

立法會

Legislative Council

LC Paper No. CB(1)109/04-05

(These minutes have been
cleared with the Chairman)

Ref : CB1/PL/TP/1

Panel on Transport

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday, 12 October 2004, at 11:20 am in Conference Room B of the Legislative Council Building

- Members present** : Hon LAU Kong-wah, JP (Chairman)
Hon Albert CHAN Wai-yip (Deputy Chairman)
Ir Dr Hon Raymond HO Chung-tai, S.B.St.J., JP
Hon Mrs Selina CHOW LIANG Shuk-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Miriam LAU Kin-ye, GBS, JP
Hon Andrew CHENG Kar-foo
Hon TAM Yiu-chung, GBS, JP
Hon Abraham SHEK Lai-him, JP
Hon Tommy CHEUNG Yu-yan, JP
Hon WONG Kwok-hing, MH
Hon LEE Wing-tat
Hon Jeffrey LAM Kin-fung, SBS, JP
Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming, SBS, JP
Hon Patrick LAU Sau-shing, SBS, JP
- Members absent** : Hon LAU Chin-shek, JP
Hon LI Fung-ying, BBS, JP
Hon LEUNG Kwok-hung
- Clerk in attendance** : Mr Andy LAU
Chief Council Secretary (1)2
- Staff in attendance** : Ms Pauline NG
Assistant Secretary General 1
- Ms Alice AU
Senior Council Secretary (1)5

Ms Anita SIT
Senior Council Secretary (1)9

Miss Winnie CHENG
Legislative Assistant (1)5

Action

I Election of Chairman and Deputy Chairman

Ir Dr Raymond HO, the member who had the highest precedence among members of the Transport Panel, chaired the election of the Chairman. He invited nominations for the chairmanship. Mr Abraham SHEK nominated Mr LAU Kong-wah and the nomination was seconded by Mr TAM Yiu-chung. Mr LAU accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations, Mr LAU Kong-wah was declared elected as Chairman of the Panel.

2. Mr LAU Kong-wah took over the chair and invited nominations for the deputy chairmanship. Mr LEE Wing-tat nominated Mr Albert CHAN Wai-yip and the nomination was seconded by Mr CHENG Kar-foo. Mr CHAN accepted the nomination. There being no other nominations, Mr Albert CHAN was declared elected as Deputy Chairman of the Panel.

II Schedule of meetings for the 2004-2005 session

3. Members agreed that regular meetings of the Panel in the 2004-05 legislative session would be held on the fourth Friday of each month at 10:45 am. Members further agreed that the Panel's regular meetings in December 2004 and March 2005 would be held on 17 December 2004 and 18 March 2005 respectively to avoid clashes with public holidays.

(Post-meeting note: The finalized meeting schedule was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(1)18/04-05 on 13 October 2004.)

III Discussion items for next meeting

4. Members noted the "List of issues suggested to be considered" prepared by the LegCo Secretariat tabled at the meeting. Mr CHENG Kar-foo said that the repeated occurrence of railway incidents in recent months had aroused wide public concern. He considered that there was an urgent need for the Administration and the two railway corporations to report to the Panel the findings of the relevant investigations. He suggested that the Panel discuss the matter within the next week. Mr LEE Wing-tat expressed support for Mr CHENG's suggestion.

Action

(Post-meeting note: The “List of issues suggested to be considered” was issued vide LegCo Paper No. CB(1)39/04-05(01) on 13 October 2004.)

5. Mr WONG Kwok-hing suggested that the Panel should, as soon as possible, review with the Administration the Transport Department’s supervision over the safety of franchised bus operations. He learned that some bus drivers and trade unions had complained that the franchised bus companies which they served forced the drivers to operate buses of different models and run various routes every day, and they were not given reasonable time for meals, rendering the drivers more prone to mistakes and thereby increasing the chances of traffic accidents.

6. Mr Albert CHAN said that he learned from press reports that there was delay in the project to modify part of the Tuen Mun Ferry Pier to establish a new Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal to operate ferry services to Macau and Mainland ports. In view of the importance of the ferry services, he suggested that the matter be discussed at the next regular meeting. Mr CHAN also suggested that as there had been an incessant call for reduction in public transport fares, the Panel should discuss the subject of fare adjustment mechanism, with particular regard to bus fares, as soon as possible.

7. After discussion, members agreed that a special meeting should be held on 20 October 2004 at 10:45 am to discuss issues relating to the railway incidents occurred in recent months. Apart from the Administration, the two railway corporations should also be invited to attend the meeting.

8. Members also agreed that the next regular meeting would be held on 29 October 2004 at 10:45 am to discuss the following two matters –

- (a) Safety of franchised bus operations; and
- (b) Progress update on Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal.

(Post-meeting note: The notices of the two meetings were issued vide LC Paper Nos. CB(1)13/04-05 and CB(1)52/04-05 on 12 October 2004 and 15 October 2004 respectively.)

Visit-cum-briefing on Tsim Sha Tsui Extension

9. Members noted that the Kowloon-Canton Railway Corporation (KCRC) had invited the Panel to visit the East Tsim Sha Tsui Station in the morning of 15 October 2004, followed by a briefing for the Panel on the commissioning of the Tsim Sha Tsui Extension including its fares. A programme of the visit proposed by KCRC was tabled at the meeting. Members agreed to conduct the visit and to hold a special meeting immediately after the visit to receive the briefing by KCRC and the Administration.

(Post-meeting note: The notice regarding the visit-cum-briefing was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(1)13/04-05 on 12 October 2004.)

Action

IV Any other business

Setting up of a subcommittee on matters relating to railways

10. Members noted that in the legislative sessions of 2000-01 to 2003-04, the Panel had set up a subcommittee to monitor issues relating to railway planning, implementation and operation. Members also noted the terms of reference of the subcommittee (tabled at the meeting) adopted by the Panel in the 2003-04 legislative session.

11. After discussion, members agreed in principle that a similar subcommittee should be formed this session to facilitate the work of the Panel, and that a meeting to elect the Chairman of the subcommittee should be held on 20 October 2004. The Chairman said that in the meantime, members might forward any comments regarding the terms of reference of the subcommittee to him through the Clerk.

(Post-meeting note: The notice to members regarding the setting up of the subcommittee was issued vide LC Paper No. CB(1)43/04-05 on 13 October 2004.)

12. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 11:37 am.

Council Business Division 1
Legislative Council Secretariat
26 October 2004