

政府總部
運輸及房屋局
運輸科

香港添馬添美道2號
政府總部東翼



CB(4)595/15-16(01)
TRANSPORT AND HOUSING BUREAU
GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
TRANSPORT BRANCH

East Wing, Central Government Offices,
2 Tim Mei Avenue,
Tamar, Hong Kong

本局檔號 OUR REF.: THB(T)CR 2/5591/94
來函檔號 YOUR REF.: CB4/PL/TP

電話 Tel. No.: 3509 8155
傳真 Fax No.: 2104 7274

12 February 2016

Secretary General
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Ms Sophie LAU)

[Fax no.: 2978 7569]

Dear Ms LAU,

Legislative Council Panel on Transport

**New franchise for the bus network of the Kowloon Motor Bus
Company (1933) Limited**

Thank you for your letter of 26 January 2016, enclosing with it the views from Hon Charles MOK on the new franchise for the bus network of the Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited (“KMB”).

The franchised bus companies are gradually rolling out their real-time bus service information systems for disseminating information to passengers via smartphones applications (“apps”), websites as well as display panels at bus stops so as to facilitate passengers in knowing their waiting time and planning their journeys. KMB and Long Win Bus Company Limited have started to provide passengers with real-time bus service information through their websites and smartphone apps since early 2015. The system is already available for over 420 main and supplementary routes (or around 80% of routes operated by the companies) operated by these operators and will be extended to the remaining routes progressively. Citybus Limited has also been providing real-time bus service information for its nine airport bus routes through its website and smartphone app. For greater convenience of passengers, the Transport Department (“TD”) is exploring with the franchised bus companies the addition of a new function to TD’s “Hong Kong eTransport” smartphone

app by hyperlinking to the real-time bus service information of routes of individual franchised bus companies. After finalising the implementation arrangements, members of the public will be able to access the estimated bus arrival time in addition to service information of bus routes operated by the different franchised bus companies through “Hong Kong eTransport”.

The franchised bus companies have been developing real-time bus service information systems and maintaining their daily operation for the purpose of enhancing the quality of bus services. Any relevant franchise requirements shall also be for the same purpose. The franchised bus companies have put in substantial resources in developing and operating the systems. The real-time arrival data are their private property and pertain to their commercial operation. The franchised bus companies have thus advised that they have no intention to make available their data for use by other app developers free of charge at present.

Yours sincerely,

(Louis Leung)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.:

Commissioner for Transport

(Attn.: Miss Rachel Kwan)