

Panel on Transport

List of outstanding items for discussion (position as at 10 December 2009)

Proposed timing for discussion

1. Proposed creation of one permanent Principal Transport Officer post in the Bus and Rail Branch of Transport Department

Proposed by the Administration. The Administration proposes to seek members' views on the proposed creation of post.

January 2010

2. Improving pedestrian environment

In response to a referral from the Panel on Development, members agreed to discuss in due course the policy initiative to improve the pedestrian environment in business, shopping and leisure areas with heavy pedestrian flow. The Administration has indicated readiness to report to the Panel on the result of the consultancy study on improving pedestrian environment in January 2010. Noting that some members of the Development Panel have expressed concern about the subject, in particular the town planning aspects, members of the Development Panel would be invited to join the discussion of this item.

January 2010

3. Establishment of an assessment system for provision of hillside escalator links and elevator systems

Last discussed at the meeting on 22 May 2009. At the meeting, the Administration was requested to update the Panel on the finalized assessment system and the assessment outcomes in due course.

1st quarter 2010

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

1st quarter 2010

Proposed timing for discussion

fare and service levels reasonable. In particular, Ms LAU would like to follow up the measures being implemented to 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. 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 on 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. The Administration has indicated readiness to report on progress of the issue of PDI licences and outcome of research on overseas regulatory mechanisms for PDIs.

1st quarter 2010

6. Report of the effectiveness of the new arrangements under the Driving-offence Points System

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

1st quarter 2010

Proposed timing for discussion

implementation and to report the outcome of the review to the Panel.

7. Provision of an advanced, automated Incident Management System in Transport Department

Proposed by the Administration for the purpose of setting up an advanced and automated incident management system in the Transport Department (TD) which deploys advanced technologies to automate and integrate incident management processes, so as to enhance TD's capability in management of traffic and transport incidents. The Administration plans to submit funding application to the Finance Committee in the 2nd/3rd quarter of 2010.

1st/2nd quarter 2010

8. Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge – Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (excluding APM)

Proposed by the Administration. The proposed Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (HKBCF) project involves the provision of the boundary crossing facilities (BCF) for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) within Hong Kong territory. The Administration proposes to upgrade to Category A the part of the project concerning the reclamation to provide its required land, cargo processing facilities, passengers-related facilities, accommodation for other facilities of the HKSAR Government's departments, transport drop-off/pick-up areas, internal and connection roads, and other associated infrastructures and facilities. The construction is tentatively scheduled to commence in the 3rd quarter of 2010 for phased completion in 2015-2016.

2nd quarter 2010

9. Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge – Hong Kong Link Road – advanced works, tender and construction consultancy for remaining works

Proposed by the Administration. The proposed project is to construct a road link connecting the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) from the HKSAR boundary to the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities (HKBCF) at the northeast of the Airport Island. It mainly comprises the design and construction of a dual 3-lane carriageway of about 12-kilometre long linking the main bridge to HKBCF. The construction is tentatively scheduled to commence in the 2nd quarter of 2011 for

2nd quarter 2010

Proposed timing for discussion

completion in the 4th quarter of 2015.

10. Tuen Mun – Chek Lap Kok Link Southern Reclamation

Proposed by the Administration. This involves the partial upgrading of the construction of the Southern Reclamation of Tuen Mun - Chek Lap Kok Link (TM-CLKL) under the TM-CLKL and the Tuen Mun Western Bypass project to Category A. The proposed works are tentatively scheduled to commence in the 3rd quarter of 2010 for completion in the 4th quarter of 2014.

2nd quarter 2010

11. Safety of franchised bus operation

Last discussed at the meeting on 27 November 2009. Members urged the Administration to review the Guidelines on Working Schedule for Franchised Bus Drivers and report back on the progress six months later.

May 2010

12. Changes made by MTRCL to staff welfare

Last discussed at the meeting on 27 November 2009. Dissatisfied with the progress made by MTRCL and the Administration in addressing MTRCL staff's concerns in this regard, the Panel decided to further discuss the issue within this legislative session.

To be confirmed

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

To be confirmed

14. 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

To be confirmed

Proposed timing for discussion

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. The Administration's response to the motion was provided by the Administration and issued vide LC Paper No. CB(1)2523/08-09 on 31 August 2009. 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.

15. 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 section were opened in March 2008 while the remaining section of Route 8 – Tsing Yi to Cheung Sha Wan section (i.e. the last section) will be opened in December 2009. CEDD and the concerned department will continue to examine the actual traffic flow and review the need for the project. Funding application would not be submitted in the 2009-2010 session.

To be confirmed

16. 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.

The Administration will provide an information paper to brief members on the related matters

Proposed timing for discussion

17. 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

18. 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