

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

**Information Paper for Meeting on 22 May 2008**

**Purpose**

The Subcommittee passed a motion at the meeting on 11 March 2008 requesting the Government to discuss with MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) on provision of half fare concession for persons with disabilities (PwDs). This paper aims at reporting the latest position of the relevant matter.

**Provision of transport supplement to PwDs**

2. Labour and Welfare Bureau (LWB) explained in its paper submitted to the Subcommittee in March 2008 that a transport supplement will be provided by Government from the welfare policy portfolio to recipients under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme aged between 12 and 64 with 100% disability and recipients of Disability Allowance in the same age group. Each recipient will receive \$200 monthly as transport supplement. This is also the most flexible arrangement and can benefit PwDs the soonest possible.

**Follow up with MTRCL on provision of half fare concession for PwDs**

3. While welcoming the Government's proposal to provide the transport supplement funded from the welfare programme, the Subcommittee was of the view that the Government should continue to discuss with public transport operators who, in their view, should provide half fare concession for PwDs in the spirit of corporate social responsibility. In this respect, the Government has all along reflected public views to MTRCL and actively encouraged the Corporation to provide fare concession to the public, including PwDs. In the light of the motion passed at the Subcommittee meeting held in March, we have urged MTRCL again to consider Members' suggestion that fare concession should be provided to PwDs. MTRCL's response is set out in its paper submitted to the Subcommittee.

4. Regarding the use of public transport system by PwDs, apart from LWB's provision of transport supplement as mentioned in paragraph 2 above, the Government's objective under the transport policy portfolio is to create a barrier free transport environment. To this end, we have been encouraging public transport operators to improve the accessibility of public transport facilities. MTRCL has spent over \$600 million on station improvement works in the past 10 years and has committed another \$200 million in the coming five years to further enhance barrier free transport. Moreover, all new railway projects have taken into account the transport needs of PwDs at design stage to ensure that there are facilities in railway stations and trains for PwDs to use railway services conveniently. The Government would also continue to encourage the Corporation to take into account various factors including its operational situation, market circumstances and passenger needs etc in considering, from time to time, the need to provide various promotional offers to the public and PwDs. In this regard, the Government will maintain its close liaison with MTRCL so that the Corporation will understand Members' sentiments for fare concession and take this into account when considering this matter.

**Transport and Housing Bureau  
May 2008**