

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PANEL ON TRANSPORT

Western Harbour Crossing and Route 3 (Country Park Section) Tolls

Introduction

The new statutory tolls of the Western Harbour Crossing (WHC) and the Route 3 (Country Park Section) (Route 3) will take effect on 31 July 2009 and 1 August 2009 respectively. The two franchisees will however maintain the existing actual toll levels for all categories of vehicles so that users will not be affected.

Background

WHC

2. The Western Harbour Crossing Ordinance (Cap. 436) provides for a specified toll adjustment mechanism in respect of WHC, under which the franchisee may effect anticipated toll increases on six specified dates (1 January on 2001, 2005, 2009, 2013, 2017 and 2021). If the franchisee's actual net revenue in any year falls short of the minimum estimated net revenue for that year specified in Schedule 5 to Cap. 436, 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 Cap. 436.

3. Since the commissioning of WHC in 1997, the franchisee's net revenue has consistently fallen short of the specified levels. The last toll increase of WHC was made on the basis of its 2004/05 Net Revenue Statement (NRS) and took effect on 31 July 2008. The concessionary toll levels were however not affected. A summary of the historical changes in WHC's toll levels is at **Annex A**.

4. The franchisee of WHC submitted its 2005/06 NRS in August 2006. As required under the specified toll adjustment mechanism, we carefully examined the NRS of WHC and noted that the franchisee's net revenue of \$567 million was lower than the minimum net revenue of \$1,455 million for that year specified in Schedule 5 to Cap. 436 and is therefore entitled to an additional toll increase.

Route 3

5. The Tai Lam Tunnel and Yuen Long Approach Road Ordinance (Cap. 474) provides for a specified toll adjustment mechanism in respect of Route 3, under which the franchisee may effect anticipated toll increases on certain specified dates (1 January of 2003, 2010 and 2017). However, if the franchisee's actual net revenue falls short of the minimum estimated net revenue for that year as specified in Schedule 4 to Cap. 474, 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 Cap. 474.

6. Since the operation of Route 3 in 1998, the franchisee's net revenue has consistently fallen short of the specified levels. The last toll increase of Route 3 was made on the basis of its 2003/04 Net Revenue Statement (NRS) and took effect on 28 December 2008. A summary of the historical changes in Route 3's toll levels is at **Annex B**.

7. The franchisee of Route 3 submitted its 2004/05 NRS in August 2005. As required under the specified toll adjustment mechanism, we carefully examined the NRS of Route 3 and noted that the franchisee's net revenue of \$371 million was lower than the minimum estimated net revenue of \$762 million for that year specified in Schedule 4 to Cap. 474 and is therefore entitled to an additional toll increase.

Present Position

8. We have all along urged the franchisees to have due regard to public affordability and acceptability in devising their tolling strategy, and the franchisees have until recently withheld effecting the statutory toll increases mentioned in paragraphs 4 and 7 above.

9. The two franchisees recently notified the Administration of their decisions to exercise the right to statutory toll increases mentioned above. WHC's new statutory tolls (at **Annex C**) will take effect on 31 July 2009, and those of Route 3 (at **Annex D**) will take effect on 1 August 2009. The requirements under their respective governing legislation for effecting the statutory toll increases have been complied with. At the same time, both franchisees will offer concessions to all types of vehicles so that the current toll levels will be maintained and users will not be affected.

Transport and Housing Bureau
July 2009

Historical Toll Levels of WHC (page 1 of 2)

	30 April 1997		3 December 2000		31 July 2002		16 February 2003		24 February 2004		4 July 2004	
	Statutory	Actual	Statutory	Conces- sionary	Statutory	Conces- sionary	Statutory	Conces- sionary	Statutory	Conces- sionary	Statutory	Conces- sionary
Motorcycles	\$15	\$15	\$20	\$20	\$25	\$20	\$25	\$20	\$30	\$20	\$30	\$22
Private cars	\$30	\$30	\$40	\$35	\$50	\$35	\$50	\$37	\$60	\$37	\$60	\$40
Taxis	\$30	\$30	\$40	\$35	\$50	\$35	\$50	\$35	\$60	\$35	\$60	\$35
Light buses	\$40	\$40	\$50	\$45	\$60	\$45	\$60	\$47	\$70	\$47	\$70	\$50
Light goods vehicles	\$45	\$45	\$60	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$75	\$50	\$90	\$50	\$90	\$55
Medium goods vehicles	\$65	\$65	\$85	\$70	\$105	\$70	\$105	\$70	\$125	\$70	\$125	\$80
Heavy goods vehicles	\$95	\$95	\$125	\$100	\$155	\$100	\$155	\$100	\$185	\$100	\$185	\$110
Single-decked buses	\$40	\$40	\$50	\$50	\$60	\$50	\$60	\$60	\$70	\$60	\$70	\$70
Double-decked buses	\$55	\$55	\$70	\$70	\$85	\$70	\$85	\$85	\$100	\$85	\$100	\$100
Additional axle	\$30	\$30	\$40	\$30	\$50	\$30	\$50	\$30	\$60	\$30	\$60	\$30

Historical Toll Levels of WHC (page 2 of 2)

