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7 December 2011

Ms Eva CHENG, GBS, JP  
Secretary for Transport and Housing  
Transport and Housing Bureau  
16/F, Murray Building  
Garden Road,  
Central, Hong Kong

Dear Eva,

### **Panel on Transport**

#### **Franchises of New World First Bus Services Limited, Long Win Bus Company Limited and Citybus Limited (Franchise for airport and North Lantau bus network)**

As Chairman of the Panel, I write to convey a strong request of the Panel that the Administration should undertake to include new clauses in the new franchises for the three bus companies stipulating specific requirements to enhance fare concessions and services.

The Panel discussed the renewal of franchises of the three bus companies at its meetings on 11 July, 7 November and 5 December 2011, and received views from numerous deputations. The Panel has repeatedly urged the Administration to seize the opportunity of negotiating the new ten-year franchises with the three franchised bus companies to press for fare concessions and service enhancements. Regrettably, the Administration still provided a lukewarm response at the last Panel meeting that it would endeavour to satisfy the Panel's requests in this regard on a "best effort" basis only. Panel members considered such an approach unacceptable. The Administration should secure additional commitments from the three bus companies during the new franchise period, and not to grant the new franchises should the bus companies refuse to provide the requested initiatives. In particular, Panel members considered that new clauses had to be included in the new franchises stipulating specific requirements in the following four areas –

- (a) full implementation of section fare arrangement;
- (b) introduction of more bus-bus interchange schemes on suitable bus routes;
- (c) provision of monthly passes; and
- (d) provision of facilities and barrier-free features for the elderly passengers and persons with disabilities.

I strongly request you to accord high priority to considering Panel members' views and request. The Panel is considering holding a further meeting with the Administration on the matter and the Panel Clerk will write to you separately on the meeting arrangement.

Yours sincerely,

(Andrew CHENG Kar-foo)  
Chairman  
Panel on Transport