

**Panel on Transport**

**List of outstanding items for discussion**  
(position as at 17 December 2008)

**Proposed timing for  
discussion**

**1. Proposed creation of one permanent Principal Transport Officer post in the Management and Paratransit Branch of Transport Department**

Proposed by the Administration. The proposal is to create one permanent Principal Transport Officer post in the Management and Paratransit Branch (MPB) of the Transport Department to deal with increasingly complex issues relating to taxi services, ferry services, and transport services for people with disabilities with a view to ensuring proper and efficient operation of the paratransit services so as to better meet the public demand.

January 2009

**2. PWP Item 6746TH - Reconstruction and improvement of Tuen Mun Road**

Proposed by the Administration. The Administration plans to submit funding application to the Public Works Subcommittee in April 2009 for increasing the approved project estimate to cater for the higher-than-expected tender price due to the recent significant drastic increase in the price of major construction materials.

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2009

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

Proposed by the Administration. The Administration plans to submit funding application for upgrading the project to Category A for construction (>\$500 million) to the Public Works Subcommittee in April 2009. Timing of discussion is subject to the objection handling progress of the gazetted road scheme.

1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2009

**4. Regulation of charging taxi fares according to meters**

When the Subcommittee on Road Traffic (Public Service Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulation 2008 scrutinized the

By May 2009

**Proposed timing for discussion**

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.

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.

**5. 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.

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2009

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

Proposed by the Chairman. Noting that the effective period of MTRCL's commitment not to increase fares would expire in June 2009 and the current economic downturn, the Chairman would like to discuss with MTRCL concerns in this regard.

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 road scheme and the progress of the relevant judicial review.

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

To be confirmed

**Proposed timing for discussion**

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 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. 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.

To be confirmed

**11. 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

**Proposed timing for discussion**

**12. 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

**13. 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

**14. 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

**Proposed timing for  
discussion**

**15. Review of recent bus fire incidents**

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.

An information paper was provided to the Panel on 20 June 2008 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1986/07-08.

In the wake of the bus fire incidents on 10 December 2008, the Panel has requested the Administration to provide a report on the incidents for members' reference.

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