

立法會

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Panel on Economic Development Meeting on 19 December 2018

Background brief on measures to mitigate the impact of increasing number of inbound tourists on Tung Chung community since the commissioning of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge

Purpose

This paper provides background information on the measures to mitigate the impact of the increasing number of inbound tourists on the Tung Chung community since the commissioning of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge ("HZMB"). It also summarizes the major views and concerns expressed by Members on the subject matter at previous Council meetings.

Background

2. HZMB is the first cross-boundary land link connecting Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macao. The entire HZMB project includes the Main Bridge in Mainland waters and the respective link roads and ports in Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macao. The 12-km long Hong Kong Link Road ("HKLR") starts from the boundary between Hong Kong and Guangdong and runs eastward to the Hong Kong Port located to the east of the Hong Kong International Airport, linking the Main Bridge with the Hong Kong Port. HKLR and the Main Bridge are directly connected expressways. On the Hong Kong Port, there are facilities including the Passenger Clearance Building for clearance checks, public transport interchanges, etc.. The layout plans of HZMB and the Hong Kong Port are in **Appendix I**. HZMB came into operation on 24 October 2018.

3. Media reports reveal that since HZMB opening to traffic on 24 October 2018, a large number of tourists entering Hong Kong via HZMB have flocked to Tung Chung. As a result, the catering, shopping, tourist and transport facilities in the district are overwhelmed, and a large number of tourists waiting at Tung Chung Bus Terminus for buses heading for the Hong

Kong Port have caused obstruction to passageways and noise nuisances. The daily lives of the residents there are thus seriously affected.

Major views and concerns expressed by Members in previous Council meetings

4. During the Chief Executive's Question Time at the Council meeting of 14 November 2018, Hon Holden CHOW raised questions in respect of the impact of the increasing number of tourists entering Hong Kong through HZMB on the Tung Chung community. At the Council meetings of 21 and 28 November, and 12 December 2018, Hon Andrew WAN, Hon Tony TSE and Hon Michael TIEN raised questions relating to diversion of tourists entering the territory through HZMB, planning for the ancillary facilities for major infrastructure projects, and provision of facilities at the Hong Kong Port for visitors to Hong Kong.

5. At the said Council meetings, Members expressed grave concern about the impact of the influx of tourists entering Hong Kong via HZMB on the Tung Chung community. They therefore urged the Administration to step up its efforts in alleviating the problem, and asked the Administration to consider the following suggestions:

- (a) discussing with the Mainland authorities the introduction of tour groups or bus routes destined for the HZMB's East Artificial Island, which is located within Mainland waters, so that those Mainland residents who merely want to visit HZMB need not enter Hong Kong;
- (b) discussing with the Mainland authorities tightening the arrangement for issuing exit endorsements for Mainland residents to visit Hong Kong;
- (c) relocating the bus stops of feeder Route B6 travelling from Mun Tung Estate in Tung Chung to the Hong Kong Port to locations farther away from the residential areas of Tung Chung;
- (d) liaising with the Guangdong Province Culture and Tourism Unit ("GDCTU") on matters relating to the conduct of illegal Mainland inbound tour groups and diversion of tourists to various locations in Hong Kong;
- (e) setting up shopping, catering and entertainment facilities at the HZMB Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities ("BCF") to cater for the needs of tourists who merely intend to visit HZMB but not to enter Hong Kong; and

- (f) diverting tourists arriving Hong Kong through HZMB BCF to different districts.

6. The Administration replied that various inter-departmental meetings had been called to tackle the matter in view of the recent situation in Tung Chung. Based on the experience gained from the past few weekends, around one-fifth of visitors arriving Hong Kong through HZMB BCF did not leave BCF to visit other districts in Hong Kong by taking local public transportation. This indicated that many of these visitors mainly intended to visit HZMB itself. The Administration has been working with the local tourism trade and bus companies to implement a number of measures to divert the flow of visitors. These measures include:

- (a) exploring with relevant Mainland authorities the opening of the HZMB's East Artificial Island to allow group tourists who mainly intend to visit HZMB to return to Zhuhai or Macao from the Island without crossing the boundary of Hong Kong;
- (b) setting up temporary small-scale shops or booths in HZMB BCF to allow travellers to buy souvenirs therein;
- (c) exploring the introduction of food trucks to serve travellers near HZMB BCF and in Sunny Bay;
- (d) coordinating the local trade to smoothen visitor flow near HZMB BCF, including requesting the local trade to arrange travellers to use other means of transport and encouraging the trade to launch travel itineraries and products such as half-day tours, so as to help divert travellers;
- (e) reporting the incident of inbound tour groups suspected of violating relevant laws in Hong Kong to GDCTU which has issued notices urging the relevant authorities and tourism operators to strictly abide by the laws and regulations in Hong Kong;
- (f) implementing new measures concerning the operating arrangements of domestic tour coaches at HZMB BCF on 21 November 2018, under which registered coach operators could enter BCF's pick-up area to pick up passengers on any day provided that they have submitted an application and completed certain simple procedures via the Transport Department's online system by 9 pm the prior day. This arrangement helps Hong Kong receiving travel agents and Mainland inbound travel agents establish co-operation, so as to reduce the influx of tourists into Tung Chung through the flexible deployment of tour coaches;

- (g) launching an online pre-booking system to allow travel agents or organizers of tour groups to purchase shuttle bus tickets for designated dates and time slots starting from 24 November 2018. This arrangement helps manage and regulate visitor flows at all time slots, thereby preventing group tourists from entering and leaving Hong Kong at the same time; and
- (h) implementing a series of measures starting from 10 November 2018 to improve the queuing arrangement of Route B6 at Tung Chung, including arranging passengers to buy return tickets in advance, arranging two buses at a time for passengers to get aboard, and deploying more staff to facilitate passengers to get aboard.

Apart from the above measures, the Administration also advised that in the medium term, the expected opening of the large-scale retail, dining and entertainment complex of the SkyCity on the Airport Island in phases from 2023 would help divert visitors.

7. Hyperlinks to the questions raised by Members and the Administration's responses are in **Appendix II**.

Latest development

8. Hon Holden CHOW wrote to the Panel on Economic Development ("the Panel") on 15 November 2018 requesting the Panel to discuss the measures to mitigate the impact of increasing number of inbound tourists on the Tung Chung community since the commissioning of HZMB. The Administration will update members on the latest developments at the Panel meeting on 19 December 2018.

Relevant papers

9. A list of the relevant papers available on the Legislative Council Website (<http://www.legco.gov.hk>) is in **Appendix II**.



Source: Plan 1 attached to CB(4)1072/17-18(03)

List of relevant papers

Issued by	Meeting Date/ Issue Date	Paper
Council meeting	14 November 2018	Hansard (Floor) (The Chief Executive's Question Time)
	21 November 2018	Council question on "Diversion of tourists entering the territory through the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge" raised by Hon Andrew WAN
	28 November 2018	Council question on "Planning for the ancillary facilities for major infrastructure projects" raised by Hon Tony TSE
	12 December 2018	Council question on "Provision of facilities at Hong Kong Port of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge for visitors to Hong Kong" raised by Hon Michael TIEN
Panel on Transport	18 May 2018 (Item IV)	Administration's paper Background brief