



Hong Kong, 22 April 2015

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

By email: panel_t@legco.gov.hk

Views on 'Public Transport Strategy Study' – Public Light Buses

Chairman and Members,

As a District Councilor, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect the views of my constituents which I trust you and the Transport and Housing Bureau will consider positively.

Increase the number of seats on Public Light Buses (minibuses)

Our residents are frustrated with the lack of empty seats at terminals and en-route, and the unpredictability of an available seat. During peak hours, waiting times are often longer than the actual journey time.

For many residents of Pokfulam and the Southern District, minibuses are the only suitable transport service available. For them minibuses are the main and not just an auxiliary transport mode.

Together with some 600 people who have signed our petition 'More Seats On The Minibus' we call on Government to now increase the seat capacity of minibuses.

The previous increase took place in 1988 when Hong Kong's population stood at 5.6million. Today, we have over 7.2 million people, representing an increase of 28.5% over the past 26 years. It is time for a change.

Increasing the seat will not only address capacity shortage during peak hours, it is also an efficient way to improve the travelling experience. As early as ten years ago, two models of buses, the Toyota LPG Coaster and the Mitsubishi Fuso Rosa, are being deployed which are designed for 20 seats by their manufacturers. Till now, four seats closest to the driver were removed and replaced with a luggage rack.

Given the existing and foreseen shortage of minibus drivers in the sector, this measure will improve the operating environment of the transport sector. The increase of permitted seats will stimulate operators to retire old vehicles and acquire new environmentally friendly vehicles.

Maintain minibus frequencies during non-peak hour

In evaluating minibus performances and service level the Transport Department should not only consider the hourly capacity and demand, but also the frequency. The increase in seats should not lead to a reduction in service quality for residents who lack alternative modes of transport. We urge Government to oblige operators to maintain a high level of frequency on all services during non-peak hours.



中華人民共和國香港特別行政區
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南區區議會
Southern District Council
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District Councillor, Paul Zimmerman

Display of route numbers at the side and back of Green Minibuses (GMBs)

The lack of display of route number at the side and back of the vehicles is inconvenient for passengers seeking to board GMBs. They often have to walk around to the front to check the route number before boarding. It can also result in safety concerns as passengers are often forced to walk on the road to pass the queues at the bus stop. Moreover it can slow down boarding and impact traffic flows. We urge the Panel and Transport and Housing Bureau to mandate the display of route numbers at the front, side and back of minibuses.

Yours faithfully

Paul Zimmerman
Pokfulam District Councillor