

Panel on Transport

Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways

List of issues suggested to be considered

(position as at 20 November 2008)

**Proposed
timing for
discussion**

1. Review of the Mass Transit Railway By-laws and North-west Railway By-laws

As a consequence of the merging of the operations of the Mass Transit Railway (MTR) and the Kowloon-Canton Railway (KCR) systems, a number of amendments to the relevant subsidiary legislation were needed for the purpose of expanding the scope of the relevant regulations and bylaws. In May 2007, the House Committee agreed to form a subcommittee to study the draft subsidiary legislation relating to the rail merger.

January
2009

In the course of deliberation, some members considered that there was a need to improve the two sets of bylaws (namely, the Mass Transit Railway By-laws and North-west Railway By-laws) as some provisions and offences therein were already outdated, and could not meet the present-day circumstances. On the other hand, some members were concerned about the drafting of some of the existing provisions. In their opinion, these bylaw provisions were not clearly defined, and hence the general public might inadvertently be caught by the provisions. The Subcommittee noted the policy decision of MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) that the objective of the then exercise was to amend the relevant bylaws where necessary for implementing the rail merger. MTRCL agreed that a comprehensive review of the bylaws would be conducted taking into account the experience of operating the integrated railway system after the merger as well as suggestions by members to improve individual bylaw provisions, and that the post-merger corporation would report the review result to the Legislative Council within 12 months after the rail merger.

Separately, Mr Albert CHAN had previously suggested that there was a need to review the situation of enforcement of certain regulations in the relevant bylaws. He pointed out that the broadcasting of advertisements and programmes in train

**Proposed
timing for
discussion**

compartments had been causing disturbance to passengers. He also observed that recently, some commercial entities were allowed to distribute pamphlets and conduct other promotional activities inside MTR stations causing nuisances to passengers.

2. South Island Line

Proposed by Mrs Regina IP at the Panel meeting on 14 October 2008. According to her, affected residents are gravely concerned about the possible design of the section of the South Island Line (East) from Aberdeen Tunnel to Ap Lei Chau, which may take the form of a viaduct instead of a tunnel. Residents are concerned about the design's possible visual and noise impacts, and impacts on the sustainable development of the Southern District.

January 2009

3. The West Island Line

Proposed by the Administration. The Administration proposes to brief Members on the authorized railway scheme of the West Island Line and to consult Members on the proposed funding support for the project, before the funding application is submitted to the Public Works Subcommittee.

2nd quarter
2009

As proposed by Mr KAM Nai-wai at the Panel meeting on 14 October 2008, the Administration's information paper on this item should address public concerns about the locations of the ventilation shafts concerned.

4. Follow-up on matters arising from the rail merger

Proposed by the Panel Chairman. He would like to follow up progress of the various matters raised by the Bills Committee on Rail Merger Bill, such as the provision of public toilets at railway stations, and other service improvement undertakings.

Before June
2009

**Proposed
timing for
discussion**

5. The Shatin to Central Link and the Kwun Tong Line Extension

Proposed by Mr KAM Nai-wai at the Panel meeting on 14 October 2008. He would like to be briefed on the progress of these railway projects.

June/July
2009

6. Northern Link

The item was last discussed at the Subcommittee meeting on 15 January 2007.

To be
confirmed

The alignment and planning parameters of the Northern Link are under review in view of the planning and engineering study on the New Development Areas in the New Territories so that the Northern Link could be properly integrated with these new developments.

7. Port Rail Link

Last discussed at the Subcommittee meeting on 29 June 2004.

To be
confirmed

The proposed Port Rail Link will provide a freight rail corridor from Lo Wu to a new port rail terminal at Kwai Chung, via either East Rail or West Rail. According to the Administration, the timing for this rail line will depend on the build-up of rail freight demand. As advised by MTRCL, the freight volume has been declining since 2002 and this trend is very likely to continue. The need of the Port Rail Link will have to be reviewed.

8. Extension of Island Line to Siu Sai Wan

Proposed by Mrs Regina IP at the Panel meeting on 14 October 2008. Pointing out that Siu Sai Wan had a population of some 70 000, she saw a need for the extension of the Island Line to Siu Sai Wan.

To be
confirmed