ACF includes not only DC members, but also members of Area Committees, representatives of Mutual Aid Committees/Incorporated Owners, schools principals, and other local representatives etc.

6. The first round of the public consultation was completed recently. TD attended almost 40 meetings to explain the proposed PT plan. In general, the local community welcomed the provision of feeder connections to WR stations. On the other hand, there were considerable concerns about the fare levels of alternative services and the uncertainty of the fare level of WR when some of the route cancellation/modification proposals were discussed. There were also suggestions that the major service rationalization measures should be implemented progressively after commissioning of the WR taking into account actual changes in passenger demand.

7. The views obtained are being analyzed in detail. TD is considering appropriate modifications to the proposed PT plan. The DCs/TTCs/ACFs will be consulted again from around mid April onwards when TD has firmed up the proposals for modifications. Our target is to finalize the PT plan in mid 2003 so that adequate publicity can be mounted before opening of the WR.

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN & PUBLICITY**

8. It is our plan to implement the PT plan in a progressive manner. On Day One of the commissioning of WR, the feeder services will be introduced or strengthened to ensure good connectivity with the WR. The other major route rationalization measures will be implemented progressively in the light of on-the-ground observation to ensure smooth implementation.

9. To ensure smooth commissioning of the WR and implementation of the PT plan, TD will work with the public transport operators and the concerned DCs in conducting publicity before WR opening on the public transport service changes. In addition, TD will conduct site observations to monitor the actual situation and activate its Emergency Co-ordination Centre to co-ordinate arrangements as appropriate.

10. There will be close monitoring of the implementation of the service changes after opening of the WR. If necessary, refinements may be made to the service adjustments and their implementation programme in consultation with the concerned parties having regard to the actual situation on the ground.

Environment, Transport and Works Bureau  
March 2003