

Panel on Transport

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 12 October 2011)

	Proposed timing for discussion
1. Latest progress of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Related Infrastructure Projects in Hong Kong	26 October 2011
Proposed by the Administration. To update members on the latest progress of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge related infrastructure projects in Hong Kong, and to seek members' support for funding applications to be made to the Public Works Subcommittee of the Finance Committee for taking forward the works in respect of the Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities and Hong Kong Link Road, as well as the Tuen Mun-Chap Lap Kok Link.	
2. Franchises of New World First Bus Services Limited, Long Win Bus Company Limited and Citybus Limited (Franchise for Airport and North Lantau Bus Network)	On or before 4 November 2011
Last discussed at the meeting on 11 July 2011. Panel members urged the Administration to take the opportunity of the above franchise renewal exercise to press for fare concessions (including concessions for persons with disabilities and the elderly) and service improvements. The Panel planned to schedule a special meeting early in the 2011-2012 session to follow up the matter and to receive public views.	
3. Elderly-friendly bus design	November 2011
Proposed by Mr KAM Nai-wai. Mr KAM would like to ensure that the Administration and the bus companies would pay more attention to the needs of the elderly when designing buses.	

Proposed timing for discussion

4. Application of latest surveying technologies in major highway projects

November 2011

Proposed by the Administration. The Highways Department adopts automatic and sophisticated surveying technologies in surveying works carried out for road construction and maintenance. These technologies include "Global Positioning System", "Three-dimensional Laser Scanning", etc. A paper will introduce the application of these techniques and give examples of their actual use in recent projects.

5. 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 address the problems facing ferry operation.

Proposed timing for discussion

6. 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.

7. 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.

Proposed timing for discussion

8. 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 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.

9. 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.

10. Transport-related initiatives under the Framework Agreement on Hong Kong/Guangdong Co-operation To be confirmed

Proposed by Mr Andrew CHENG. Mr CHENG proposed that the Administration should brief the Panel on all transport-related initiatives under the Framework Agreement signed between Hong Kong and Guangdong on 7 April 2010.

Proposed timing for discussion

- 11. 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.

- 12. Kowloon Southern Link (KSL) fares** To be confirmed

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. 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 Mr Andrew CHENG 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.

- 13. Sha Tin New Town, stage 2 - Trunk Road T4** To be confirmed

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

Proposed timing for discussion

section (i.e. the last section) was 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 2010-2011 session.

14. 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 due course.

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

15. 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 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.

Administration's response issued vide LC Paper No. CB(1)912/10-11 on 24 December 2010 (item proposed to be deleted)