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**Subcommittee to Study the Transport Needs of and Provision of  
Concessionary Public Transport Fares for Persons with Disabilities**

**Proposed Work Plan**

**Purpose**

Pursuant to members' decision at the House Committee meeting on 2 March 2007, this paper seeks members' endorsement of the work plan for the Subcommittee to Study the Transport Needs of and Provision of Concessionary Public Transport Fares for Persons with Disabilities (the Subcommittee) and the proposed time frame for completion of work.

**Terms of Reference of the Subcommittee**

2. At its meeting on 18 November 2005, the House Committee agreed to set up the Subcommittee. The terms of reference of the Subcommittee are given in **Appendix I**.

**Work progress of the Subcommittee**

3. Since its establishment in December 2005, the Subcommittee has held eight meetings and focused its deliberations on issues related to the provision of concessionary public transport fares (CPTFs) for persons with disabilities (PwDs). The Subcommittee has met with PwD groups to understand their aspirations in this area, and met with the Administration as well as public transport operators (PTOs) urging them to explore feasible CPTF schemes for PwDs. Input from the Equal Opportunities Commission was also sought in identifying various possible CPTF schemes having regard to the Disability Discrimination Ordinance (DDO) (Cap. 487).

4. While the Subcommittee is of the view that CPTFs should aim at covering all PwD groups as far as practicable, it has agreed with the disabled community on the approach of offering CPTFs to recipients of Disability Allowance or Comprehensive Social Security Assistance with 100% loss of

earning capacity in the first instance. The Administration has also agreed to amend DDO to put it beyond doubt that selective provision of CPTFs to certain groups of PwDs would not constitute a contravention of DDO. The related work is in progress.

5. With a view to gaining a better understanding of the general travelling behaviour of PwDs and the financial implications of possible CPTF schemes for the above two groups of PwDs on PTOs, the Administration commissioned the Social Sciences Research Centre of the University of Hong Kong to conduct a consultancy study (the Study) in September and October 2006 on the travelling characteristics of these PwDs. The findings of the Study indicate provision of CPTFs to these PwDs would bring additional revenue to PTOs. The Subcommittee examined the findings of the Study, and met with PTOs and PwD groups to follow up the matter at meetings in January and February 2007. In the light of the findings, the Subcommittee has strongly urged PTOs and the Administration to provide CPTFs to PwDs under the principle of shared responsibility and called on the two parties to implement a trial CPTF scheme with reference to the Study to assess viability of CPTF schemes.

### **The Subcommittee's work plan**

6. The Subcommittee plans to focus its works on the following areas in the coming months:

#### Provision of concessionary public transport fares for persons with disabilities

7. The Subcommittee will continue to pursue with the Administration and PTOs in exploring feasible options for providing CPTFs to PwDs. The Subcommittee will meet with the Administration at the next meeting on 12 April 2007 to discuss the way forward on this subject.

#### Transport needs of persons with disabilities

8. The Subcommittee will commence work in studying the transport needs of PwDs. The major aspects are as follows:

##### *(a) New transportation services to PwDs*

The Subcommittee will explore new mode of transport services to facilitate PwDs, such as wheelchair accessible taxis. In this connection, the Research and Library Services Division of the Legislative Council Secretariat will conduct studies on wheelchair accessible taxi services in selected overseas places.

*(b) Improvement of existing transportation services to PwDs provided by the Administration and voluntary agencies*

The Subcommittee will explore ways to enhance the existing transportation services to PwDs run by the Administration and voluntary agencies.

**Proposed time frame for completion of work**

9. In view that discussion with the Administration and PTOs is still underway in the hope of achieving the provision of CPTFs for PwDs and the Subcommittee has yet to commence deliberation on the subject of transport needs of PwDs, it is envisaged that the Subcommittee will continue with its work for another ten months. The Subcommittee aims to report to the House Committee in the first quarter of 2008.

**Advice sought**

10. Members are invited to consider the Subcommittee's work plan and proposed time frame for completion of work as set out above.

11. Subject to members' endorsement, the Subcommittee will provide its work plan and the proposed time frame for completion of work to the House Committee for information.

**Subcommittee to Study the Transport Needs of and Provision of  
Concessionary Public Transport Fares for Persons with Disabilities**

**Terms of Reference**

- (a) To study the transport needs of persons with disabilities (PwDs) and explore feasible options to meet such needs; and
- (b) To explore feasible options to provide concessionary public transport fares for PwDs.