ETWB(T) 3/9/21

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7 July 2004

Mr Andy Lau Clerk to Transport Panel Legislative Council Secretariat 3/F, Citibank Tower, 3 Garden Road, Central, Hong Kong. (Fax 2121 0420)

Dear Mr Lau,

Follow-up on the Meeting of Legislative Council Panel on Transport on 27 February 2004

Report on the Progress of Speed Limit Review

At the meeting of the Legislative Council Panel on Transport held on 27 February 2004, the information paper on the progress report of the review of speed limits (LC Paper No. CB(1)1075/03-04(04)) was discussed and the Administration undertook to provide a written response on the following:

- (a) outcome of its further consideration on the relevant road sections which are of concern to some Panel Members by consulting the views of the local community and the transport trades; and
- (b) arrangements to be made to consult the transport trades on relevant matters through the regular conferences of the Transport Department (TD).

We have consulted 229 transport trade associations and the relevant District Councils (DCs) on the road sections concerned and the outcomes are set out below:

Relaxation of speed limit from 50 km/h to 70 km/h

- (i) Harcourt Road We consulted the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Central and Western DC in December 2003 and the proposal was supported. The transport trades did not have any objection to the proposal. The proposed relaxation was implemented in late April 2004.
- (ii) Tsing Tsuen Road The transport trades did not have any objection to the proposed relaxation. However, the Traffic and Transport Committee of Tsuen Wan DC has expressed concern over the noise nuisance that might be caused to the nearby residents and would further consider the proposal upon receipt of information provided by TD on the noise impact.

Reduction of speed limit from 70 km/h to 50 km/h

- (iii) Wan Po Road We consulted the Traffic and Transport Committee of Sai Kung DC in March 2004 on the proposed reduction of speed limit on Wan Po Road (between Pung Loi Road and Pung Loi Avenue) from 70 km/h to 50 km/h. Members were supportive of the proposed reduction. We also consulted the transport trade associations in April 2004 and the majority of them had no objection to the proposal.
- (iv) Fan Kam Road Four transport trade associations objected to the proposed reduction in speed limit. However, the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Yuen Long DC supported the proposed reduction.
- (v) Kam Tin Road Five transport trade associations objected to the proposed reduction in speed limit. However, the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Yuen Long DC supported the proposal.
- (vi) Castle Peak Road Four transport trade associations raised objection.
 The Traffic and Transport Committee of the Tuen Mun DC considered

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that the speed limit should be maintained at 70 km/h to meet the traffic needs.

Other road sections

(vii) Yuen Long Highway – The current speed limit is 80 km/h and is in line with the views of Panel Members and the transport trade.

(viii) Western Harbour Crossing (WHC) – As requested by Panel Members, we will include the northbound section of the WHC (between the toll plaza and West Kowloon Highway) in the next speed limit review exercise.

We will continue to consult the transport trade associations on the proposals recommended by the Working Group. We will also consult the local communities on any proposed changes in speed limits through the Traffic and Transport Committees of the District Councils concerned.

We will proceed to implement the new speed limits at the road sections agreed by the relevant DCs and transport trade associations. Additional warning signs and road markings will be made available at appropriate locations to provide motorists with sufficient advance warning about the changes in travelling speeds. We will also closely monitor the safety conditions at these road sections and make further improvements when required.

In addition, the percentage change in accident rate is one of the criteria adopted for selecting road sections for the speed limit review. We will continue to pay due attention to the changes in accident rates and recommend appropriate speed limits to enhance road safety.

Yours faithfully,

(Ms Elizabeth Tai) for Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works