

立法會
Legislative Council

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From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 17 December 2008

**Proposed amendments to motion on
“Alleviating the burden of travelling expenses”**

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 206/08-09 issued on 4 December 2008, Hon WONG Kwok-hing and Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo have respectively given notice of their intention to move separate amendments to Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming’s motion on “Alleviating the burden of travelling expenses” scheduled for the Council meeting of 17 December 2008. As directed by the President, Hon WONG Kwok-hing’s and Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo’s amendments will be printed in the terms in which they were handed in on the Agenda of the Council.

2. To assist Members in debating the above motion and the two amendments, I set out below the procedure to be followed during the debate:

- (a) Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming moves his motion;
- (b) the President proposes the question on Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming’s motion, and orders a joint debate;
- (c) the President calls on the two Members, who intend to move amendments, to speak in the following order, but no amendment is to be moved at this stage:
 - (i) Hon WONG Kwok-hing; and
 - (ii) Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo;

- (d) the President calls upon the designated public officer(s) to speak;
- (e) joint debate on the motion and the two amendments follows thereafter;
- (f) the President gives leave to Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming to speak for the second time on the two amendments;
- (g) the President calls upon the designated public officer(s) again to speak;
- (h) in accordance with Rule 34(5) of the Rules of Procedure, the President has decided that he will call upon the two Members to move their respective amendments in the order set out in paragraph (c) above. The President invites Hon WONG Kwok-hing to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on the amendment;
- (i) after Hon WONG Kwok-hing's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo's amendment to the motion; and
- (j) after Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo's amendment has been dealt with, the President calls upon Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming to reply. Thereafter, the President puts to vote the question on Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming's motion, or his motion as amended, as the case may be.

3. For Members' ease of reference, the terms of the original motion and of the motion, if amended, are set out in the **Appendix**.

(Mrs Justina LAM)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

**Motion debate on
“Alleviating the burden of travelling expenses”
to be held at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 17 December 2008**

1. Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming’s original motion

“That, as the people of Hong Kong has long been bearing a heavy burden of travelling expenses and a large number of middle-class and grassroots face further difficulties in life amid continuous layoffs and pay cuts by enterprises under the impact of the financial tsunami, this Council urges the Government to adopt effective measures to alleviate the burden of travelling expenses on the public, including:

- (a) providing subsidies to the MTR Corporation, bus companies and ferry operators so that they will offer half-fare concessions to passengers on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, thereby enabling the public to have more opportunities to get together with their families and friends on those days;
- (b) further relaxing the eligibility criteria and subsidy period under the Transport Support Scheme, and expanding the Scheme to cover all districts in the territory;
- (c) discussing with various public transport operators to offer the Free-ride Day for the elderly on Sundays and public holidays on a permanent basis, formulate an implementation timetable for the provision of half-fare concessions to people with disabilities, and study the feasibility of introducing daily, weekly and monthly travel passes that are valid among various public transport operators;
- (d) focusing on the problem of high fares of outlying island ferry services, studying suitable options and allocating resources to alleviate the burden of ferry service expenses on outlying island residents, and offering half-fare concessions on ferry services to students of outlying islands;
- (e) discussing with the MTR Corporation to extend its two-year fare-freeze period, re-launch the ‘Ride 10 Get One Free’ Promotion, set up more MTR Fare Savers and explore further extension of the existing monthly ticket schemes; and
- (f) discussing with the franchised bus companies ways to improve their existing fare structures, expeditiously revise the scale of fares under the Public Bus Services Ordinance as well as the route groupings under the scale, reformulate the existing guidelines on the setting of fares to provide comprehensive sectional fares and bus-bus interchange concessions, including discounts for interchange among buses of different companies, provide half-fare concessions to all full-time students, as well as introduce daily and monthly ticket schemes for buses.”