	31 July 2005		31 July 2006		31 July 2007		6 January 2008		31 July 2008	
	Statutory	Conces- sionary	Statutory	Conces- sionary	Statutory	Conces- sionary	Statutory	Conces- sionary	Statutory	Conces- sionary
Motorcycles	\$35	\$22	\$40	\$22	\$45	\$22	\$45	\$22	\$50	\$22
Private cars	\$70	\$40	\$80	\$40	\$90	\$40	\$90	\$45	\$100	\$45
Taxis	\$70	\$35	\$80	\$35	\$90	\$35	\$90	\$40	\$100	\$40
Light buses	\$80	\$50	\$90	\$50	\$100	\$50	\$100	\$55	\$110	\$55
Light goods vehicles	\$105	\$55	\$120	\$55	\$135	\$55	\$135	\$55	\$150	\$55
Medium goods vehicles	\$145	\$80	\$165	\$80	\$185	\$80	\$185	\$80	\$205	\$80
Heavy goods vehicles	\$215	\$110	\$245	\$110	\$275	\$110	\$275	\$110	\$305	\$110
Single-decked buses	\$80	\$70	\$90	\$70	\$100	\$70	\$100	\$80	\$110	\$80
Double-decked buses	\$115	\$100	\$130	\$100	\$145	\$100	\$145	\$115	\$160	\$115
Additional axle	\$70	\$30	\$80	\$30	\$90	\$30	\$90	\$30	\$100	\$30

Historical Toll Levels of Route 3 (page 1 of 2)

	25 May 1998		11 August 1998		27 October 1998		1 April 2000		18 September 2000	
	Statutory	Actual	Statutory	Conces- sionary	Statutory	Conces- sionary	Statutory	Conces- sionary	Statutory	Conces- sionary
Motorcycle	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15
Private car and Taxi	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$15	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20
Light bus	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$45	\$45	\$45	\$45
Light goods vehicle	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$23	\$45	\$25	\$45	\$25
Medium goods vehicle	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$30	\$40	\$30	\$55	\$35	\$55	\$35
Heavy goods vehicle	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$30	\$60	\$30	\$75	\$35	\$75	\$40
Single-decked bus	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$45	\$45	\$45	\$45
Double-decked bus	\$45	\$45	\$45	\$45	\$45	\$45	\$60	\$60	\$60	\$60
Extra axle	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$0	\$20	\$0	\$25	\$0	\$25	\$0

Historical Toll Levels of Route 3 (page 2 of 2)

	1 April 2001		19 June 2005		17 September 2006		19 August 2007		28 December 2008	
	Statutory	Conces- sionary	Statutory	Conces- sionary	Statutory	Conces- sionary	Statutory	Conces- sionary	Statutory	Conces- sionary
Motorcycle	\$20	\$17	\$25	\$17	\$30	\$17	\$35	\$18	\$40	\$20
Private car and Taxi	\$25	\$22	\$30	\$25	\$35	\$25	\$40	\$28	\$45	\$30
Light bus	\$60	\$60	\$75	\$75	\$90	\$75	\$105	\$90	\$120	\$100
Light goods vehicle	\$60	\$25	\$75	\$28	\$90	\$28	\$105	\$30	\$120	\$32
Medium goods vehicle	\$70	\$35	\$85	\$35	\$100	\$35	\$115	\$35	\$130	\$40
Heavy goods vehicle	\$90	\$40	\$105	\$40	\$120	\$40	\$135	\$40	\$150	\$45
Single-decked bus	\$60	\$60	\$75	\$75	\$90	\$75	\$105	\$90	\$120	\$100
Double-decked bus	\$75	\$75	\$90	\$90	\$105	\$90	\$120	\$105	\$135	\$120
Extra axle	\$30	\$0	\$35	\$0	\$40	\$0	\$45	\$0	\$50	\$0

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

	Existing Tolls		New Tolls (w.e.f. 31 July 2009)		Actual Increase
	Statutory	Concessionary	Statutory	Concessionary	
Motorcycles	\$50	\$22	\$55	\$22	\$0
Private cars	\$100	\$45	\$110	\$45	\$0
Taxis	\$100	\$40	\$110	\$40	\$0
Light buses	\$110	\$55	\$120	\$55	\$0
Light goods vehicles	\$150	\$55	\$165	\$55	\$0
Medium goods vehicles	\$205	\$80	\$225	\$80	\$0
Heavy goods vehicles	\$305	\$110	\$335	\$110	\$0
Single-decked buses	\$110	\$80	\$120	\$80	\$0
Double-decked buses	\$160	\$115	\$175	\$115	\$0
Additional axle	\$100	\$30	\$110	\$30	\$0

Annex D**Existing and New Tolls of Route 3**

	Existing Tolls		New Tolls (w.e.f. 1 August 2009)		Actual Increase
	Statutory	Concessionary	Statutory	Concessionary	
Motorcycle	\$40	\$20	\$45	\$20	\$0
Private car and taxi	\$45	\$30	\$50	\$30	\$0
Light bus	\$120	\$100	\$135	\$100	\$0
Light goods vehicle	\$120	\$32	\$135	\$32	\$0
Medium goods vehicle	\$130	\$40	\$145	\$40	\$0
Heavy goods vehicle	\$150	\$45	\$165	\$45	\$0
Single-decked bus	\$120	\$100	\$135	\$100	\$0
Double-decked bus	\$135	\$120	\$150	\$120	\$0
Extra axle	\$50	\$0	\$55	\$0	\$0