

**Legislative Council Panel on Transport
Meeting on 26 November 2004**

**Motions on West Rail's second 10% discount and other fare
concessions**

Purpose

At the Legislative Council Panel on Transport meeting on 26 November 2004, Members passed two motions relating to the second 10% discount and other fare concessions of West Rail. This paper reports the response of the Administration and Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) after careful consideration of the motions.

Background

2. The following two motions (English translation) were passed at the Legislative Council Panel on Transport meeting on 26 November 2004:-

“To relieve the burden of the general public and to boost the patronage of West Rail, the Panel urges the Government to request KCRC to continue to (a) offer a second 10% fare discount to passengers travelling between North West New Territories and urban Kowloon; (b) offer the West Rail’s One Month Pass to all passengers at a cost of \$300; and (c) discuss with MTR Corporation Limited the continuation of the provision of interchange discount between MTR and West Rail. KCRC should make these concessionary schemes permanent pending a review to be conducted after the commissioning of the Kowloon Southern Link.”; and

“The Panel objects to KCRC’s decision to cancel the West Rail’s second 10% discount and urges that the discount should be continued.”

Response from the Administration and KCRC

3. Under the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation Ordinance, KCRC shall operate under prudent commercial principles and has the power to determine its service charges including railway fares. The Government has all along conveyed the concerns relating to KCRC's fares by Legislative Council Members and the general public to the Corporation for its consideration.

4. KCRC indicated that it would continue to review the effectiveness of its concessionary schemes before deciding on whether to make them permanent. In this connection, after considering all the relevant factors, the Corporation decided that the additional 10% discount to West Rail passengers travelling between the North West New Territories and urban Kowloon would expire on 19 December this year.

5. On the other hand, KCRC announced the extension of the expiry date of West Rail One-Month Pass offer in December 2004 for six months to June 2005. While the Corporation considers the current monthly pass at a price of \$400 very competitive, it has decided to offer a special price of \$300 to passengers who travelled by monthly passes from September through December 2004. This arrangement will not apply to all passengers.

6. KCRC and MTR Corporation Limited are also reviewing the effectiveness of the present interchange discount between West Rail and MTR with a view to deciding whether the discount would be extended upon its expiry on 1 January 2005. The Administration has asked the two railway corporations to favourably consider the extension of the interchange discount.

7. The Government has at the same time asked KCRC to closely monitor any change in West Rail patronage and encouraged the Corporation to consider introducing other concessionary schemes if necessary.