

Panel on Transport

List of outstanding items for discussion (position as at 12 October 2009)

Proposed timing for discussion

1. Review of fare adjustment arrangement for franchised buses

Proposed by the Administration. The Administration proposed to report to the Panel on the results of the review of bus fare adjustment arrangement.

October 2009

2. Measures to enhance safety of public light bus (PLB) operations

Last discussed at the meeting on 26 June 2009. At the meeting, the Administration was requested to submit reports at quarterly intervals on relevant issues including measures to enhance road safety and specific measures for PLBs, in particular progress made by the Administration in exploring the installation of “blackbox” (i.e. a vehicle monitoring system) and speed limiter; and statistics of law enforcement and undercover operations conducted against speeding of PLB drivers and the justifications behind as appropriate. The Administration has indicated readiness to report on the above in November.

November 2009

3. Changes made by MTRCL to staff welfare

Last discussed at the meeting on 26 June 2009. The Panel decided to further discuss the issue and to invite the Secretary for Transport and Housing and the Chief Executive Officer of MTRCL to attend the relevant meeting.

November 2009

4. Operation of outlying island ferry services

Proposed by Mr WONG Kwok-hing and Mr IP Wai-ming at the meeting on 14 October 2008, and by Ms Miriam LAU at the meeting on 22 May 2009. 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. In particular, Ms LAU would like to follow up the measures being implemented to

November/December
2009

Proposed timing for discussion

increase the non-fare box revenue of the ferry operators concerned, which as she understood were making little progress due to the lack of co-ordination among the bureaux and departments concerned.

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.

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.

November/December 2009

6. Circumvention problem in the service of summonses issued under the Road Traffic (Driving-offence Points) Ordinance (Cap. 375)

When the Road Traffic (Driving-offence Points) (Amendment) Bill 2009 was scrutinized by the relevant Bills Committee, the Administration undertook to review the effectiveness of the Bill in tackling the circumvention problem in the service of summonses issued under the Road Traffic (Driving-offence Points) Ordinance (Cap. 375) in about six months after its implementation and to report the outcome of the review to the Panel.

Early 2010

7. Regulation of charging taxi fares according to meters

Following the discussion at the meeting on 22 May 2009, a special panel meeting was held on 23 September 2009 to listen to the views of the trade on regulation of charging taxi fares according to meters. A motion was passed at the meeting urging the Government to immediately commence study on the enactment of legislation for the regulation of charging taxi fares

To be confirmed

Proposed timing for discussion

according to meters and to introduce the relevant legislative proposal to this Council as soon as possible.

8. Private driving instructors' (PDI) licences

Last discussed at the meeting on 22 May 2009. At the meeting, Ms Miriam LAU requested the Administration to examine the proposal that the present three groups of PDI licences be merged into one, which as she understood enjoyed general support from the trade. She considered that notwithstanding the transitional arrangements required to be made, the proposed merger was necessary and should be taken forward as soon as practicable to benefit the trade and the public, and urged the Administration to provide information on relevant overseas regulatory mechanisms and examine with the trade the merger proposal. In her letter to the Chairman dated 11 September 2009, Ms Miriam LAU proposed that the Administration be requested to report the progress of the above requested actions to the Panel at a meeting, and that deputations from PDIs be invited to express views at the meeting.

To be confirmed

9. Kowloon Southern Link (KSL) fares

Last discussed at the meeting on 17 July 2009. At the meeting, members expressed concern about the fares proposed for KSL, which they considered high, in particular the fares for Austin Station to/from Hung Hom and for Tuen Mun to/from Austin Station. They also considered the price at \$470 of the new "Tuen Mun – Hung Hom Monthly Pass" issued for travelling between the Tuen Mun and Hung Hom Stations after KSL opened high compared to the existing West Rail Monthly Pass and East Rail Monthly Pass sold at \$400 and \$380 respectively. The Panel subsequently passed a motion expressing strong dissatisfaction with the high level of fares for KSL and requesting MTRCL to re-examine the fares for KSL, particularly the fares for journeys from New Territories West to Tsim Sha Tsui and Hung Hom. In a letter from Mr WONG Kwok-hing to the Chairman dated 28 September 2009, Mr WONG further expressed concern about platform congestion and interchange arrangements at the Hung Hom station, and requested the Panel to follow up the above matters as well as the fare issue.

To be confirmed

Proposed timing for discussion

10. 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 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.

To be confirmed

11. 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

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,

An information paper was provided to the Panel on 7 August 2009 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)2449/08-09(01).

**Proposed timing for
discussion**

motorists could be made aware of such compartments being placed at roadsides in order to ensure road safety.

Item proposed to be deleted.

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