

Panel on Transport

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 26 October 2007)

**Proposed timing
for discussion**

1. Staffing proposal to enhance railway safety regulation

November 2007

Proposed by the Administration. With a view to implementing the proposed staffing proposal in February 2008, the Administration needs to consult the Panel in November 2007, followed by the Establishment Subcommittee in December 2007, such that approval from the Finance Committee can be sought in January 2008.

2. Tuen Mun–Chek Lap Kok Link and Tuen Mun Western Bypass

November 2007

Proposed by Mr Albert CHAN. The Administration plans to submit funding application for upgrading part of the project for preliminary design and investigation (<\$500million) to the Public Works Subcommittee in December 2007

3. Legislative proposals to enhance road safety

November/
December 2007

Proposed by the Administration. The Administration plans to report the progress in preparing the legislative proposals on a package of measures to enhance road safety which includes –

- raising penalties on the offences of drink driving and causing death by dangerous driving;
- empowering the Police to conduct random breath tests;
- introducing the mandatory driving improvement course scheme; and
- introducing probationary driving license scheme to novice drivers of private cars and light goods vehicles

4. PWP Item 6746TH – Reconstruction and improvement of Tuen Mun Road

January 2008

Proposed by the Administration. Timing of discussion is subject to the objection handling progress of the gazetted road scheme.

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for discussion**

5. Licensed ferry services in Hong Kong

January 2008

When the item was last discussed at the meeting on 20 July 2007, members saw a need for the Administration to revert to the Panel before the end of 2007 on the fare increase application by Star Ferry. As to the tendering arrangements and the operation of outlying island ferry services in Hong Kong, which was also discussed under the captioned item at the meeting on 20 July and again on 29 August 2007, the Administration was urged to report the outcome of the relevant tender exercise to the Panel in due course.

6. Restriction of public access to Tung Chung Road

1st Quarter 2008

Proposed by Mr Albert CHAN.

**7. Proposals relating to tunnels and control area –
Replacement of facilities**

1st Quarter 2008

Proposed by the Administration.

8. Improvement to Sunny Bay Interchange

1st Quarter 2008

When the item was last discussed at the meeting on 20 July 2007, members saw a need for the Administration to revert to the Panel before submitting the relevant financial proposal to the Public Works Subcommittee. As requested by the Panel on 20 July 2007, the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD) is reviewing the road scheme with a view to further minimizing the proposed reclamation area.

9. Review of taxi operation

March 2008

Proposed by the Chairman. In recognition that the present difficult business environment of taxis is partly attributed to the discounts offered by some taxi drivers, the Chairman sees a need for the Administration to actively map out measures to tackle the malpractice and to review the present taxi fare level. When the relevant item on "Operation of taxis and light goods vehicles at the airport" was discussed at the Panel meeting on 20 July 2007, the Chairman further proposed that to tackle the problem of "taxi discount gangs", the relevant legislation should be amended to stipulate the payment of legal fares

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recorded on the taximeters, and to lower the fees charged for trips over ten kilometres long. At his request to consider his proposal and decide on a solution of the problem, and to report the solution decided upon to the Panel by the end of 2007, the Administration agreed to share with the Panel within a few months the progress of the review on taxi operations it had invited the Transport Advisory Committee to conduct.

10. Central Kowloon Route

April 2008

Proposed by the Administration. The Finance Committee requested the Administration at its meeting on 7 February 2007 to report back to the Panel within the 2007-2008 session the progress of the consultancy study of this highway project.

11. Alignment for North Lantau Highway Connection and update on Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macao Bridge

April 2008

The Administration plans to brief the Panel on the latest development in the planning of the North Lantau Highway Connection and the progress update of the planning and implementation of Hong Kong – Zhuhai – Macao Bridge including the construction cost, financial arrangements, toll determination mechanism and traffic flow projections etc.

12. PWP Item 6579TH - Central – Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link

April 2008

Proposed by the Administration. Timing of discussion is subject to the objection handling progress of the gazetted road scheme and the progress of the relevant judicial review.

13. Safety of reversing goods vehicle

2nd quarter 2008

Proposed by the Chairman. Last discussed at the meetings on 24 October 2006 and 25 May 2007. The Chairman would like to follow up progress in this regard after the two meetings.

14. PWP Item 6819TH - Traffic improvements to Tuen Mun Road Town Centre section

2nd Quarter 2008

Proposed by the Administration. Timing of discussion is

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for discussion**

subject to the objection handling progress of the gazetted road scheme.