2. Motion as amended by Hon WONG Kwok-hing

~~“That, as the people of Hong Kong has long been bearing~~ *the fares of local public transport are escalating, causing the public to bear* a heavy burden of travelling expenses ~~and~~ *for a long time, coupled with the fact that* a large number of middle-class and grassroots face further difficulties in life amid continuous layoffs and pay cuts by enterprises under the impact of the financial tsunami, this Council urges the Government to adopt *further* effective measures to alleviate the burden of travelling expenses on the public, including:

- (a) providing subsidies to the MTR Corporation, bus companies, *green minibus* and ferry operators so that they will offer half-fare concessions to passengers on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, thereby enabling the public to have more opportunities to get together with their families and friends on those days;
- (b) further relaxing the eligibility criteria and subsidy period under the Transport Support Scheme, and expanding the Scheme to cover all districts in the territory;
- (c) discussing with various public transport operators to offer the Free-ride Day for the elderly on Sundays and public holidays on a permanent basis, formulate an implementation timetable for the provision of half-fare concessions to people with disabilities, and study the feasibility of introducing daily, weekly and monthly travel passes that are valid among various public transport operators;
- (d) focusing on the problem of high fares of outlying island ferry services, ~~studying suitable options~~ *actively studying various suitable options, including substantially increasing the non-fare box revenue of ferry operators or the Government directly operating the services, etc;* and allocating resources to alleviate the burden of ferry service expenses on outlying island residents, and offering half-fare concessions on ferry services to students of outlying islands;
- (e) discussing with the MTR Corporation to extend its two-year fare-freeze period, re-launch the ‘Ride 10 Get One Free’ Promotion *and, according to the request of the residents and using more consistent standards*, set up more MTR Fare Savers ~~and~~ *as well as* explore further extension of the existing monthly ticket schemes; ~~and~~
- (f) discussing with the franchised bus companies ways to improve their existing fare structures, expeditiously revise the scale of fares under the Public Bus Services Ordinance as well as the route groupings under the scale, reformulate the existing guidelines on the setting of fares to provide comprehensive sectional fares and bus-bus interchange concessions, including discounts for interchange among buses of different companies, provide half-fare concessions to all full-time students, as well as introduce daily and monthly ticket schemes for buses; *and*

- (g) *on the basis of the above measures, further studying in a proactive manner the utilization of Octopus card which is widely used by the public to provide all people in the territory with concessions on monthly tickets that are valid for use on all types of public transport, hence will provide convenience to the public and not lead to excessively high administrative and operating costs to the various public transport operators, thereby alleviating the burden of travelling expenses on the general public, particularly the working class.*”

Note: Hon WONG Kwok-hing’s amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.

3. Motion as amended by Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo

“That, as *quite a number of local public transport operators increased their fares one after another over the past year, coupled with the fact that* the people of Hong Kong has long been bearing a heavy burden of travelling expenses and a large number of middle-class and grassroots face further difficulties in life amid continuous layoffs and pay cuts by enterprises under the impact of the financial tsunami, this Council urges the Government to adopt effective measures to alleviate the burden of travelling expenses on the public, including:

- (a) providing subsidies to the MTR Corporation, bus companies and ferry operators so that they will offer half-fare concessions to passengers on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, thereby enabling the public to have more opportunities to get together with their families and friends on those days;
- (b) further relaxing the eligibility criteria and subsidy period under the Transport Support Scheme, and expanding the Scheme to cover all districts in the territory;
- (c) discussing with various public transport operators to offer the Free-ride Day for the elderly on Sundays and public holidays on a permanent basis, formulate an implementation timetable for the provision of half-fare concessions to people with disabilities, and study the feasibility of introducing daily, weekly and monthly travel passes that are valid among various public transport operators;
- (d) focusing on the problem of high fares of outlying island ferry services, studying suitable options and allocating resources to alleviate the burden of ferry service expenses on outlying island residents, and offering half-fare concessions on ferry services to students of outlying islands;
- (e) discussing with the MTR Corporation to extend its two-year fare-freeze period, re-launch the ‘Ride 10 Get One Free’ Promotion, set up more MTR Fare Savers ~~and explore further extension of~~, *establish a fare stabilization fund to be*

underpinned by the proceeds from properties, further extend the existing monthly ticket schemes *and make such schemes a permanent arrangement;* and

- (f) discussing with the franchised bus companies ways to improve their existing fare structures, expeditiously revise the scale of fares under the Public Bus Services Ordinance as well as the route groupings under the scale, reformulate the existing guidelines on the setting of fares to provide comprehensive sectional fares and bus-bus interchange concessions, including discounts for interchange among buses of different companies, provide half-fare concessions to all full-time students, as well as introduce daily and monthly ticket schemes for buses.”

Note: Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo’s amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.