

Legislative Council Panel on Transport

New Short-haul Cross-boundary Coach Services operating via Lok Ma Chau/Huanggang

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the details of the new short-haul cross-boundary coach services operating via the Lok Ma Chau and Huanggang Control Points.

Background

2. At the meeting of the Panel on Transport on 25 June 2004, the Chairman of the Panel enquired about the proposed measures to regulate the cross-boundary coach services operating via the Lok Ma Chau and Huanggang Control Points. We explained that for the purpose of better ensuring proper operation and order at both control points, we had decided with the Mainland authorities to allocate some new quotas and invite applications from the existing cross-boundary coach operators to operate six cross-boundary routes running between various districts in Hong Kong and the Huanggang Control Point. At the same time, enhanced enforcement actions would be taken against any unauthorised services. It was intended that the new short-haul routes would be introduced in July /August 2004. At the Chairman's request, we have undertaken to provide details of the new short-haul routes for Members' information after the meeting.

Details of the six new short-haul cross-boundary coach routes

3. The six new short-haul routes will commence operation from 12:00 noon on 16 August 2004. They will have fixed stopping points, routings and service schedules. Coaches running on these routes will have specific markings and clear destination signs for easy identification.

Except the Kam Tin route whose operating hours would tie in with those of the West Rail, these routes would operate 24 hours daily. The fares range from \$20 to \$50. Specific pick-up/drop-off bays would be provided for these six routes at the Lok Ma Chau and Huanggang Control Points. Passengers are required to purchase tickets at designated ticket-selling points before boarding and no cash or Octopus payment is allowed on board the coaches.

4. The terminating points and service frequencies of the six short-haul routes are as follows:

Name of Route	Terminating points in Hong Kong/ En route stop (if any)	Frequency (minutes)
Mongkok	Arran Street (outside Golden Plaza)	10-30
Yau Tsim	Austin Road Cross-boundary Coach Terminus / Waterloo Road (outside YMCA)	10-40
Kwun Tong	Lam Tin MTR Station Public Transport Interchange (PTI) / Yue Man Square	10-40
Wan Chai	Lockhart Road (near Exit A1 of the Wan Chai MTR Station)	10-60
Tsuen Wan	Discovery Park PTI / Sai Lau Kok Road	10-60
Kam Tin	Kam Sheung Road West Rail Station PTI	20-60

5. We will arrange proper publicity on the new services and a media briefing will be held on 14 August 2004. Cross-boundary travellers are advised to pay attention to the service details and the ticketing arrangements of the new routes and to plan their journeys in advance.

6. The introduction of the new measures would improve the operation of the control points and cross-boundary traffic, and the efficiency of cross-boundary coach operation. Cross-boundary travellers would benefit from having properly regulated fixed-scheduled coach services and orderly passage through the control points on both sides of the boundary. We will work closely with the Mainland

authorities to continue to regularly review the operation of cross-boundary coach services, to ensure the smooth and safe operation of the control points and to suitably meet the needs of cross-boundary travellers.

Advice sought

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

**Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
August 2004**