

Panel on Transport

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 23 October 2006)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. 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 November or December 2006 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 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.)

2. Improvement to Tung Chung Road between Lung Tseng Tau and Cheung Sha

November 2006

The Administration has proposed to discuss this item in November 2006. The Administration would also like to organize a site visit for Panel members as regards this item in early November 2006.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

3. Review of the roles and functions of taxis and van-type light goods vehicles in the transport services sector

November 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 (RTO) (Cap. 374) and its subsidiary legislation to better confine the operation of van-type light goods vehicles (LGVs) to carriage of goods for hire or reward. The Administration was also urged to provide details of its plan to clarify grey areas of RTO and enhance publicity to let the transport trades and the general public better understand that van-type LGVs could only be used for carriage of goods but not passengers for hire and reward. The Administration has indicated its readiness to report back on the item in November 2006.

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

To be confirmed

Proposed by Mr Albert Jinghan CHENG.

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

To be confirmed

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.

In July 2005, the Panel was briefed on the plan to implement the recommendations put forth by the Task Force. In August 2006, the Administration provided an information paper (LC Paper No. CB(1) 2112/05-06(01), setting out the progress of the implementation plan.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

6. Traffic and transport arrangements in Northwest New Territories

(a) Traffic and transport arrangements for the commissioning of Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor and Sheung Shui to Lok Ma Chau Spur Line

To be confirmed

Given the impending commissioning of the Hong Kong-Shenzhen Western Corridor, which will substantially increase the traffic load in Northwest New Territories, the Panel takes the view that the Government should expeditiously formulate corresponding strategies and implementing new highway infrastructural projects to alleviate the traffic congestion in Tuen Mun and Yuen Long districts.

The Panel also notes that various public transport trades are concerned about the public transport arrangements at the new boundary control points.

(b) 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.

(c) Reconstruction and improvement to Tuen Mun Road

November 2006

The Administration has indicated its readiness to discuss this item in November 2006.

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

To be confirmed

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.

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

8. Measures to combat drink driving

December 2006

At the Panel meeting on 23 June 2006, the Administration was requested to review the existing legislation and measures against drink driving. The Administration undertook to report in December 2006 on the results of the review, and to put forth specific proposals for combating drink driving.

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. 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.

(Note: The Administration suggests this item be discussed at the Panel on Manpower as it relates to the employment arrangement of private company.)

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

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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. 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.

14. Private Driving Instructor's Licences

To be confirmed

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.