

Panel on Transport

List of outstanding items for discussion (position as at 4 January 2012)

Items	Proposed timing for discussion
1. Use of Electric Vehicles on Expressways	February 2012
Proposed by the Administration. To promote the use of electric vehicles (EVs) in Hong Kong, the Administration plans to take forward legislative amendments to allow the use of EVs on expressways without having to obtain expressway permits. These EVs will have to satisfy certain technical requirements.	
2. Improvement on Emergency Crossings on Major Roads	February 2012
Proposed by the Administration. To enhance road safety and to modernise the road facilities in Hong Kong, the Administration has been working to replace conventional tubular crash gates at a number of emergency crossings of major roads with movable steel barriers (MSBs) or removable concrete barriers (RCBs) so as to, in case of traffic accidents, prevent errant vehicles from straying onto the opposite carriageways. Such facilities will also provide access for emergency vehicles for rescue operations. A paper will introduce the use and operation of MSBs and RCBs on high speed roads and the current programme/progress of the improvement works.	
3. Trade Licence	February 2012
Proposed by the Administration. The Administration proposes legislative amendments to the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) Regulations (Cap.374E) to provide for the use of trade licence in the re-export of left-hand drive vehicles. Panel members will be invited to offer views and comments on the proposal.	

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4. Issuing mechanism of Certificate of Particulars of Motor Vehicles	Q1 2012
<p>The Administration proposes legislative amendments to the Road Traffic (Registration and Licensing of Vehicles) Regulations (Cap.374E) to improve the issuing mechanism of Certificate of Particulars of Motor Vehicles, in order to enhance privacy protection and ensure that the personal data of registered owners contained in the register is properly used. Panel members will be invited to comment on the outcome of the public consultation exercise and the Administration's latest proposal.</p>	
5. Consultancy Study on Rationalising the Utilisation of Road Harbour Crossings	Q1/Q2 2012
<p>The Administration consulted the Panel at its meetings on 9 November 2010 and 11 January 2011 (meeting with deputations), and completed in the first quarter of 2011 a public consultation on the findings and recommendations of the consultancy study on how to improve the traffic distribution among the three road harbour crossings (RHCs). The Administration is considering the views received and assessing possible measures that could improve the traffic distribution among the RHCs and would not place an undue burden on public finance or Government expenditure. The Administration plans to present the outcome of its assessment to the Legislative Council.</p>	
6. Safety of reversing goods vehicle	Q1/Q2 2012
<p>On 24 June 2011, the Administration reported to the Panel the measures taken to improve the safety of reversing goods vehicles, and put forward a proposal to mandatorily require the installation of reversing video devices on newly registered goods vehicles. The Administration plans to report to the Panel the feedback from the trade and progress on the proposal.</p>	

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7. Widening of Tolo Highway/Fanling Highway between Island House Interchange and Fanling — Stage 2	Q2 2012
<p>Proposed by the Administration. This is to seek Members' support of the funding application for the Project which comprises: (i) widening of a section of Fanling Highway of approximately 3km long between Tai Hang and Wo Hop Shek Interchange from dual 3-lane to dual 4-lane carriageway; (ii) construction of at-grade carriageways, footpaths, cycle tracks, access tracks, footbridges at Tai Hang, Tai Wo, Kiu Tau and Ho Ka Yuen, and a pedestrian and cycle bridge at Wo Hop Shek; and (iii) associated road works.</p>	
8. Provision of barrier-free access facilities at public footbridges, elevated walkways and subways	Q2 2012
<p>Proposed by the Administration. This is to seek Members' support of the funding application for the project to retrofit footbridges / elevated walkways / subways which are not equipped with proper barrier-free access facilities and alternative at-grade crossings are not available within a distance of 100 metres from the structure in question, with lifts or ramps.</p>	
9. Consultancy study on Cycling Networks and Parking Facilities in Existing New Towns	Q2/Q3 2012
<p>The Administration has commissioned a consultancy study to review the existing cycle track networks in nine existing new towns. The consultancy study would identify deficiencies of the existing cycle track networks, propose remedial measures for improvements, and recommend an implementation programme for the proposed improvement works. The Administration plans to brief the Panel the findings of the consultancy study upon its completion.</p>	

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10. Cycling safety	To be confirmed
Last discussed at the meeting on 7 November 2011. Panel members called on the Administration for greater efforts to improve cycling safety, including mandating the requirement of cyclists to wear protective helmets. Mr Andrew CHENG directed that the issue of "cycling safety" should be revisited before the end of the current session.	
11. Regulation of motorcyclists through a graded licence system	To be confirmed
Proposed by Mr WONG Kwok-hing. Concerned about the recent increase in traffic accidents involving large capacity motorcycles, Mr WONG called for the introduction of a graded licence system to improve regulation of motorcyclists.	
12. Outlying island ferry services	To be confirmed
Last discussed at the meetings on 2 June and 11 July 2011. Dissatisfied with the efforts made by the Administration to ensure that the level of service and fares for outlying island ferry services would be reasonable, and to formulate a long-term ferry policy to ensure the sustainability of ferry service in general, Mr Andrew CHENG directed at the meeting on 2 June 2011 that the issue of "outlying island ferry services" should be revisited within this legislative term, preferably a few months later. He also directed that the Secretary for Transport and Housing should be invited to take part in the relevant discussion.	
Mr Andrew CHENG's letter relaying members' concerns expressed at the 2 June 2011 meeting was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(1)2647/10-11(03) dated 6 July 2011. The Administration's response thereto was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(1)2836/10-11(01) dated 29 July 2011. At the meeting on 11 July, Mr Andrew CHENG reiterated the points he made at the 2 June meeting, and urged the Administration to work out new initiatives to	

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address the problems facing ferry operation.

13. Traffic measures and facilities to facilitate the implementation of the Motor Vehicle Idling (Fixed Penalty) Bill

To be confirmed

Referred to the Panel by the Bills Committee (BC) on Motor Vehicle Idling (Fixed Penalty) Bill. To facilitate implementation of the Bill, the BC would like the Panel to follow up the following matters –

- Ensure the Transport Department (TD) would consider proposals for designation of taxi/red minibus (RMB) stands received by taking account of the operational need, traffic impact and site conditions, etc., so as to address BC members' concerns about the regulatory arrangements for so-called "informal" taxi/RMB stands;
- Ensure TD would consider the feasibility of providing shelters or shades at minibus stands that are presently without any form of shelters or shades; and
- Follow up the development of a retrofit device to enable the operation of air-conditioning system by battery when the engine is switched off, so as to ensure its availability before the Bill comes into operation.

14. Government subsidy for public transport services

To be confirmed

Proposed by Mr Ronny TONG. When the Panel discussed "Adjustment to MTR fares in 2011 and the Fare Adjustment Mechanism of MTR Corporation Limited" at the special meeting on 16 May 2011, some members proposed that a public transport fare stabilization fund should be established to alleviate the pressure of fare increase on people by meeting part or whole of the increased fare amount, so as to relieve the burden of travelling expenses on the grassroots. Pointing out that public transport services in most major cities in the world enjoyed Government subsidy, Mr

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TONG proposed that the issue of Government subsidy for public transport services should be included in the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion, and that the Administration should study and provide a paper on overseas practices in this regard, and on the reasons why Hong Kong could not similarly subsidize public transport services.

15. Regulation of charging taxi fares according to meters

To be confirmed

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.

16. Changes made by MTRCL to staff welfare

To be confirmed

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 planned to further discuss the issue.