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運輸及房屋局
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5 June 2008

Clerk to Subcommittee
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Building
8 Jackson Road
Central
(Attn: Ms Sarah Yuen)
[Fax: 2869 6794]

Dear Ms Yuen,

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

**Meeting on 22 May 2008
Follow up Matters**

I refer to your letter of 28 May 2008 and attach the
Administration's response at **Annex 1** and MTR Corporation Limited's
response at **Annex 2**.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs Hedy Chu)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.

LWB

(Attn : Mr Stephen Sui)

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MTRCL

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

**Meeting of the Subcommittee on 22 May 2008
Matters to be followed up by Government**

At the meeting of the Subcommittee on 22 May 2008, Members asked about the discussions of the Board of the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) relating to the provision of half fare concession for persons with disabilities (PwDs). Our response is set out as follows.

2. MTRCL sets the agenda for Board meetings in accordance with established mechanism and procedures. The management of the Corporation keeps a close watch over issues of public concern on railway services, including the transport needs for PwDs, and has the responsibility to report to the Board on these issues regardless of whether they are included in the agenda. Furthermore, MTRCL's representatives will attend relevant meetings of the Legislative Council to listen to Members' views and answer their enquiries, and will reflect such views to the Board so that the Board can fully understand the latest situation and development. Since the agenda and discussions at the Board meetings are confidential, we cannot disclose the details relating to the Board on the issue of fare concession for PwDs.

3. Government representatives serving on the Board will act in good faith in fulfilling their duties as directors, and will also reflect public views and sentiments to the Board based on Government's understanding

of public interests and expectations. Government has been maintaining close liaison with MTRCL and encouraging the Corporation to provide fare concession to the public, including PwDs, for the Corporation to strike a reasonable balance between prudent commercial principles and public interests.

Transport and Housing Bureau

June 2008

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

Meeting of the Subcommittee on 22 May 2008 Matters to be followed up by MTR Corporation Limited

At the meeting of the Subcommittee on 22 May 2008, Members passed a motion requesting MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) to conduct a trial of providing half fare concession for persons with disabilities (PwDs) during off-peak hours. This paper sets out the responses to the motion and Members' enquiries made at the meeting.

2. In the past 5 years, the daily average number of passengers using student fare concession and elderly fare concession for MTR rides has increased from 200,000 and 90,000 respectively in 2003 to 230,000 and 110,000 in 2007.

3. As the concessionary fare was approximately half of the adult fare, the revenue foregone of providing fare concessions would be approximately half of the fare receivable. Based on the average Octopus fare per passenger trip, the estimated fare foregone of providing student fare concession and elderly fare concession has increased from \$270 million and \$120 million respectively in 2003 to \$310 million and \$150 million in 2007.

4. In response to Members' motion urging for fare concession for PwDs, the Corporation would like to reiterate that the provision of fare concession to PwDs falls under the social welfare portfolio. In most overseas cities, such fare concession is granted by government.

5. The Corporation understands the transport needs of PwDs. As a public transport operator, the Corporation is dedicated to providing facilities to cater for the transport needs of PwDs. For new railway projects, relevant designs have been incorporated to provide a convenient travelling environment so as to facilitate their social integration. Moreover, the Corporation has continuously devoted much resources to improve the facilities of railways and trains. In the last 10 years, the Corporation has spent \$635 million in this regard and a further \$200 million has been committed for the next 5 years for such purpose.

MTR Corporation
June 2008