

Panel on Transport

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 6 October 2003)

Proposed timing for discussion

1. Development of a cross-boundary ferry terminal in Tuen Mun

At the meeting held on 26 April 2002, members agreed to keep the matter under review.

To be confirmed

The Administration advises vide LC No. CB(1)1868/02-03(01) that two tenders for the occupation, modification and use of part of the Tuen Mun Pier as a new Cross Boundary Ferry Terminal were received by the close of the tender period on 18 July 2003. The tenders are being evaluated by the Tender Assessment Panel which will make a recommendation to the Central Tender Board for consideration. The plan is to sign a tenancy agreement with the successful tenderer before end 2003. Assuming that all preparatory work and the actual pier modification works can be completed smoothly, the Tuen Mun Ferry Pier will be ready for the operation of cross-boundary ferry services in mid-2005.

2. Western Coast Road (WCR)

Proposed by Mr Andrew WONG at the meeting on 26 April 2002.

To be confirmed

At its meetings with Legislative Council Members, Sai Kung District Council has repeatedly called for WCR's early implementation to improve external connection for Tseung Kwan O and Sai Kung areas (LC Paper Nos. CB(1)1604/01-02(01) and CB(1)1121/02-03).

**Proposed timing for
discussion**

3. Fares of Lantau franchised bus services

Proposed by Mr Albert CHAN at the meeting on 28 June 2002. Mr CHAN was concerned about the high holiday fares of the New Lantau Bus Company (1973) Limited. An information paper provided by the New Lantau Bus Company (1973) Limited on "Fuller disclosure of financial and operational information" was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1884/02-03(01).

To be confirmed

In discussing the item "Public Transport Fares" on 1 August 2003, the Panel noted that the Company would provide special elderly concessions on its 11 local routes during weekdays starting from late August 2003.

4. MTRCL/KCRC merger

At the meeting held on 25 October 2002, members noted that a study was being undertaken by the Administration on the pros and cons of merging MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) and Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation. The Administration undertakes that it will arrange to brief members as soon as the study is completed.

To be confirmed

5. Fare adjustment mechanism

At the meeting held on 1 August 2003, the Administration briefed members on its proposal to adopt a price-cap model with a specified fare adjustment formula for consideration of future railway and bus fare adjustments. The Panel considered that the Administration would need to refine the price-cap formula taking into account the views and suggestions made by members at the meeting.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing for
discussion**

6. Transport and traffic arrangements at boundary crossings

When discussing the transport arrangements associated with the introduction of 24-hour passenger crossing at Lok Ma Chau Control Point (LMCCP) at the joint meetings with the Security Panel on 6 and 14 January 2003, members generally took the view that as a matter of policy, the Administration should make provision for 24-hour public transport services at all existing and future boundary control points to ensure choice and convenience for the passengers. A report on the result of the Administration's review of the trial schemes was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)2216/02-03(01). The Administration advised that the trial schemes would be continued and the Administration would review the schemes in end February 2004.

To be confirmed

7. Route 7 and South Hong Kong Island Line (SIL)

At the meeting held on 28 February 2003, the Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on the way forward for Route 7 and SIL before a final decision was made.

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The Administration subsequently advises that MTRCL has commenced a further study on SIL and will be able to brief the Panel in September 2003 on the interim findings of the study.

8. Review on fare scales of franchised bus companies

Proposed by Mr LAU Kong-wah at the meeting on 21 March 2003.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing for
discussion**

9. Provision and operation of tunnels and tollways - Mainland and overseas experience

When the item was discussed at the meeting on 25 April 2003, members noted the findings of the Administration's consultancy study on Mainland and overseas experience in the provision and operation of tunnels and tollways. Members however expressed concern about the absence of any concrete proposal to improve the uneven distribution of traffic among the three road harbour crossings. To this end, the Administration should re-open discussions with the two "Build-Operate-Transfer" harbour crossing companies and revert to the Panel in June 2003. The Administration subsequently advises that it will revert to the Panel before the end of 2003.

To be confirmed

When the item on "Eastern Harbour Crossing toll increase" was discussed at the meeting on 27 June 2003, some members suggested that the Administration should review whether it was necessary to introduce legislative amendments to ensure a reasonable level of tolls to help optimize the utilization of tunnels and tollways in Hong Kong.

10. Policy on non-franchised bus services

When the item was discussed at the meeting on 23 May 2003, members requested the Administration to review the assessment criteria for vetting new and renewal applications for non-franchised bus services, in particular Employee Service and contract hire service, and to revert to the Panel in October 2003.

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**Proposed timing for
discussion**

11. Measures to curb taxi touting activities

When the New Territories temporary taxi fare concession was discussed at the meetings of the Subcommittee on Road Traffic (Temporary Reduction of New Territories Taxi Fares) Regulation 2003 and Road Traffic (Temporary Reduction of New Territories Taxi Fares) (No. 2) Regulation 2003, members called on the Administration to review its policy against illegal taxi touting activities which had seriously affected the interest of the law-abiding taxi operators. On the one hand, the offer of fare discount by drivers was prohibited by law while the bargaining of taxi fare by passengers was allowed.

To be confirmed

Members requested the Administration to consider introducing legislative amendments to address this anomaly and to issue clear guidelines to taxi operators on whether and in what circumstances would the distribution of name cards to passengers be allowed. The Administration should also consider further measures to improve the business opportunities of the taxi trade such as allowing them to operate to boundary control points. The Administration agreed to review the situation and revert to the Panel in due course.

12. Design standard of crash barriers along Tuen Mun Road and other elevated roads in the territory

In discussing the matter on 17 July 2003, members agreed that the Panel would follow up on the matter when the Administration reported back on the findings of its overall review on the performance of bridge parapets at all elevated roads in the territory. The Administration advised that the review was expected to be completed in one to two months' time.

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13. Interchange discount between West Rail (WR) and MTR

In discussing the item "West Rail Fare" on 1 August 2003, the Panel agreed to follow up on the progress of discussion between the two railway corporations on the offer of WR/MTR interchange discounts.

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing for
discussion**

14. Northwest New Territories (NWNT) Transport Review

In discussing the Administration's long-term strategy for the development of highway infrastructure in NWNT and North Lantau region (the Strategy) at the meeting on 29 September 2003, members generally saw the need for the Administration to make timely provision for necessary transport infrastructure in NWNT to meet increasing demand from both cross boundary activities and local development. As such, the Administration was requested to revert to the Panel on its progress in taking forward the Strategy before the end of 2003-04 legislative session. Subject to the implementation of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, members agreed that the Panel would follow up on the matter by way of half-yearly progress updates from the Administration.

To be confirmed

15. Supporting infrastructure of Shenzhen Western Corridor (SWC)/Deep Bay Link (DBL)

Addressing members' concern raised at the meeting on 29 September 2003 about worsening congestion at Tuen Mun Road upon the commissioning of SWC/DBL in 2005, the Administration advised that it would revert to the Panel on its negotiation with Route 3 (CPS) Company for toll concessions to attract motorists to use Route 3 before year end. A decision would then be made on the provision of an Easterly Link Road as an additional access road for SWC/DBL to facilitate traffic diversion to Route 3.

To be confirmed