

立法會
Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)111/06-07
(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB1/PL/TP/1

Panel on Transport

**Minutes of meeting held on
Thursday, 12 October 2006, at 5:00 pm
in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building**

- Members present** : Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo (Chairman)
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP (Deputy Chairman)
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, SBS, S.B.St.J., JP
Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP
Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-yee, GBS, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP
- Members absent** : Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
Hon Ronny TONG Ka-wah, SC
- Clerk in attendance** : Mr Andy LAU
Chief Council Secretary (1)2
- Staff in attendance** : Ms Pauline NG
Assistant Secretary General 1

Ms Sarah YUEN
Senior Council Secretary (1)6

Miss Winnie CHENG
Legislative Assistant (1)5

Action

I Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Mr LAU Kong-wah, Chairman of the Panel in the 2005-2006 legislative session, presided over the election of the Chairman of the Panel and invited nominations for the chairmanship. Mr Andrew CHENG was nominated by Mr LEE Wing-tat and the nomination was seconded by Ms Miriam LAU. Mr CHENG accepted the nomination.

2. There being no other nomination, Mr LAU Kong-wah declared that Mr Andrew CHENG was elected Chairman of the Panel for the 2006-2007 session.

3. Mr Andrew CHENG took over the chair and called for nominations for the deputy chairmanship. Ms Miriam LAU nominated Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming and the nomination was seconded by Ir Dr Raymond HO. Mr CHEUNG accepted the nomination.

4. There being no other nomination, the Chairman declared that Mr CHEUNG Hok-ming was elected Deputy Chairman of the Panel for the 2006-2007 session.

II Schedule of meetings for the 2006-2007 session

5. Members agreed that regular meetings of the Panel in the 2006-2007 legislative session would be held on the fourth Friday of each month at 10:45 am. Members further concurred that the Panel's regular meetings in December 2006, February 2007 and July 2007 would be rescheduled to 15 December 2006, 2 March 2007 and 18 July 2007 respectively. All meetings would be held at 10:45 am.

6. As to the Panel's regular meeting in October 2006, which clashed with one of the Council meetings for debate on the Chief Executive (CE)'s Policy Address, members agreed that it should be rescheduled for a date to be worked out between the Chairman and the Clerk.

(Post-meeting note: The October regular meeting was subsequently rescheduled for Tuesday, 24 October 2006, at 8:30 am. The schedule of meetings for the 2006-2007 session was circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)47/06-07 on 13 October 2006.)

Action

III Discussion items for next meeting

- (Appendix V to
LC Paper No. CB(1)12/06-07
Appendix VI to
LC Paper No. CB(1)12/06-07
LC Paper No. CB(1)2186/05-06(01)
- List of outstanding items for discussion
 - List of follow-up actions
 - Letter from Hon WONG Kwok-hing dated 6 September 2006 requesting the Panel to discuss measures to enhance bus safety
- LC Paper No. CB(1)12/06-07(01)
- Letter from Hon WONG Kwok-hing dated 27 September 2006 requesting the Panel to discuss measures to enhance bus safety
- LC Paper No. CB(1)12/06-07(02)
- Letter from Hon WONG Kwok-hing dated 6 October 2006 requesting the Panel to discuss measures to enhance goods vehicle safety)

Special meeting

7. The Chairman reminded members that a special meeting had been scheduled for Friday, 20 October 2006, at 8:30 am for the Administration to brief members on the relevant policy initiatives in the CE's Policy Address 2006-2007.

The October regular meeting

8. Members agreed that the following items would be discussed at the October regular meeting of the Panel to be rescheduled –

- (a) Safety of franchised bus operations; and
- (b) Safety of reversing goods vehicle.

9. Mr WONG Kwok-hing also saw a need to discuss at the October regular meeting the combination of Light Rail Transit route 761 and route 761P (i.e. cancellation of route 761) with effect from 8 October 2006 (the proposal). Ms Miriam LAU pointed out that the Panel only dealt with matters relating to the two railway corporations in respect of their merger feasibility, corporate governance and fares. The proposal which was essentially related to the operation of existing railways might more appropriately be dealt with by the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways (the Subcommittee) if the Panel agreed at this meeting to continue the Subcommittee's work in the current legislative session. Mr WONG accepted Ms LAU's view but maintained that the proposal should be discussed as early as practicable.

Action

10. Mr Albert CHAN, on the other hand, saw a need to discuss Ngong Ping Skyrail in consideration of its recent service disruption and the discovery of a crack in a horizontal reinforced concrete beam in the first level of the Tung Chung MTR station that served the Skyrail ride. The Chairman explained that the Skyrail project, being within the purview of the Economic Development and Labour Bureau (EDLB), had all along been followed up by the Panel on Economic Services (the ES Panel). Mr CHAN however opined that this Panel could discuss the project from the angles of its operational safety and its impact on other public transport operators. Ms Miriam LAU pointed out that even when adopting the above angles, the project should more appropriately be discussed at a joint meeting with the ES Panel because the ES Panel had been following up the project for a long time, and the operation of Ngong Ping Skyrail might impact on the economy.

11. Mr Jeffrey LAM, who was the Chairman of the ES Panel, supplemented that when discussion of the Ngong Ping Skyrail was proposed at the first meeting of the ES Panel held earlier on the same date, the ES Panel was given to understand that the Administration would provide a report on the operation of the system in the near future. A Legislative Council (LegCo) question on the operational safety of the Skyrail and cracks in its structure would also be asked at the Council meeting on 25 October 2006. It might therefore be advisable to consider the need to discuss the issue after reviewing the said report and the Administration's response to the LegCo question. The Clerk also added that Ngong Ping Skyrail was a tourism project within the purview of EDLB. Its operational safety was monitored by the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department. As such, the project had all along been followed up by the ES Panel. The ES Panel had also scheduled a visit there for 3 November 2006, after which the ES Panel would consider the need to discuss the issue. Noting the additional information, Ms Miriam LAU opined that the need to discuss the item should be considered after the visit. She also suggested that invitation to the visit should be extended to this Panel.

12. While not opposed to Ms Miriam LAU's suggestion above, Mr Albert CHAN highlighted the urgent need for this Panel to discuss the Ngong Ping Skyrail project as a transport issue in November or December 2006 because of the impact of its operation on the commercial viability of the New Lantau Bus Company Ltd. and hence the sustainability of bus services to the travelling public on Lantau Island. Summing up, the Chairman instructed the Clerk to liaise with the relevant parties on the visit arrangements.

Clerk

The November regular meeting

13. On the November regular meeting, the Clerk reported that the Administration had proposed the following discussion items –

- (a) Operation of taxi and light goods vehicles;

Action

- (b) Reconstruction and improvement to Tuen Mun Road; and
- (c) Improvement to Tung Chung Road between Lung Tseng Tau and Cheung Sha.

14. The Clerk further reported that the Administration would like to organize a site visit for Panel Members as regards item (c) above in early November. Mr LEE Wing-tat proposed that the visit should, where feasible, be scheduled for the same date of the visit to the Ngong Ping Skyrail since both visits would be to Tung Chung.

IV Any other business

Setting up of a subcommittee on matters relating to railways

15. Members noted that throughout the legislative sessions of 2000-2001 to 2005-2006, the Panel had set up a subcommittee to monitor issues relating to railway planning, implementation and operation. Members agreed that the Subcommittee should continue its work in the current legislative session and the membership of the Subcommittee should be re-opened.

(Post-meeting note: The notice to members regarding the setting up of the Subcommittee was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(1)88/06-07 on 18 October 2006.)

16. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 5:20 pm.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
20 October 2006