

**The Legislative Council Public Accounts Committee's Public Hearing on  
"Administration of Road Safety Measures" (Chapter No. 2)  
of the Director of Audit's Report No. 60**

**Speech by Secretary for Transport and Housing**

Chairman,

First of all, I would like to thank the Audit Commission for auditing the administration of road safety measures by the Transport and Housing Bureau, Transport Department ("TD"), Hong Kong Police Force ("the Police") and Information Services Department, and providing valuable comments. I would also like to thank the Public Accounts Committee for giving us a chance to further explain our work to the public.

2. Before the question session begins, I would like to briefly respond to the recommendations made in the Director of Audit's Report.

**Part 2: Measures to tackle drink driving**

3. The Police will review the random breath test operations and develop guidelines requiring Regional Traffic Formations to examine their policing priorities and resource deployment, and assess regularly the effectiveness of strategies, locations and timing for carrying out random breath tests.

4. As for streamlining the breath test procedures, the Police will continue to develop and adopt mobile evidential breath test technology to enhance the effectiveness in combating drink driving behaviour. The Police have commissioned the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology to conduct comprehensive testing of mobile evidential breath test device, which is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter this year. Subject to satisfactory testing and trial results, the device will be used for enforcement actions as soon as possible.

5. The Police have been closely monitoring the time interval between conducting the screening breath test and evidential breath test, and will do a full review on ways to reduce the target time.

**Part 3: Measures to tackle speeding and red light jumping**

6. In 2012, TD engaged consultants to carry out preliminary design for conducting a trial of the average speed camera system at the Shenzhen Bay Bridge. TD plans to seek funding approval from the Finance

Committee in mid-2013 for implementing the trial scheme in 2013-14.

7. With regard to enhancing the effectiveness of the existing enforcement camera systems, TD will continue to draw on overseas experience and explore new technologies to improve the systems. TD will also take into account the latest technology in the future expansion/replacement programmes of the speed enforcement camera system and red light camera system.

#### **Part 4: Measures to promote safer vehicle operation**

8. We agree with the Audit Commission's recommendation regarding fitting of seat belts on public light buses (PLBs). We will continue to work with the PLB trade and review from time to time the current measures to enhance the safe operation of PLBs.

9. Separately, TD will, in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Department, continue to encourage owners of diesel PLBs to replace as soon as possible their vehicles with PLBs that are more environmentally friendly and fitted with passenger seat belts.

10. Regarding the Audit Commission's recommendation of taking into account the health check requirements on taxi and bus drivers adopted by other places, TD is actively coordinating franchised bus operators' work to review the health check arrangements for bus drivers to further enhance the operational safety of franchised buses. Meanwhile, we are also reviewing the age requirement for applicants to produce a medical examination certificate issued by a registered medical practitioner when applying for issuance or renewal of driving licence.

11. Without compromising the personal data privacy, we are exploring measures that can address the problem of requiring prior consent of the drivers suspected to be suffering from impaired health, for accessing their medical records.

#### **Part 5: Accuracy of traffic accident data**

12. We accept the Audit Commission's recommendations on improving the accuracy of traffic accident data, and will follow up with relevant Government departments to reduce the errors of data input.

#### **Part 6: Publicity and education programmes**

13. The Audit Commission has recommended that the Administration should step up the review of announcements in the public interest (APIs) and

other materials to be produced by contractors to identify early any possible copyright infringement issues, and explore the feasibility of introducing performance-based contract payment to encourage compliance with the copyright requirement in API production.

14. We agree with the Audit Commission's recommendation, and have carried out searches over the Internet for road safety TV APIs under planning to see if any TV commercials using similar creative execution have been produced elsewhere in the world and whether they may create any copyright infringement issues. However, this can only serve as a reference guide. We also make a special point to ask contractors during presentations of their creative ideas to confirm that their ideas are original and not subject to any copyright issues.

15. We will also explore the feasibility of performance-based payment to encourage compliance with the relevant copyright requirement.

16. Chairman, the above is our brief response to the Director of Audit's Report. We welcome any questions and suggestions from the Committee.

17. Thank you, Chairman.