

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PANEL ON TRANSPORT

Western Harbour Crossing Tolls

Introduction

This paper informs Members of the new concessionary toll levels of the Western Harbour Crossing (WHC) with effect from 6 January 2008.

Background

2. The Western Harbour Crossing Ordinance (Cap. 436) (the Ordinance) provides for a specified toll adjustment mechanism in respect of WHC. Under the Ordinance, the WHC franchisee may effect anticipated toll increases on six specified dates (1 January 2001, 1 January 2005, 1 January 2009, 1 January 2013, 1 January 2017 and 1 January 2021). However, if the franchisee's actual net revenue in any year falls short of the minimum estimated net revenue for that year as specified in Schedule 5 to the Ordinance, the franchisee may advance an anticipated toll increase or create an additional toll increase if all the anticipated toll increases have been effected. The maximum levels of increase in respect of different categories of vehicles are specified in Schedule 2 to the Ordinance.

3. Since the operation of WHC in 1997, the franchisee's net revenue has consistently fallen short of the specified levels. The last statutory toll increase of WHC took effect on 31 July 2007. However, the franchisee offered concessionary tolls for all vehicles from the same date so that the actual tolls were maintained at the July 2004 level. A summary of the historical changes in WHC's toll levels is at **Annex A**.

Latest Position

4. We have repeatedly urged the franchisee to defer consideration of any toll adjustment and reminded it of the need to take into account public affordability and acceptability in devising its tolling strategy. Despite our continued persuasion, the franchisee has decided to reduce some of the concessions with effect from 6 January 2008. We note that the franchisee will continue to offer concessions to all types of vehicles. We further note that the franchisee has decided not to increase the actual tolls of goods

vehicles, which should help minimise the impact on the goods vehicle trade. A table showing the statutory and new concessionary tolls of WHC is at **Annex B**. Although the franchisee has made the adjustment within the toll levels allowed in the relevant ordinance, we will continue to reflect to the franchisee that it should have due regard to the reaction of the market as well as the wider public interest in devising its tolling strategy.

Transport and Housing Bureau
January 2008

Annex A

Historical Toll Levels of WHC

	30 Apr 1997		3 Dec 2000		31 Jul 2002		16 Feb 2003		24 Feb 2004		4 Jul 2004		31 Jul 2005		31 Jul 2006		31 Jul 2007	
	S	C	S	C	S	C	S	C	S	C	S	C	S	C	S	C	S	C
Motorcycles	\$15	\$15	\$20	\$20	\$25	\$20	\$25	\$20	\$30	\$20	\$30	\$22	\$35	\$22	\$40	\$22	\$45	\$22
Private cars	\$30	\$30	\$40	\$35	\$50	\$35	\$50	\$37	\$60	\$37	\$60	\$40	\$70	\$40	\$80	\$40	\$90	\$40
Taxis	\$30	\$30	\$40	\$35	\$50	\$35	\$50	\$35	\$60	\$35	\$60	\$35	\$70	\$35	\$80	\$35	\$90	\$35
Light buses	\$40	\$40	\$50	\$45	\$60	\$45	\$60	\$47	\$70	\$47	\$70	\$50	\$80	\$50	\$90	\$50	\$100	\$50
Light goods vehicles	\$45	\$45	\$60	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$90	\$50	\$90	\$55	\$105	\$55	\$120	\$55	\$135	\$55
Medium goods vehicles	\$65	\$65	\$85	\$70	\$105	\$70	\$105	\$70	\$125	\$70	\$125	\$80	\$145	\$80	\$165	\$80	\$185	\$80
Heavy goods vehicles	\$95	\$95	\$125	\$100	\$155	\$100	\$155	\$100	\$185	\$100	\$185	\$110	\$215	\$110	\$245	\$110	\$275	\$110
Single-decked buses	\$40	\$40	\$50	\$50	\$60	\$50	\$60	\$60	\$70	\$60	\$70	\$70	\$80	\$70	\$90	\$70	\$100	\$70
Double-decked buses	\$55	\$55	\$70	\$70	\$85	\$70	\$85	\$85	\$100	\$85	\$100	\$100	\$115	\$100	\$130	\$100	\$145	\$100
Additional axle	\$30	\$30	\$40	\$30	\$50	\$30	\$50	\$30	\$60	\$30	\$60	\$30	\$70	\$30	\$80	\$30	\$90	\$30

‘S’ stands for ‘Statutory Tolls’

‘C’ stands for ‘Concessionary Tolls’

Annex B**Existing and New Tolls of WHC**

	Existing Tolls		New Tolls		Actual Increase
	Statutory	Concessionary	Statutory	Concessionary	
Motorcycles	\$45	\$22	\$45	\$22	\$0
Private cars	\$90	\$40	\$90	\$45	\$5
Taxis	\$90	\$35	\$90	\$40	\$5
Light buses	\$100	\$50	\$100	\$55	\$5
Light goods vehicles	\$135	\$55	\$135	\$55	\$0
Medium goods vehicles	\$185	\$80	\$185	\$80	\$0
Heavy goods vehicles	\$275	\$110	\$275	\$110	\$0
Single-decked buses	\$100	\$70	\$100	\$80	\$10
Double-decked buses	\$145	\$100	\$145	\$115	\$15
Additional axle	\$90	\$30	\$90	\$30	\$0