

**For Discussion  
on 16 December 2015**

## **Legislative Council Panel on Transport**

### **Public Engagement for Electronic Road Pricing Pilot Scheme in Central and its Adjacent Areas**

#### **Purpose**

This paper invites Members' view on a proposed Electronic Road Pricing ("ERP") pilot scheme in Central and its adjacent areas ("the Central District ERP Pilot Scheme").

#### **Background**

2. Road traffic congestion has been deteriorating, with a general decline in car journey speed across Hong Kong. On some major traffic corridors on Hong Kong Island, cars only travel at around 10 km/hour during peak hours, a speed that is not much faster than an adult's average walking speed of 4 to 5 km/hour. Road traffic congestion undermines the mobility, connectivity and livability of our city. The economy, air quality and image of Hong Kong as a world-class metropolis are also adversely affected by traffic congestion.

3. To step up the Government's on-going effort to tackle traffic congestion, the Secretary for Transport and Housing invited the Transport Advisory Committee ("TAC") in 2014 to study the matter. The TAC submitted a study report<sup>1</sup> in December 2014 and recommended a total of 12 short to long-term measures to tackle road traffic congestion. At the meeting of this Panel in May 2015, the Government announced in-principle agreement with TAC's recommendations and undertook to take them forward in phases having regard to public sentiment, stakeholders' views, availability of resources, latest technology and overseas experience, etc.

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<sup>1</sup> The TAC report can be downloaded at the following link:  
[http://www.thb.gov.hk/eng/boards/transport/land/Full\\_Eng\\_C\\_cover.pdf](http://www.thb.gov.hk/eng/boards/transport/land/Full_Eng_C_cover.pdf)

## **Central District ERP Pilot Scheme**

4. One of the recommendations made by the TAC is that the Government should commence the early planning of an ERP pilot scheme in the Central District. We agree that ERP is an effective traffic management tool to tackle localised traffic congestion and that the Central District is a suitable location for implementing an ERP pilot scheme.

5. While ERP schemes have been successfully implemented in a number of overseas cities, like Singapore and London, ERP remains a novel concept to many road users in Hong Kong. It is therefore important to build up community consensus on a number of issues pertinent to the planning of the Central District ERP Pilot Scheme.

6. To gauge the public views, the Government has commenced a three-month public engagement exercise for the Central District ERP Pilot Scheme on 11 December 2015. A copy of the public engagement document is at the **Annex** and could also be seen in the dedicated ERP website ([www.erphk.hk](http://www.erphk.hk)).

7. The public engagement document explains the background of the exercise, the basic elements of an ERP scheme (such as charging level and period), and overseas experience. In particular, it sets out various options for the basic elements for planning the Central District ERP Pilot Scheme to facilitate public discussion. The Government has an open mind on these options. After collating the public views, we will develop more detailed options for discussion at the next stage.

### **Advice Sought**

8. Members are invited to give views on the proposed Central District ERP Pilot Scheme.

**Transport and Housing Bureau  
December 2015**