

Panel on Transport

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 10 October 2005)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Progress update on the Intelligent Transport Systems

The item was last discussed at the Panel meeting on 21 March 2003.

An information paper on the subject was issued on 26 August 2005

At the Panel meeting, members noted the progress of the development and implementation of Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) in Hong Kong since May 2002. Apart from the progress of the various core projects undertaken by the Administration, members would like to know the prospect of value-added ITS services with the participation of the private sector, and the Administration's past and future work in facilitating such development.

2. Loading/unloading and parking facilities for coaches

At the Panel meeting on 29 October 2004, Mrs Selina CHOW suggested and members agreed that the Panel should review with the Administration the demand and supply of loading/unloading and parking facilities for coaches. She in particular highlighted the lack of coach loading/unloading facilities at some popular sightseeing spots at present and the need to plan for additional facilities to meet future demand. The Administration shall include the review in the "Report on Parking Demand and Supply and Progress of Improvement Measures" for submission to Panel in July 2005.

The Administration's paper is still awaited

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

3. Possible Merger of MTR Corporation Limited and Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation

To be confirmed

Last discussed at the Panel meeting on 27 February 2004, following the announcement by the Administration on 24 February 2004 that the two railway corporations would be invited to commence negotiations on a possible merger.

A joint report was submitted to the Government on 16 September 2004 by the two railway corporations regarding the possible merger of the two corporations. The Government is studying the report carefully and further discussions between the Government and the two corporations on the details are required before the Government would be able to take a view on the way forward.

4. Fare adjustment mechanism

To be confirmed

- Fares of Lantau franchised bus services
- Review on fare scales of franchised bus companies

Last discussed at the meeting on 1 August 2003. The Administration is developing the details of the proposed fare adjustment mechanism and will revert to members in due course.

At the Panel's Policy Briefing held on 14 January 2004, the Administration advised that it would continue with the study on introduction of a more objective and transparent fare adjustment mechanism. Discussion would be held with the Panel after the findings had been compiled.

In this connection, the Administration suggests that the two outstanding items in relation to fares of Lantau franchised bus services and Review on fare scales of franchised bus companies be discussed together.

At the meeting on 28 November 2003, members agreed that the Panel would keep in view the Administration's progress in following up on the motion "Improving public transport fare system" passed by the Council on 12 November 2003, in particular regarding the ways to improve the existing fare structures of franchised bus operators, including the setting of full and sectional fares of each bus route according to the distance of the journey.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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

To be confirmed

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.

It was agreed at the Panel meeting on 18 March 2005 that the Panel should discuss the issue with the Administration from the angle of ensuring the safety of franchised bus operation.

6. Measures to improve the distribution of traffic among the three road harbour crossings

To be confirmed

The subject was last discussed at the meeting on 22 April 2005. Members reiterated their concerns on the matter at the meeting on 27 May 2005. The Clerk has written to the Administration requesting it to speed up the related work and report to the Panel, at the earliest opportunity, on measures to improve the distribution of traffic among the three road harbour crossings and the outcome of the discussions with the two tunnel companies on the matter.

7. Concessionary public transport fares for people with disabilities

First regular meeting
of the 2005-06
legislation session

The subject was discussed at the meeting on 22 July 2005. Members agreed that the matter be further discussed at the first regular meeting of the Panel in the 2005-06 legislative session. To facilitate fruitful discussion, the Panel would invite the Secretary for the Environment, Transport and Works and Secretary for Health, Welfare and Food to attend the meeting.

The Panel passed the following motion at the meeting:

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

“This Panel demands that the Government put in place within this year the arrangements for offering concessionary public transport fares to persons with disabilities.”

8. Northwest New Territories Traffic and Infrastructure Review 2004

To be confirmed

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.

9. Private Driving Instructor’s Licences

First regular meeting
of the 2005-06
legislative session

The Administration provided an information paper (LC Paper No. CB(1)1829/04-05(01)) on the matter in June 2005. Noting that after a recent review, the Administration has arrived at the conclusion that it is not necessary to issue any new Private Driving Instructor’s Licence, Mr Albert CHAN considers that such a conclusion has important policy implications and therefore has suggested that the subject be discussed by the Panel. At the Panel meeting on 24 June 2005, members agreed to tentatively schedule the subject for discussion at the regular meeting in October 2005.

10. Review of the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) mode for delivery of transport infrastructure projects

To be confirmed

At the meeting on 24 June 2005, members agreed that the Administration should be asked to conduct a comprehensive review of the BOT mode for delivery of transport infrastructure projects in Hong Kong, and that the subject should be discussed upon the completion of a relevant research study undertaken by the Research and Library Services Division of the LegCo Secretariat.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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

To be confirmed

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.

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

To be confirmed

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

13. Impact of sustained high oil prices on public transport services and other related issues

To be confirmed

The item was last discussed on 16 September 2005. Members agreed to follow up on the related issues in the 2005-06 legislative session. Representatives from Environment, Transport and Works Bureau, Economic Development and Labour Bureau and Financial Services and the Treasury Bureau will be invited to the meeting.