

**Opening Remarks by the Secretary for Transport and Housing
at the LegCo Special Finance Committee Meeting (Transport)
on 5 April 2017**

Honourable Chairperson,

Today, I would like to brief Members on our work on land, marine and air transport in the new financial year.

2. For land transport, the Kwun Tong Line Extension and the South Island Line (East) were commissioned last year and the construction of the Shatin to Central Link is in full swing. We have invited the MTR Corporation Limited to submit detailed proposals for four railway schemes recommended in the Railway Development Strategy 2014, namely the Northern Link (and Kwu Tung Station), the Tuen Mun South Extension, the East Kowloon Line as well as the Tung Chung West Extension (and Tung Chung East Station).

3. As for large-scale road projects, apart from the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link, the Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link and the Tseung Kwan O-Lam Tin Tunnel now under construction, etc., we are now seeking funding approval from LegCo for implementing the Central Kowloon Route project. We also suggest Route 11 for connecting Northwest New Territories and the urban areas, and will take forward the feasibility study.

4. In view of the comparatively long lead time of major transport infrastructure, the Government decides to take forward the strategic studies on railways and major roads beyond 2030.

5. In respect of public transport services, the Government has commenced the Public Transport Strategy Study (PTSS) in late 2014 to review a number of topics on public transport services other than railway. These include the proposal to increase the maximum seating capacity of public light buses to 19; and the study on improving ordinary taxi services and introducing new franchised taxis in response to the community's concern and to meet new demand. We will release a consolidated report on PTSS in mid-2017.

6. The Government attaches great importance to road traffic congestion and its substantial cost to our society. We adopt a multi-pronged approach by taking forward the measures recommended earlier by the Transport Advisory Committee, controlling the growth of the private car fleet size on one hand, while combating illegal parking and

improving the supply of parking spaces with priority accorded to the parking needs of commercial vehicles on the other hand. For the convenience of motorists, the Transport Department has also updated the “Hong Kong eRouting” mobile application to provide information on parking vacancies of about 50 Government and private car parks.

7. Apart from improving public transport, we will progressively make Hong Kong a “walkable” and “bicycle-friendly” city. We will also continue to implement the “Universal Accessibility” Programme.

8. In respect of marine transport, the Marine Department will continue to take forward various measures to enhance marine safety, improve its work flow and procedures, enhance training and address the shortage of manpower in the Department.

9. The Government established the Hong Kong Maritime and Port Board in April last year and set aside additional resources to step up efforts to further promote Hong Kong Port and our high value-added maritime services sector, so as to enhance Hong Kong's status as an international maritime centre.

10. We are taking forward in phases the various recommendations made in the review of the use of port back-up land in the Kwai Tsing Container Terminals completed in 2015, including expanding terminal yard space and providing additional barge berths so as to enhance port operational efficiency.

11. We will release two sites in Tuen Mun West totalling about 10 hectares for high value-added logistics uses as soon as practicable and continue to identify other sites, with a view to supporting the development of third-party logistics.

12. As far as aviation is concerned, Hong Kong International Airport is the world's busiest cargo gateway and the world's third busiest international passenger airport. The Government will assist the Airport Authority Hong Kong in implementing the Three-Runway System project, and furthering the growth of transshipment and cross-boundary logistics and delivery services.

13. Last month, the Government introduced a Bill into the LegCo to create a new dedicated tax regime to promote the development of aircraft leasing business in Hong Kong.

14. In order to comply with the new standard of the International Civil Aviation Organisation, the Government will establish an air accident investigation authority under the Transport and Housing Bureau, which will be independent from the Civil Aviation Department.

15. Honourable Chairperson, I will be happy to answer policy-related questions from Members. Controlling officers and other colleagues will answer questions pertaining to operation and the use of financial resources.

Transport and Housing Bureau
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