

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)358/05-06

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Paper for the House Committee meeting on 25 November 2005

**Proposed visit to Pearl River Delta by the
Panel on Transport**

Purpose

This paper seeks the permission of the House Committee under rule 22(u) of the House Rules for the Panel on Transport (the Panel) to undertake a duty visit to Pearl River Delta (PRD) on 5 and 6 December 2005 to observe the latest developments in cross-boundary transport infrastructure and exchange views with the Mainland authorities on traffic and transport matters of mutual concern.

Background

2. In the light of a closer tie between Hong Kong and the Mainland both economically and socially, the Panel sees the merits of enhancing co-operation and exchanges with the Mainland so as to foster regional co-operation to promote the flow of people and goods. As Hong Kong and the Mainland are pushing forward a number of major cross-boundary infrastructural projects such as Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge, and Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link to enhance the ties between the two sides, the Panel considers it timely to undertake a visit to PRD to observe the latest developments in cross-boundary transport infrastructure. The Panel also seeks to take the opportunity to discuss with the Mainland authorities measures to further promote the flow of people and goods within PRD for the benefits of the general public.

3. Against this background and subsequent to the visit to PRD led by the Chief Executive in September 2005, the Panel decided in October 2005 to undertake a duty visit to PRD. Since then, the Secretariat is liaising with the Mainland authorities on the proposed duty visit to PRD.

The proposed visit

4. In November 2005, the Financial and Economic Committee of the Guangdong Provincial People's Congress has extended an invitation to all 17 members of the Panel to visit PRD on 5 and 6 December 2005 to observe the latest developments in cross-boundary transport infrastructure and exchange views on traffic and transport matters of mutual concern. The Secretariat is liaising with the relevant Mainland authorities on the detailed arrangements for the visit.

5. Out of the 17 members of the Panel, eight have indicated that they would join the two-day visit to PRD. The list of participating members is in **Appendix I**.

Funding arrangements

6. As approved by The Legislative Council Commission, each Member (except the President) is provided with an overseas duty visit account of \$55,000 for the 2004-2008 term, for the purpose of duty visits outside Hong Kong organized by committees (other than the Parliamentary Liaison Subcommittee) of the Council. Any expenditure incurred in the 2004-2008 term in excess of \$55,000 has to be paid by the Member personally.

7. A tentative estimate of the expenditure for the two-day visit is about \$2,300 per person, as given in **Appendix II**.

Advice sought

8. The House Committee's permission is sought for the Panel to undertake the duty visit to PRD as proposed.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
24 November 2005

Panel on Transport

**List of members who have indicated interest in taking part
in the visit to Pearl River Delta on 5 and 6 December 2005**

(Position as at 23 November 2005)

Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP (Chairman)
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo (Deputy Chairman)
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP

Total: 8 members

Panel on Transport

**Estimated budget for the duty visit to Pearl River Delta
on 5 and 6 December 2005**

Estimated budget

| Items | Estimated expenses HK\$ (per person) |
|--|---|
| 1. Hired coach | 450 |
| 2. Hotel accommodation (1 night) | 700 |
| 3. Subsistence allowance (1 night) plus actual expenditure on the day of departure | 1,000 |
| 4. Travel insurance | 130 |
| Total | 2,280 |

NOTE:

Other expenditure including hospitality, souvenirs, local group transportation and transportation for the media and other sundry expenses will be charged against other votes of the Secretariat.