

Panel on Transport

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 24 April 2008)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Central Kowloon Route

May 2008

Proposed by the Administration. The Finance Committee requested the Administration at its meeting on 7 February 2007 to report back to the Panel within the 2007-2008 session the progress of the consultancy study of this highway project.

2. Review of recent bus fire incidents

May 2008

Proposed by Mr WONG Kwok-hing. In the wake of the fire that broke out at a Kowloon Motor Bus depot in Tin Shui Wai on 31 March 2008 and earlier incidents of fire breaking out on buses running on the roads, Mr WONG and the Chairman are keen to ensure proper bus maintenance to prevent such incidents, and the availability of sound measures to facilitate safe evacuation of passengers from a bus on fire.

3. Staffing proposal for the implementation of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link

May 2008

Proposed by the Administration.

4. Review of taxi operation

June 2008

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. When the relevant item on "Operation of taxis and light goods vehicles at the airport" was discussed at the Panel meeting on 20 July 2007, the Chairman further proposed that to tackle the problem of "taxi discount gangs", the relevant legislation should be amended to stipulate the payment of legal fares recorded on the taximeters, and to lower the fees charged for trips over ten kilometres long. At his request to consider his

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proposal and decide on a solution of the problem, and to report the solution decided upon to the Panel by the end of 2007, the Administration agreed to share with the Panel within a few months the progress of the review on taxi operations it had invited the Transport Advisory Committee to conduct.

- 5. Proposals relating to tunnels and control area – Replacement of facilities** 2nd Quarter 2008

Proposed by the Administration.

- 6. Safety of reversing goods vehicle** 2nd quarter 2008

Proposed by the Chairman. Last discussed at the meetings on 24 October 2006 and 25 May 2007. The Chairman would like to follow up progress in this regard after the two meetings.

- 7. Measures to rationalize utilization of Build-Operate-Transfer tunnels** 2nd Quarter 2008

The item in general was discussed by the Panel on 19 December 2005 and 24 October 2006. At the meeting on 24 October 2006, the Panel urged the Administration to speed up the work to improve the distribution of traffic among the three road harbour crossings, including the discussions with the operators of the Eastern Harbour Crossing and Western Harbour Crossing. The progress of efforts made to enhance the utilization of Route 3 was subsequently discussed at the meeting on 5 May 2007. The item on "Measures to rationalize utilization of the three road harbour crossings" was scheduled for the meeting on 20 July 2007 but was subsequently deferred.

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8. Fare increase application by Star Ferry

When the item was last discussed at the meeting on 20 July 2007, members saw a need for the Administration to revert to the Panel before the end of 2007 on the fare increase application by Star Ferry.

As Star Ferry has already withdrawn its fare increase application for the "Wan Chai to Hung Hom" and "Central to Hung Hom" routes in January 2008, members may wish to consider whether there is a need to continue to pursue the issue

9. Progress update on bus-bus interchange scheme

Proposed by Mr LEE Wing-tat. According to Mr LEE, progress in bus-bus interchange scheme seems to have come to a standstill.

As an information paper was already provided to the Panel on 13 March 2008, members may wish to consider whether there is a need to discuss the item at a separate meeting

10. PWP Item 6579TH - Central – Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link

Proposed by the Administration. Timing of discussion is subject to the objection handling progress of the gazetted road scheme and the progress of the relevant judicial review.

To be confirmed

11. PWP Item 6819TH - Traffic improvements to Tuen Mun Road Town Centre section

Proposed by the Administration. Timing of discussion is subject to the objection handling progress of the gazetted road scheme.

To be confirmed

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

Proposed by the Administration. The Traffic and Transport Committee of Sha Tin District Council passed a motion

To be confirmed

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requesting CEDD to put on hold the project until after the commissioning of Trunk Road T3 and Route 8. Subject to the actual traffic need and flow at that time, consideration may be given to reopen the issue.

13. 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. When this item is discussed, members may wish to refer to the report of the study entitled "Strategic Review of Public Light Buses in Hong Kong" circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1983/06-07 on 25 June 2007.

14. Regulation of cargo compartments casually placed at roadsides

To be confirmed

Proposed by Mr WONG Kwok-hing. He was concerned about the safety risks caused by cargo compartments for storing construction wastes casually placed at roadsides. He took the view that proper enforcement actions and legislative measures should be put in place to ensure that the contractors concerned would install flashlights, lighting systems or other appropriate devices, so that at night or under poor lighting conditions, motorists could be made aware of such compartments being placed at roadsides in order to ensure road safety.

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

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

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.

At the meeting on 30 October 2007, members agreed that in the paper to be prepared for this item, the Administration should

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also address public concerns about the Transport Department's plan to demolish the countdown devices presently installed at pedestrian crossings of 15 locations.

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

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

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.

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

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

Drafting of the legislative amendments is underway. The Administration will consult the Panel before the legislation is tabled at LegCo for negative vetting.

18. Measures to enhance the safety awareness of pedestrians

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

Proposed by Mr WONG Kwok-hing to highlight the importance of preventing traffic accidents arising from pedestrians listening to MP3 while crossing the road. In this regard, Mr WONG would like to know whether the Transport Department has collected any statistics on such traffic accidents.