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16 May 2006

Ms Rosalind Ma
Clerk to Establishment Subcommittee
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
Hong Kong

(Fax No.: 2869 6794)

Dear Ms Ma,

**Provision of Real-time Traffic Information
to Mobile Network Operators**

With reference to the question raised by Hon. Sin Chung-kai at the meeting of the Establishment Subcommittee of Finance Committee on 3 May 2006 on the provision of real-time traffic information to mobile network operators, our reply is as follows.

Our objective is to disseminate timely traffic information effectively and widely through different channels, so that road users can make informed choices of routes and transport modes. This will help reduce delays and alleviate traffic congestion. Whether we will charge private corporations that serve as dissemination channels for the traffic information depends on a number of factors, including whether we will incur additional costs in providing the information, and whether the corporations will repackaging the information for commercial purposes, or impose charges on the public and generate additional revenue, etc.

In order to reach a consensus with the network operators on the charging proposal as soon as possible, we are discussing with the policy bureaux and departments concerned a charging proposal that would likely be mutually acceptable to the Government and the operators. Since the operational and charging modes adopted by the trade are fairly complex, we need more time for detailed deliberation. We will shortly discuss with the trade the detailed arrangements. Any comments from the trade are welcome.

Yours sincerely,

(K.M. Tsang)
for Commissioner for Transport

c.c. Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works
(Attn: Ms Elizabeth Tai)