

Panel on Transport

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 22 November 2004)

Proposed timing for discussion

1. Regulatory framework and licensing system for non-franchised bus operation

17 December 2004

Last discussed at the Panel meeting on 19 July 2004.

The Panel noted the results of the review on the regulatory framework and licensing system for non-franchised bus (NFB) operation conducted by a working group of the Transport Advisory Committee, and the concern expressed by the NFB trade that the working group's recommendations might unduly restrict their scope of operation and take away the current flexibility of NFB operation.

The Panel asked the Administration to consult the NFB trade and revert to the Panel before implementing the new measures proposed by the working group.

At the meeting between Legislative Council Members and Sham Shui Po District Council (SSPDC) members on 10 June 2004, SSPDC members expressed views on the issue and considered that the Administration should consult District Councils on matters relating to residents' coach services.

2. Measures to enhance road safety

26 November 2004
and

17 December 2004

The Panel will discuss road safety issues relating to public light bus operations on 26 November 2004.

At the Panel meeting on 29 October 2004, Mr LEE Wing-tat suggested and members agreed that a separate discussion session should be arranged to discuss road safety issues from a broader perspective. Mr LEE suggested that the Administration should be asked to provide information on traffic incidents involving inappropriate driving behaviour of drivers and improvement measures to improve driving behaviour and foster a considerate and responsible driving culture. There was also a need to review road safety related legislation and enforcement measures to identify areas for further improvement.

Proposed timing for discussion

3. Tuen Mun Road reconstruction and improvement

28 January 2005

The item was last discussed at the Panel meeting on 23 April 2004. The Finance Committee approved funding for the detailed design and site investigation works of the project on 11 June 2004.

In response to the Panel's request, the Administration agreed to review the feasibility and practicability of widening the whole Tuen Mun Road to dual 4-lane during the detailed design of the project.

According to the Administration's recent advice, the review on the feasibility of the dual-4 lane option is likely to be completed by end-2004.

4. West Hong Kong Island Line, South Hong Kong Island Line and Route 4

28 January 2005

Last discussed at the Panel meeting on 28 May 2004.

Some members considered that the implementation of South Hong Kong Island Line (SIL) and West Hong Kong Island Line (WIL) should proceed without further delay so as to address the transport needs of local residents and facilitate tourism development in the areas. Some other members however were of the view that the Administration should shelve any further development and planning for the SIL and WIL pending its review on the latest population growth in the southern and western districts, as well as its land-use planning for the districts. In the meantime, the Administration should expedite its study and decision process for the implementation of Route 4 so as to cope with the transport needs of the local residents. On 28 May 2004, the following motion was passed by the Panel:

"本事務委員會促請政府暫時擱置港島南、西鐵路的發展規劃，並重新評估港島南、西區的人口增長，以及發展南區成為旅遊／商業中心的計劃，在此期間則盡快研究並落實興建四號幹線(前稱七號幹線)，以應付該等地區居民的交通需求。"

**Proposed timing for
discussion**

5. Proposed registration scheme for the vehicle maintenance trade

25 February 2005

The item was discussed at the Panel meeting on 30 January 2004.

In view of the concerns and views expressed by members, the Administration undertook to refine the proposal and further consult the trade.

According to the Administration's recent advice, consultation with the trade would be completed by end-2004. The Administration should be able to revert to the Panel in February 2005 after analyzing the outcome of the consultation.

6. Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the Northwest New Territories Traffic and Infrastructure Review

18 March 2005

Last discussed at the Panel meeting on 25 June 2004.

The Panel noted that the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Advance Work Co-ordination Group had commissioned the China Highway Planning and Design Institute to conduct a feasibility study for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB). The study was scheduled for completion by end 2004. On completion, the study report would be submitted to the National Development and Reform Commission for approval to create a project item for the Bridge. The Administration had also commissioned an investigation and preliminary design study on the Hong Kong Section of HZMB and Connection with North Lantau Highway. The study was scheduled for completion by end 2004.

