

Panel on Transport

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 22 January 2007)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

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

1st Quarter 2007

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.

2. Sha Tin New Town, stage 2 - Trunk Road T4

May 2007

Proposed by the Administration. The Administration plans to submit a funding application for the construction of the project to the Public Works Subcommittee in June 2007.

3. Safety of reversing goods vehicles

To be confirmed

When the item on the Private bill proposed by Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo was discussed by the Panel on 15 December 2006, the Administration advised that it would report back in May 2007 on the progress of the suggestions on installing reversing aids and other measures to enhance safe reversing and making the installation of such devices a statutory requirement.

4. Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Fares

2nd Quarter 2007

Proposed by the Administration.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

5. Design of control boxes attached to traffic light poles at pedestrian crossings

To be confirmed

Proposed by Mr WONG Kwok-hing. He would like the Administration to conduct an overall review of the design of control boxes attached to traffic light poles and electronic audible traffic signal installations at pedestrian crossings. He also calls on the Administration to adopt a standardized design of such facilities to facilitate use by persons with disabilities.

6. Review of public light bus operations

To be confirmed

Proposed by Mr Albert CHAN. In consideration of the recent media reports on triad infiltration in public light bus operations, Mr CHAN would like to review with the Administration measures to tackle the problem and other monitoring issues relating to red minibus (RMB) operations, as well as the progress of work in respect of the conversion of RMB to green minibus operations.

7. Measures to rationalize utilization of Build-Operate-Transfer tunnels

To be confirmed

The item was discussed by the Panel on 19 December 2005. At the meeting on 24 October 2006, members expressed the need for the Administration to report on the progress of efforts made to enhance the utilization of Route 3. 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.

8. 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

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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.

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

To be confirmed

The Administration expects that the draft legislation will be ready within the 2006-07 legislative session. It will consult the Panel before the legislation is tabled at LegCo for negative vetting.

10. Measures to regulate taxi operation

To be confirmed

Proposed by the Chairman. In recognition that the present difficult business environment of taxis is partly attributed to the discounts offered by some taxi drivers, the Chairman sees a need for the Administration to actively map out measures to tackle the malpractice and to review the present taxi fare level.

11. Northwest New Territories Traffic and Infrastructure Review

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.

12. Impact of Ngong Ping Skyrail on New Lantao Bus Company

To be confirmed

This item is proposed by Mr Albert CHAN. At the meeting on 12 October 2006, Mr CHAN highlighted the urgent need for the Panel to discuss the Ngong Ping Skyrail project as a transport issue in consideration of the impact of its operation on the commercial viability of the New Lantao Bus Company Ltd. and hence the sustainability of bus services to the travelling public on Lantau Island.

(Note: The Administration has pointed out that the Ngong Ping Skyrail commenced operation in September 2006, its impact on the New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Ltd. will only become stabilized at a later stage. Moreover, the Company needs time

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to ascertain its services and financial position before mapping out any necessary changes to its operation. The Administration suggests confirming the timing of discussion at a later stage.)

13. Private Driving Instructor's Licences

At the meeting on 24 February 2006, when the captioned subject was discussed, the Panel agreed to revisit the subject matter, pending the biennial review to be carried out by the Administration in early 2007 to determine if there was a need to issue new private driving instructor's (PDI) licences. The Administration was also urged to consider reviewing the grouping of PDIs in the context of the review and revert to the Panel.

The Administration will provide an information paper to brief members on the related matters

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

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the latest development in the planning of the North Lantau Highway Connection 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.

The Administration will provide an information paper to brief members on the related matters

15. Review of legislation governing the use of electrically powered two-wheeled transporter or bicycle

Proposed by Mr Albert Jinghan CHENG.

The Administration will provide an information paper to brief members on the related matters

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16. Progress in implementing recommendations of the Task Force on Emergency Transport Coordination (Task Force)

The Task Force appointed by the Administration following the serious traffic congestion in Kowloon on 9 May 2005 has mapped out 56 recommendations to refine and align the crisis management arrangements, enhance communication and coordination both within and between departments, harness advanced technologies for better traffic management, and take all possible steps to disseminate traffic information to the public in a timely manner.

Mr WONG Kwok-hing proposed to discuss the dissemination of real-time information on major traffic incidents through various means such as the mobile network, in particular the progress of the discussion among the Transport Department (TD), the mobile network operators, the Wireless Development Centre and the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer on arrangements to disseminate real-time traffic information captured by TD's closed-circuit television systems to mobile phone users.

In August 2006, the Administration provided an information paper (LC Paper No. CB(1) 2112/05-06(01), setting out the progress of the plan to implement the recommendations put forth by the Task Force.

As an information paper was already provided to the Panel in August 2006, members may wish to consider whether there is a need to discuss the item at a separate meeting