

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 4 November 2009

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

Further to LC Paper No. CB(3) 72/09-10 issued on 22 October 2009, Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo and Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung 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 4 November 2009. As directed by the President, Hon Andrew CHENG’s and Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung’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 Andrew CHENG; and
 - (ii) Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung;
- (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 Andrew CHENG to move his amendment to the motion, and forthwith proposes and puts to vote the question on the amendment;
- (i) after Hon Andrew CHENG's amendment has been voted upon, the President deals with Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung's amendment to the motion; and
- (j) after Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung'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, 4 November 2009**

1. Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming’s original motion

That, as the people of Hong Kong are still under the impact of the financial tsunami, many of them face difficulties in life and bear a heavy burden of travelling expenses, this Council urges the Government to discuss with various public transport operators and adopt effective measures to alleviate the burden of travelling expenses on the public, which include:

- (a) to provide subsidies to the MTR Corporation Limited, 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) to extend the deadline for submitting applications under the Transport Support Scheme, further relax the eligibility criteria and the subsidy period under the Scheme and expand it to cover all districts in the territory;
- (c) to discuss with various public transport operators to offer the Free-ride Day for the elderly on public holidays and specified days of each week 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) to discuss with the MTR Corporation Limited to continue extending its fare-freeze period, re-launch the ‘Ride 10 Get One Free’ Promotion, set up more MTR Fare Savers according to the requests of the residents and by using more consistent standards, and explore further extension of the existing monthly and daily ticket schemes, including introducing monthly tickets for short-haul trips and making it a permanent arrangement, etc;
- (e) to rationalize the fare structure of the MTR Corporation Limited, including rectifying the unreasonable and chaotic situation of ‘fares for short-haul trips being more expensive than long-haul trips’, adjusting downwards the fares of the Kowloon Southern Link to a reasonable level, and enabling the passengers to travel to Hung Hom Station using Tuen Mun-Nam Cheong Monthly Pass at

the original price; as well as resume the service of the free bus route number K16;

- (f) to discuss with the franchised bus companies to re-launch same day return fare concessions, 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, re-formulate 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) targeting at the problem of high fares of outlying island ferry services, to actively study various suitable options, including substantially increasing the non-fare box revenue of ferry operators or the Government directly operating the services, etc; allocate resources to alleviate the burden of ferry service expenses on outlying island residents; and offer half-fare concessions on ferry services to students of outlying islands.

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

That, as the people of Hong Kong are still under the impact of the financial tsunami, many of them face difficulties in life and bear a heavy burden of travelling expenses, *and the fare concessions offered to the elderly by local franchised bus companies and the MTR Corporation Limited will also expire early next year*; this Council urges the Government to discuss with various public transport operators and adopt effective measures to alleviate the burden of travelling expenses on the public, which include:

- (a) to provide subsidies to the MTR Corporation Limited, 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) to extend the deadline for submitting applications under the Transport Support Scheme, further relax the eligibility criteria and the subsidy period under the Scheme and expand it to cover all districts in the territory;
- (c) to discuss with various public transport operators to *extend the existing fare concessions for the elderly and* offer the Free-ride Day for the elderly on public holidays and specified days of each week 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~~ *expeditiously introduce* daily, weekly and monthly travel passes that are valid among various public transport operators;

- (d) to discuss with the MTR Corporation Limited to continue extending its fare-freeze period, re-launch the 'Ride 10 Get One Free' Promotion, set up more MTR Fare Savers according to the requests of the residents and by using more consistent standards, and ~~explore further extension of~~ ***further extend*** the existing monthly and daily ticket schemes ***as soon as possible***, including introducing monthly tickets for short-haul trips and making it a permanent arrangement, etc;
- (e) to rationalize the fare structure of the MTR Corporation Limited, including rectifying the unreasonable and chaotic situation of 'fares for short-haul trips being more expensive than long-haul trips', adjusting downwards the fares of the Kowloon Southern Link to a reasonable level, and enabling the passengers to travel to Hung Hom Station using Tuen Mun-Nam Cheong Monthly Pass at the original price; as well as resume the service of the free bus route number K16;
- (f) to discuss with the franchised bus companies to re-launch same day return fare concessions, 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, re-formulate 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) targeting at the problem of high fares of outlying island ferry services, to actively study various suitable options, including substantially increasing the non-fare box revenue of ferry operators or the Government directly operating the services, etc; allocate resources to alleviate the burden of ferry service expenses on outlying island residents; and offer half-fare concessions on ferry services to students of outlying islands.

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

3. Motion as amended by Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung

That, as the people of Hong Kong are still under the impact of the financial tsunami, many of them face difficulties in life and bear a heavy burden of travelling expenses, this Council urges the Government to discuss with various public transport operators and adopt effective measures to alleviate the burden of travelling expenses on the public, which include:

- (a) to provide subsidies to the MTR Corporation Limited, 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) to extend the deadline for submitting applications under the Transport Support Scheme, further relax the eligibility criteria and the subsidy period under the Scheme and expand it to cover all districts in the territory;
- (c) to discuss with various public transport operators to offer the Free-ride Day for the elderly on public holidays and specified days of each week 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) to discuss with the MTR Corporation Limited to continue extending its fare-freeze period, re-launch the 'Ride 10 Get One Free' Promotion, set up more MTR Fare Savers according to the requests of the residents and by using more consistent standards, and explore further extension of the existing monthly and daily ticket schemes, including introducing monthly tickets for short-haul trips and making it a permanent arrangement, etc;
- (e) to rationalize the fare structure of the MTR Corporation Limited, including rectifying the unreasonable and chaotic situation of 'fares for short-haul trips being more expensive than long-haul trips', adjusting downwards the fares of the Kowloon Southern Link to a reasonable level, and enabling the passengers to travel to Hung Hom Station using Tuen Mun-Nam Cheong Monthly Pass at the original price; as well as resume the service of the free bus route number K16;
- (f) to discuss with the franchised bus companies to re-launch same day return fare concessions, 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, re-formulate 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) targeting at the problem of high fares of outlying island ferry services, to actively study various suitable options, including substantially increasing the non-fare box revenue of ferry operators or the Government directly operating the services, etc; allocate resources to alleviate the burden of ferry service expenses on outlying island residents; and offer half-fare concessions on ferry services to students of outlying islands;

- (h) *to progressively let the public sector operate the major transport facilities and services, so as to provide inexpensive, suitable and convenient public transport services to people and prevent large consortia from profiteering; and*
- (i) *to halt the construction of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, and make use of the funds earmarked for constructing the Rail Link to repurchase the Eastern Harbour Crossing, Western Harbour Crossing and the privately-owned shares of the MTR Corporation Limited, thereby reducing tunnel tolls and the fares of the MTR Corporation Limited.*

Note: Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung's amendment is marked in *bold and italic type* or with deletion line.