

Panel on Transport

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 23 April 2009)

Proposed timing for discussion

1. Changes made by MTRCL to staff welfare

Proposed by Mr WONG Kwok-hing. The Panel notes the concerns raised by Hong Kong Railway Employees Union as set out in its submission [LC Paper No. CB(1)691/08-09 dated 30 January 2009] and has agreed to follow up on relevant issues.

May 2009

2. Regulation of charging taxi fares according to meters

When the Subcommittee on Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2008 scrutinized the Amendment Regulation, members expressed concern that the existing legislation and enforcement could not provide sufficient deterrence against fare bargaining, and urged the Administration to put in place legislative provisions to ensure payment of metered fares.

By May 2009

At the Subcommittee's request, the Administration undertook to study overseas experience regarding the regulation of charging taxi fares according to meters, engage the taxi trade through the Transport Department's taxi conferences to understand more their views and concerns, and report the outcomes of the above to the Panel in six months' time.

3. Safety of taxi drivers and installation of safety devices in taxis

Proposed by Mr WONG Kwok-hing. In view of the increase in attacks and robberies of taxi drivers, Mr WONG would like to discuss the item as soon as practicable. To facilitate the Panel's discussion, he would also like the Administration to provide an information paper on statistics of criminal cases in this regard, and on the feasibility of installing safety devices in taxis.

2nd Quarter 2009

Proposed timing for discussion

4. Proposed creation of one permanent Principal Transport Officer post in the Bus and Rail Branch of Transport Department

Proposed by the Administration. The proposal is to create one permanent Principal Transport Officer post in the Railway Division of the Bus and Railway Branch of the Transport Department to enhance both its planning function in connection with new railways and its monitoring of railway operations.

2nd Quarter 2009

5. Policy on the provision of escalators by the Government in public areas

Proposed by Mr KAM Nai-wai at the meeting on 14 October 2008. Highlighting the hilly terrain of many districts in Hong Kong, he would like to be briefed on the policy on the provision of escalator link/elevator system for an uphill area to facilitate accessibility and provide convenience to pedestrians.

2nd Quarter 2009

6. MTR Corporation Limited's commitment not to increase fares

Last discussed at the special Panel meeting on 8 January 2009. Noting that the effective period of MTRCL's commitment not to increase fares would expire in June 2009, members would like to further follow up with MTRCL concerns in this regard nearer the time.

Before June 2009

7. 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 amendment road scheme.

To be confirmed

8. 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 requesting Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) to put on hold the project until after the commissioning of Trunk Road T3 and Route 8. Trunk Road T3 and Route 8 (Cheung Sha Wan to Sha Tin) were opened in

To be confirmed

Proposed timing for discussion

March 2008. CEDD and the concerned department will examine the actual traffic flow and review the need for the project. Funding application would not be submitted in the 2008-2009 session.

9. Vehicle maintenance requirements on non-franchised bus operators

Proposed by Mr LAU Kwong-wah. When the Panel discussed "Enhancement of the safety of long downhill roads" at the meeting on 30 June 2008, Mr LAU stressed the need to ensure the vehicle examination frequency of non-franchised bus operators was comparable to that of franchised buses. He requested the Administration to follow up the vehicle maintenance requirements on non-franchised bus operators, and report back on the developments in the 2008-2009 legislative session.

To be confirmed

10. Operation of outlying island ferry services

Proposed by Mr WONG Kwok-hing and Mr IP Wai-ming at the meeting on 14 October 2008. In consideration of the great difficulty in operating outlying island ferry services due to high fuel cost and shrinking island populations, the members saw a need to follow up measures to tackle the difficulties, so as to enhance the financial viability of the services while keeping fare and service levels reasonable.

To be confirmed

At the meeting between Duty Roster Members and 三島聯盟 on 3 March 2009, views about the policy on outlying island ferry services were expressed. The memo from the Complaints Division referring relevant issues to the Panel for consideration was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(1) 1075/08-09 on 17 March 2009.

11. Safety of reversing goods vehicle

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

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

**Proposed timing for
discussion**

12. Regulation of cargo compartments casually placed at roadsides

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.

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

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

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.

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