

立法會
Legislative Council

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Tel : 2869 9205

Date : 22 October 2009

From : Clerk to the Legislative Council

To : All Members of the Legislative Council

Council meeting of 4 November 2009

**Motion on
“Alleviating the burden of travelling expenses”**

Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming has given notice to move the attached motion on “Alleviating the burden of travelling expenses” at the Council meeting of 4 November 2009. The President has directed that “it be printed in the terms in which it was handed in” on the Agenda of the Council.

(Mrs Justina LAM)
for Clerk to the Legislative Council

Encl.

(Translation)

Motion on
“Alleviating the burden of travelling expenses”
to be moved by Hon CHEUNG Hok-ming
at the Legislative Council meeting
of Wednesday, 4 November 2009

Wording of the Motion

That, as the people of Hong Kong are still under the impact of the financial tsunami, many of them face difficulties in life and bear a heavy burden of travelling expenses, this Council urges the Government to discuss with various public transport operators and adopt effective measures to alleviate the burden of travelling expenses on the public, which include:

- (a) to provide subsidies to the MTR Corporation Limited, bus companies, green minibus and ferry operators so that they will offer half-fare concessions to passengers on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, thereby enabling the public to have more opportunities to get together with their families and friends on those days;
- (b) to extend the deadline for submitting applications under the Transport Support Scheme, further relax the eligibility criteria and the subsidy period under the Scheme and expand it to cover all districts in the territory;
- (c) to discuss with various public transport operators to offer the Free-ride Day for the elderly on public holidays and specified days of each week on a permanent basis, formulate an implementation timetable for the provision of half-fare concessions to people with disabilities, and study the feasibility of introducing daily, weekly and monthly travel passes that are valid among various public transport operators;
- (d) to discuss with the MTR Corporation Limited to continue extending its fare-freeze period, re-launch the ‘Ride 10 Get One Free’ Promotion, set up more MTR Fare Savers according to the requests of the residents and by using more consistent standards, and explore further extension of the existing monthly and daily ticket schemes, including introducing monthly tickets for short-haul trips and making it a permanent arrangement, etc;
- (e) to rationalize the fare structure of the MTR Corporation Limited, including rectifying the unreasonable and chaotic situation of ‘fares for short-haul trips being more expensive than long-haul trips’, adjusting downwards the fares of the Kowloon Southern Link to a reasonable level, and enabling the passengers

to travel to Hung Hom Station using Tuen Mun-Nam Cheong Monthly Pass at the original price; as well as resume the service of the free bus route number K16;

- (f) to discuss with the franchised bus companies to re-launch same day return fare concessions, improve their existing fare structures, expeditiously revise the scale of fares under the Public Bus Services Ordinance as well as the route groupings under the scale, re-formulate the existing guidelines on the setting of fares to provide comprehensive sectional fares and bus-bus interchange concessions, including discounts for interchange among buses of different companies, provide half-fare concessions to all full-time students, as well as introduce daily and monthly ticket schemes for buses; and
- (g) targeting at the problem of high fares of outlying island ferry services, to actively study various suitable options, including substantially increasing the non-fare box revenue of ferry operators or the Government directly operating the services, etc; allocate resources to alleviate the burden of ferry service expenses on outlying island residents; and offer half-fare concessions on ferry services to students of outlying islands.