

道路安全研究小組
Community for Road Safety

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By Email

The Chairman
LegCo's Panel on Transport
Legislative Council Secretariat,
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

Attention : Hon. Tien Puk-sun Michael

Dear Legislative Council Members,

Public Transport Strategy Study – Taxi Service
Recommendation to incorporate "Road Safety" into the Focused Study

Taxis provide convenient personalised public transport for the general public, and safe arrival at their destination is a primary requirement. Furthermore, efficient public transport should not incur undue risk onto other road-users.

Road Traffic Accident Data (2011-2013) shows that every year some 1,600 taxi drivers and 1,200 taxi passengers are injured in taxi accidents. This is unacceptable as a mode of public transport service. We estimate that during this three-year period, the pedestrian casualty rate (by distance travelled) involving taxis is more than one third higher than that involving private cars. Pedestrian collisions involving taxis resulted in 30 pedestrian fatalities. The rate is more than 2 times of that of private cars.

There are many factors leading to the higher accident rates among taxis and this requires serious studies. Based on data in the past six years, current mechanism fails to improve the road safety performance of taxis.

Document CB(4)1143/14-15(03) "Public Transport Strategy Study – Taxi Service" provided by Government to LegCo's Panel on Transport explains that "the Topical Study will look into important topics that are of concern to LegCo Members, the public and the public transport trades. However, these topics have entirely excluded the safety of public transport, including taxis.

We believe that elevating the safety performance of taxis should be a key topic for the Public Transport Strategy Study. Improving safety will not only safeguard the life of passengers, drivers and other road-users, but will also make the public more willing to use taxi service, thereby increasing the income of drivers.

For the above reasons, we would like to urge LegCo's Panel on Transport to advise Government to incorporate "Road Safety" into the Topical Study of the Public Transport Strategy Study for all modes of public transport including taxis.

Yours faithfully,



Julian TH Kwong
Chairman, Community for Road Safety