May 19, 2004   Our Ref.: PFB/21709/04

The Honorable Lau Kong Wah
Chairman of the Transport Panel of the
Legislative Council
Email: aau@legco.gov.hk

cc Mr. John Bowden
Email: jbowden@pacific.net.hk

Dear Honorable Lau Kong Wah,

On behalf of Save Our Shorelines (SOS), we understand that there will be meeting of the Transport Panel on the 28th May at 10 a.m. to consider the issue of Route 7 and the Island Line proposal by MTRC. We have made significant representations to the Town Planning Board and have had negotiations with Highways Department regarding the inadvisability of Route 7. We envisaged a shoreline pathway which will be open to the elderly, the young and tourists to and from Kennedy Town around to Cyberport and beyond. This will enhance the value of the coast, preserve a natural heritage that has yet to be explored and at the same time give tourists an opportunity of seeing the beauty of this side of Hong Kong.

This whole project will be aborted by Route 7 which we strongly oppose on the grounds of:

1.   Excessive cost compared with MTRC in terms of long term maintenance
2.   No proven data to show that the need for such road exists
3.   The heavy pollution which would affect various hospitals for the aged and the schools and playing fields within the vicinity
4.   The diminution of the property values for all of the estates along the coast

We regard the MTRC as being the most desirable option for the following grounds:

1.   It will cost less to Government
2.   The Island Line proposal will more than cater for the population requiring transportation
3.   This will take the load of the roads
4.   Pollution will be decreased
5.   Long term maintenance is paid for by the user

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We wish to present our case more fully and would appreciate a representative being present namely Mr. John Bowden, Chairman and myself as a Committee member.

Your early advice would be appreciated so that we can prepare the necessary documentation.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Barrett
Committee Member
Save Our Shorelines

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