

For Information

Legislative Council Panel on Transport

Trial Scheme for Taxi and Green Minibus Operation at Lok Ma Chau Control Point

Purpose

This paper informs Members of our plan to extend the hours for taxis and green minibuses to access the Lok Ma Chau Control Point (LMCCP) from 12 midnight – 6:30 am to 11 pm – 6:30 am with effect from 26 January 2005.

Background

2. Despite continuous efforts to expand and improve its capacity and facilities, the LMCCP has been under immense pressure due to the rapidly growing cross-boundary traffic between Hong Kong and the Mainland. With the implementation of the Individual Visit Scheme and initiatives under the Mainland and Hong Kong Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement, cross-boundary traffic at the LMCCP is expected to continue to grow significantly.

3. We introduced in March 2003 a trial scheme to allow urban and NT taxis and three GMB routes to access the LMCCP between 12 midnight and 6:30 am, when cross-boundary traffic is relatively lighter. Such an arrangement has proven to be useful as it brings about more convenience and options for cross-boundary travellers. According to a survey conducted in October 2004, about 3 000 people use the three GMB routes and another 900 people use taxis to travel to and from the LMCCP during the said hours each day.

Advancing the Operating Hours of the Scheme

4. We have examined whether the operating hours of the trial scheme can be extended, taking into account the traffic conditions of the LMCCP and nearby roads, as well as the need to ensure that smooth

freight traffic, which is of paramount importance to our economic development, is maintained at all times. With the installation of additional northbound private car kiosks in late 2004 and the completion of a new boundary bridge on 19 January 2005, we consider that it might be feasible to advance the starting time of the scheme from 12 midnight to 11 pm. Further advancement of the starting time would not be feasible due to the busy traffic at the LMCCP and along local roads in the vicinity.

5. The advancement of operating hours will take effect from 11 pm on 26 January 2005. Traffic advice will be issued and the relevant trades will be informed accordingly. We will monitor closely the new measure to ensure that cross-boundary freight traffic and the operation of LMCCP will not be affected.

6. Members are invited to note the content of this paper.

Environment, Transport and Works Bureau
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