

Panel on Transport

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 19 June 2006)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Alignment for North Lantau Highway Connection and update on Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macao Bridge

2nd/3rd Quarter 2006

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the outcome of the second round consultation on the North Lantau Highway Connection alignment options which is now in progress, and the progress update of the planning and implementation of Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macao Bridge including the construction cost, financial arrangements, toll determination mechanism and traffic flow projections etc.

2. Legislative amendments relating to lighting, reflectors and markings of vehicles

2nd/3rd Quarter 2006

The Administration expects that the draft legislation will be ready by 3rd Quarter 2006. It will consult the Panel before the legislation is tabled at LegCo for negative vetting.

3. Road P1 advance works at Sunny Bay

To be confirmed

The Administration intends to consult the Panel before putting the funding proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee for consideration.

4. Reconstruction and Improvement to Tuen Mun Road

To be confirmed

The Administration intends to take more time to discuss the way forward of the project with the Tuen Mun District Council, and will determine the exact timing for consulting the Panel in the light of the consultation process.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

5. Northwest New Territories Traffic and Infrastructure Review

The item was discussed on 22 April 2005. Members noted the merits of different packages of highway projects and urged the Administration for timely delivery of the highway projects.

Originally proposed for 28 July 2006 but deferred to 4th Quarter 2006 as suggested by the Administration

6. Employment arrangements for franchise bus drivers and safety of bus operation

This item is proposed by Mr WONG Kwok-hing. In recent years, with the Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited taking the lead, some franchised bus operators have changed the employment terms for their bus drivers to contract terms and in some cases, the contract period only lasts for one year. Further employment of bus drivers upon expiry of their employment contracts is subject to review, resulting in a lack of job security for bus drivers. Mr WONG is concerned that the new employment arrangements would pose immense psychological pressure on bus drivers, which in turn would directly affect the safety of franchised bus operation.

To be confirmed

7. Exemption from regulation 53(2) of the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) Regulations (Cap. 374 sub. leg. G) for vehicles used for canvassing activities

At the Subcommittee to Study Four Items of Subsidiary Legislation under the Road Traffic Ordinance, some members of the Subcommittee considered that the Administration should take a broader view and the proposed Amendment Regulations should aim at facilitating not only the float parades to be held at the Hong Kong Disneyland but also canvassing activities during elections. The Administration was of the view that the safety requirements for standing passengers on such vehicles went beyond the ambit of the then legislative amendments, but the Administration undertook to separately examine this proposal in detail.

To be confirmed

8. Review of legislation governing failure to comply with traffic signals

At the Subcommittee on Proposed Resolutions under the Road Traffic (Driving-offence Points) Ordinance (Cap. 375) and the

Outside 2005-06 legislative session

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

Fixed Penalty (Criminal Proceedings) Ordinance (Cap. 240), some members suggested and the Administration agreed to review the relevant legislation governing failure to comply with traffic signals after the new penalties had been effected. The Administration aims to complete the review by the end of 2006.

9. Measures to enhance safety of public light bus operations 23 June 2006

The item was discussed by the Panel on 19 December 2005. The Panel will revisit the subject in June 2006 and the Administration has been requested to speed up the related work, and reported to the Panel progress of the various initiatives to enhance safety of PLB operations.

10. Measures to rationalize utilization of Build-Operate-Transfer tunnels To be confirmed

The item was discussed by the Panel on 19 December 2005. The Panel urged the Administration to speed up the work to improve the distribution of traffic among the three road harbour crossings and enhance the utilization of Route 3, including the discussions with the operators of the Eastern Harbour Crossing, Western Harbour Crossing and Route 3.

11. Review of the roles and functions of taxis and van-type light goods vehicles in the public transport services sector October 2006

The item was discussed by the Panel on 24 March 2006. The Panel urged the Administration to examine and report back in October 2006 the need for and feasibility of amending the Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374) and its subsidiary legislation to better confine the operation of van-type light goods vehicles to carriage of goods for hire or reward.