

Panel on Transport

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 8 October 2018)

Items	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>1. Proposed toll adjustment options for the three road harbour crossings and three land tunnels between Kowloon and Sha Tin</p> <p>The Administration will consult the Panel on the proposed toll adjustment options to achieve better traffic distribution among three road harbour crossings and three land tunnels between Kowloon and Sha Tin having regard to the discussion with Western Harbour Tunnel Company Limited.</p>	Q4 2018
<p>2. Franchised bus fares and fare concessions</p> <p>At the meeting on 28 October 2016, Mr LAU Kwok-fan suggested discussing the matters on bus fares, in particular introduction of sectional fares and provision of more fare concessions for residents living in remote areas. On 29 May 2017, Mr KWOK Wai-keung and Mr LUK Chung-hung wrote to the Panel Chairman requesting discussion of the trial scheme of narrowing the fare differential for short-haul trips of cross-harbour routes and non-cross harbour routes (LC Paper No. CB(4)1163/16-17(01)). The Administration's response (LC Paper No. CB(4)1285/16-17(01)) was issued to members on 22 June 2017.</p>	To be confirmed

3. Relaxation of the traffic restriction in South Lantau and the related transport facilities and arrangements

To be confirmed

Proposed by Dr KWOK Ka-ki at the meeting on 28 October 2016.

The Administration has advised on 9 October 2017 that according to a survey on users' views, the relaxation measures have been well received by the public. The Administration will keep in view the situation, including the traffic condition as well as the supply and utilisation of parking spaces in South Lantau. TD will also take into account the Sustainable Lantau Blueprint as well as the Feasibility Study on Traffic, Transport and Capacity to receive visitors for Lantau being undertaken by Development Bureau and Civil Engineering and Development Department for completion by December 2018.

4. Cycling safety and consultancy study on cycling networks and parking facilities in existing new towns

The Administration advises that it has commissioned a consultancy study on improving the cycle track network in the nine new towns in the New Territories. As part of the study, TD has drawn up a list of about 900 potential improvement sites. The first batch of improvement works for about 100 sites have started in 2016 in phases, with a target for completion in two years. TD is working on the remaining improvement proposals and will implement them in phases. The Administration will report to the Panel the findings of the consultancy study upon its completion.

At the Panel meetings on 7 November 2011 and 16 October 2012 respectively, members considered that the issue of "cycling safety" should be revisited by the Panel and the Administration should consider formulating a policy to promote the use of bicycles as

a means of transport in Hong Kong. The Administration advises that due to road safety considerations, the use of bicycle as a transport mode in urban areas is not encouraged because roads in these areas are usually narrow and crowded. The Administration will continue to foster a "bicycle-friendly" environment in new towns and new development areas by improving the cycle tracks and ancillary facilities.

On cycling safety, the Administration consulted the Panel in March 2018 on revised Road Users' Code, to provide, inter alia, updated guidelines to cyclists and other road users on safe cycling.

Mr LAU Kwok-fan wrote to the Panel Chairman on 8 May 2017 requesting discussion of the "bicycle-friendly" policy (LC Paper No. CB(4)1012/16-17(01)) at a Panel meeting. The Administration's response to the letter (LC Paper No. CB(4)1313/16-17(01)) was issued to members on 27 June 2017. On 23 May 2017, Mr HUI Chi-fung also requested to discuss the cycling policy (LC Paper No. CB(4)1104/16-17(01)).

On 15 June 2017, the Legislative Council had an in-depth debate on the motion on "Formulating a bicycle-friendly policy and designating bicycles as a mode of transport". The former Secretary for Transport and Housing also responded to an oral question on "bicycle-sharing service" at the Legislative Council sitting on 21 June 2017. Further, the Administration, in its letters of 26 June 2017 and 18 September 2017 to the Panel, provided additional information on the consultancy study on improving the cycle track network in the nine new towns in the New Territories. In light of the above, the Administration proposes removing this item.