In examining the proposed HZMB project, the Panel called on the Administration to make early planning for the provision of local connecting infrastructure in addition to the proposed North Lantau Highway Connection to meet the additional traffic generated by the Bridge.

The Panel was also concerned about the traffic impact on Tuen Mun and Yuen Long upon the commissioning of the Hong Kong Shenzhen Western Corridor and Deep Bay Link. The Panel urged the Administration to expedite the decision process and come up with a definite programme for the four proposed highway development packages as set out in the Northwest

Proposed timing for discussion

New Territories Traffic and Infrastructure Review (LC Paper No. CB(1)2291/02-03(04)). The Panel was also concerned about the outcome of the Administration's negotiation with Route 3 Company on measures to divert traffic from Tuen Mun Road to Route 3, as well as the construction of an easterly link road to promote the diversion of traffic to Route 3.

7. Western Coast Road, Tseung Kwan O

April – June 2005

The item was referred to the Panel for follow up by Members attending the meeting-cum-luncheon with Sai Kung District Council (SKDC) members on 1 April 2004.

The planning of Western Coast Road has been included in the Feasibility Study for Further Development of Tseung Kwan O conducted by the Territory Development Department (TDD). Taking into account the development details of various projects under the study, TDD is conducting a detailed traffic impact assessment and would draw up an implementation programme for WCR. Results of the study will be available by March 2005. The Administration has undertaken to brief the Panel on the project during the 2004-05 legislative session.

8. Progress update on the Intelligent Transport Systems

April – June 2005

The item was last discussed at the Panel meeting on 21 March 2003.

At the Panel meeting, members noted the progress of the development and implementation of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) in Hong Kong since May 2002. Apart from the progress of the various core projects undertaken by the Administration, members would like to know the prospect of value-added ITS services with the participation of the private sector, and the Administration's past and future work in facilitating such development.

9. Possible Merger of MTR Corporation Limited and Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation

To be confirmed

Last discussed at the Panel meeting on 27 February 2004, following the announcement by the Administration on 24 February 2004 that that the two railway corporations would be

invited to commence negotiations on a possible merger.

A joint report was submitted to the Government on 16 September 2004 by the two railway corporations regarding the possible merger of the two corporations. The Government is studying the report carefully and further discussions between the Government and the two corporations on the details are required before the Government would be able to take a view on the way forward.

10. Fare adjustment mechanism

To be confirmed

- Fares of Lantau franchised bus services
- Review on fare scales of franchised bus companies

Last discussed at the meeting on 1 August 2003. The Administration is developing the details of the proposed fare adjustment mechanism and will revert to members in due course.

At the Panel's Policy Briefing held on 14 January 2004, the Administration advised that it would continue with the study on introduction of a more objective and transparent fare adjustment mechanism. Discussion would be held with the Panel after the findings had been compiled.

In this connection, the Administration suggests that the two outstanding items in relation to fares of Lantau franchised bus services and Review on fare scales of franchised bus companies be discussed together.

At the meeting on 28 November 2003, members agreed that the Panel would keep in view the Administration's progress in following up on the motion "Improving public transport fare system" passed by the Council on 12 November 2003, in particular regarding the ways to improve the existing fare structures of franchised bus operators, including the setting of full and sectional fares of each bus route according to the distance of the journey.

**Proposed timing for
discussion**

**11. Public transport facilities and arrangements at cross
boundary control points**

To be confirmed

The item was last discussed at the Panel meeting on 25 June 2004.

Members would like to follow up on measures to permit different modes of public transport to operate to various cross boundary control points.

12. Loading/unloading and parking facilities for coaches

To be confirmed

At the Panel meeting on 29 October 2004, Mrs Selina CHOW suggested and members agreed that the Panel should review with the Administration the demand and supply of loading/unloading and parking facilities for coaches. She in particular highlighted the lack of coach loading/unloading facilities at some popular sightseeing spots at present and the need to plan for additional facilities to meet future demand.