



Hong Kong, 28 January 2015

Clerk to the Panel on Transport  
Legislative Council Secretariat  
Legislative Council Complex  
1 Legislative Council Road  
Central, Hong Kong

By post and email: panel\_t@legco.gov.hk

**Views on 'Public Transport Strategy Study' – Franchised bus services**

Chairman and members,

As a District Councilor, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect the views of my constituents on the subject study and would be grateful if the panel and Transport and Housing Bureau can consider the following positively.

**Real Time Information**

Our residents are highly frustrated with the unpredictability of franchised bus service arrivals. Road congestion can delay equipment and result in varying waiting times up to 40 minutes for some services covering Pokfulam. We have repeatedly suggested to the Transport Department to make it compulsory on the operators to install GPS locators on all services, to start with for all services with headways of 10 minutes or more.

This information should be streamed over the internet in real time and made available in an open source format and free of copyright and displayed in the bus, at digital displays in the bus stops and via mobile applications available free of charge to passengers. Bus franchise agreement set out rights and obligations for private companies to provide public transport services. They should also include terms on public transport information. Open data will not only improve competition, it will also enhance the overall quality of public transport service experience for the community.

**Routes rationalisation**

Bus routes rationalisation is a sensitive issue. In general, we support bus routes rationalisation, particularly for routes that pass through congested zones, if and only if there has been sufficient consultation beforehand and reasonable alternative solutions are made available to existing passengers.

Yours faithfully

Paul Zimmerman