

Panel on Transport

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 8 October 2007)

- | | | Proposed timing
for discussion |
|-----------|---|---|
| 1. | Star Ferry's application for franchise extension

Proposed by the Administration. | October 2007 |
| 2. | Urban and New Territories taxi fuel surcharge applications

Proposed by the Administration. | October 2007 |
| 3. | Measures to rationalize utilization of
Build-Operate-Transfer tunnels

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. | To be confirmed |
| 4. | Licensed ferry services in Hong Kong

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 to the tendering arrangements and the operation of outlying island ferry services in Hong Kong, which was also discussed under the captioned item at the meeting on 20 July and again on 29 August 2007, the Administration was urged to report the outcome of the relevant tender exercise to the Panel in due course. | To be confirmed |

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for discussion**

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

To be confirmed

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

6. Improvement to Sunny Bay Interchange

To be confirmed

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 submitting the relevant financial proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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

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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.

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

To be confirmed

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

11. 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. 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 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.

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

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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.)

13. Measures to enhance the safety awareness of pedestrians To be confirmed

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.

14. Progress update on bus-bus interchange scheme To be confirmed

Proposed by Mr LEE Wing-tat. According to him, progress in this regard seems to have come to a standstill.

15. Private Driving Instructor's Licences An information
paper was provided
to the Panel on 17
July 2007 vide LC
Paper No.
CB(1)2145/06-07

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.

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16. 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

17. 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