15. Measures to rationalize utilization of Build-Operate-Transfer tunnels 2nd Quarter 2008

The item in general was discussed by the Panel on 19 December 2005 and 24 October 2006. At the meeting on 24 October 2006, the Panel urged the Administration to speed up the work to improve the distribution of traffic among the three road harbour crossings, including the discussions with the operators of the Eastern Harbour Crossing and Western Harbour Crossing. The progress of efforts made to enhance the utilization of Route 3 was subsequently discussed at the meeting on 5 May 2007. The item on "Measures to rationalize utilization of the three road harbour crossings" was scheduled for the meeting on 20 July 2007 but was subsequently deferred.

16. Fare increase applications by franchised bus companies and progress update on bus-bus interchange scheme To be confirmed

Proposed by Mr WONG Kwok-hing and Mr LEE Wing-tat respectively. According to Mr LEE, progress in bus-bus interchange scheme seems to have come to a standstill.

17. Sha Tin New Town, stage 2 - Trunk Road T4 To be confirmed

Proposed by the Administration. The Traffic and Transport Committee of Sha Tin District Council passed a motion requesting CEDD to put on hold the project until after the commissioning of Trunk Road T3 and Route 8. Subject to the actual traffic need and flow at that time, consideration may be given to reopen the issue.

18. Review of public light bus operations To be confirmed

Proposed by Mr Albert CHAN. In consideration of the recent media reports on triad infiltration in public light bus operations, Mr CHAN would like to review with the Administration measures to tackle the problem and other monitoring issues relating to red minibus (RMB) operations, as well as the progress of work in respect of the conversion of

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RMB to green minibus operations. When this item is discussed, members may wish to refer to the report of the study entitled "Strategic Review of Public Light Buses in Hong Kong" circulated to members vide LC Paper No. CB(1)1983/06-07 on 25 June 2007.

19. Impact of Ngong Ping Skyrail on New Lantao Bus Company

To be confirmed

This item is proposed by Mr Albert CHAN. At the meeting on 12 October 2006, Mr CHAN highlighted the urgent need for the Panel to discuss the Ngong Ping Skyrail project as a transport issue in consideration of the impact of its operation on the commercial viability of the New Lantao Bus Company Ltd. and hence the sustainability of bus services to the travelling public on Lantau Island.

(Note: The Administration has pointed out that the Ngong Ping Skyrail commenced operation in September 2006, its impact on the New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Ltd. will only become stabilized at a later stage. Moreover, the Company needs time to ascertain its services and financial position before mapping out any necessary changes to its operation. The Administration suggests confirming the timing of discussion at a later stage.)

20. Design of control boxes attached to traffic light poles at pedestrian crossings

The Administration will provide an information paper to brief members on the related matters

Proposed by Mr WONG Kwok-hing. He would like the Administration to conduct an overall review of the design of control boxes attached to traffic light poles and electronic audible traffic signal installations at pedestrian crossings. He also calls on the Administration to adopt a standardized design of such facilities to facilitate use by persons with disabilities.

21. Exemption from regulation 53(2) of the Road Traffic (Traffic Control) Regulations (Cap. 374 sub. leg. G) for vehicles used for canvassing activities

The Administration will provide an information paper to brief members on the related matters

At the Subcommittee to Study Four Items of Subsidiary Legislation under the Road Traffic Ordinance, some members of the Subcommittee considered that the Administration should take a broader view and the proposed Amendment Regulations should aim at facilitating not only the float parades to be held

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at the Hong Kong Disneyland but also canvassing activities during elections. The Administration was of the view that the safety requirements for standing passengers on such vehicles went beyond the ambit of the then legislative amendments, but the Administration undertook to separately examine this proposal in detail.

22. Legislative amendments relating to lighting, reflectors and markings of vehicles

Drafting of the legislative amendments is underway. The Administration will consult the Panel before the legislation is tabled at LegCo for negative vetting.

The Administration will provide an information paper to brief members on the related matters

23. Measures to enhance the safety awareness of pedestrians

Proposed by Mr WONG Kwok-hing to highlight the importance of preventing traffic accidents arising from pedestrians listening to MP3 while crossing the road. In this regard, Mr WONG would like to know whether the Transport Department has collected any statistics on such traffic accidents.

The Administration will provide an information paper to brief members on the related matters

24. Private Driving Instructor's Licences

At the meeting on 24 February 2006, when the captioned subject was discussed, the Panel agreed to revisit the subject matter, pending the biennial review to be carried out by the Administration in early 2007 to determine if there was a need to issue new private driving instructor's (PDI) licences. The Administration was also urged to consider reviewing the grouping of PDIs in the context of the review and revert to the Panel.

An information paper was provided to the Panel on 17 July 2007 vide LC Paper No. CB(1)2145/06-07