

政府總部
運輸及房屋局
運輸科
香港花園道美利大廈



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23 March 2011

Clerk to Panel on Transport,
Legislative Council,
Legislative Council Building,
8 Jackson Road,
Central,
Hong Kong.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Panel on Transport and Panel on Environmental Affairs
Meeting on 28 May 2010
Follow-up Action

At the joint meeting of Panel on Transport and Panel on Environmental Affairs on 28 May 2010, Members discussed the item on “Rationalisation of bus routes to improve air quality”. At the meeting, Members requested the Administration to follow up with the relevant District Councils on the route rationalisation proposals regarding franchised bus routes 234S, 69X, N237 and 962X. We would like to report the development of these proposals as follows -

Proposed cancellation of the two special morning departures of KMB Route 234S (Sham Tseng (Bellagio) to Tsing Yi Station)

KMB¹ Route 234S is a peak only service, operating two departures at 7.20 a.m. and 7.50 a.m. from Sham Tseng to Tsing Yi Station. In view of the low utilisation of the service (on average 20%), KMB proposed to cancel the two morning departures and to extend another KMB Route 234B (Sea Crest Villa – Tsuen Wan West Station) which is also routed via Sham Tseng to Tsing Yi as replacement service. When the Transport Department (“TD”) consulted Tsuen Wan District Council (“TWDC”), TWDC Members raised strong objection to the cancellation of Route 234S as they considered that it would take passengers

¹ Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited (KMB).

boarding in Sham Tseng a longer time to reach Tsing Yi Station. Should the proposal be pursued, TWDC requested for deployment of additional resources to maintain the frequency of Route 234B after the route extension. However, this proposal from TWDC cannot be pursued because of resource constraint. In the absence of a suitable alternative, TD has decided not to pursue the route cancellation proposal for the time being.

Proposed cancellation of one special departure of KMB Route 69X (Tin Shui – Jordan (To Wah Road))

KMB operates two special departures from Tin Yiu Estate to Jordan on Route 69X at 7.35 a.m. and 7.55 a.m. on weekdays. After the commissioning of the Kowloon Southern Link, the patronage of the two special departures dropped by about 50%, from 100 to about 50 on each departure. The proposal was to cancel one special departure (7.35 a.m.) and re-deploy the bus to operate on the main service of Route 69X from Tin Shui Estate where the bus will still observe the bus stop at Tin Yiu Estate. When TD consulted Yuen Long District Council (“YLDC”), YLDC Members strongly objected to the proposal, as they opined that passengers of Tin Yiu Estate might have difficulty boarding at the en-route stop, causing great inconvenience to them. As the proposal involves only the change of the terminal point of one departure with no resource saving, it will be dropped in view of the local objection.

Proposed frequency reduction of KMB Route N237 (Mei Foo – Kwai Shing (Circular))

KMB Route N237 is an under-utilised bus route with an average daily patronage of about 140. It was proposed to adjust the frequency of the route from 15 to 20 minutes to better reflect passenger demand. When TD consulted Kwai Tsing District Council (“K&TDC”), K&TDC did not support the proposal because there were no other overnight public transport services in the vicinity of Kwai Shing. However, TD considered that the frequency reduction was mild and could meet the passenger demand even in the small hours. The frequency reduction was implemented on 31 October 2010.

Proposed frequency reduction of off peak service of CTB² Route 962X (Tuen Mun (Lung Mun Oasis) – Admiralty (West))

In view of the low passenger demand (about 20 passengers per trip) during the off peak period, CTB proposed to reduce the frequency of CTB Route 962X from 20 to 30 minutes between 11.00 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. in respect of the Admiralty bound service, and between 9.50 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. in respect of the

² Citybus Limited (CTB).

Tuen Mun bound service. The rationalisation proposal would result in a reduction of 13 trips daily on the busy corridors of Connaught Road Central and Queensway. Passengers of Route 962X can take CTB Route 962 (Tuen Mun (Lung Mun Oasis) – Causeway Bay (Moreton Terrace)) as an alternative. When TD consulted Tuen Mun District Council (“TMDC”), TMDC Members objected to the proposal as the journey time of Route 962 was 10 minutes longer than Route 962X. Having considered the views of TMDC, TD will explore other options for further consultation with TMDC and relevant parties.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Choy', written in a cursive style.

(Miss Constance Choy)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c. Commissioner for Transport (Attn.: Miss LUI Ying)