

(Translation)

**Motion on
“Alleviating the burden of travelling expenses”
moved by Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 4 November 2009**

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 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 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.