5. Measures to tackle traffic congestion problem in Hong Kong

Proposed by Mr LAU Kwok-fan and Dr Elizabeth QUAT at the meeting on 28 October 2016. Mr LAU

requested the Administration to review the existing road network such as Tolo Highway near Sha Tin. Dr QUAT expressed concern that there were traffic congestion problems at roads connecting the New Territories East to Kowloon, such as Clear Water Bay Road and New Clear Water Bay Road. She also expressed concern that there were inadequate transport facilities for the increased population in Tseung Kwan O.

At the meeting on 28 October 2016, Ms Tanya CHAN and Mr Charles MOK also proposed to discuss the Electronic Road Pricing ("ERP") scheme as a means to tackle traffic congestion. The Administration has already in principle accepted the recommendations of the Transport Advisory Committee in December 2014 on measures to tackle road traffic congestion, including an ERP pilot scheme. Proposals, when ready, will be presented to the Legislative Council.

The Administration provided a written reply to the Panel on 15 September 2017 addressing members' concerns over the specific areas mentioned.

As regards the ERP study, TD is working to engage a consultant to conduct an in-depth feasibility study having regard to the comments received in the last round of public consultation on the ERP Pilot Scheme in Central and its adjacent areas. The Administration will consult this Panel again when there are more findings.

In the light of the above, the Administration proposes removing this item.

6. Introduction of a smart transport system

Proposed by Dr Elizabeth QUAT at the meeting on 28 October 2016. Dr QUAT was concerned over the Administration's plan to introduce a smart transport system which was essential for development of a smart city. Both Dr QUAT and Mr Charles MOK would like to discuss the provision of electronic payment services for using transport facilities.

Mr Charles MOK would like to discuss the policies of the Administration and those of public transport organizations on opening up transport-related data.

On 1 November 2016, the Administration advised that the smart city policy was spearheaded by the Innovation and Technology Bureau and therefore the matter should be referred to the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting.

As the subject will have close interaction with other smart city initiatives being spearheaded and coordinated by the Innovation and Technology Bureau, the Administration proposes that the subject be referred to the Panel on Information Technology and Broadcasting.

7. Setting up a pedestrian street in Central

Proposed by Mr Charles MOK at the meeting on 28 October 2016. The Administration was requested to brief the Panel on its policy on giving priority to pedestrians in certain public space.

On 1 November 2016, the Administration advised that the application on setting up a pedestrian precinct zone in Des Voeux Road Central was being processed by the Town Planning Board under section 12A of the Town Planning Ordinance (Cap. 131). A number of bureaux and departments such as Police, Fire Services Department, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, TD, and Environmental Protection Department had already given their comments on the application.

The Administration proposes that the item be removed for the time being as the application has been withdrawn.

8. Electric Vehicles ("EVs")

At the meeting held on 12 October 2017, Dr KWOK Ka-ki expressed concern over the shortage of charging facilities for EVs and the registration system of EVs. He opined that EVs should become the

mainstream direction of the development of the automobile industry. He suggested discussing the policies and issues relating to EVs and arranging a public hearing on this subject. He further said that the above said matters might also be related to the policies under the purview of Panel on Environmental Affairs and Panel on Commerce and Industry.

The Administration advises that the policy of EVs, including the charging facilities, is spearheaded by the Environment Bureau and that the subject be referred to the Panel on Environmental Affairs.

9. Public transport service and road safety

At the meeting on 12 October 2017, Mr LUK Chung-hung said that the public was concerned about the insufficient manpower for the provision of public transport services and the related issue of the long working hours and remuneration of bus captains. He suggested discussing the above issues at a future Panel meeting.

In its letter dated 9 October 2017, the Administration advised that meetings were being arranged with the franchised bus companies and staff unions to review the "Guidelines on Bus Captain Working Hours, Rest Times and Meal Breaks" and that independent contractors would be engaged to carry out annual field surveys on the working hours, rest time and meal breaks of bus captains.

Mr LUK Chung-hung expressed that despite the above exercise by the Administration, the above issues should be discussed at this Panel in parallel. Dr Fernando CHEUNG also suggested that passengers safety, road safety as well as occupational safety of drivers were also matters of concern. Dr Helena WONG also expressed concern over the above issues.

The Administration briefed Members on the recommended measures to further enhance safety of franchised buses at the meeting on 25 July 2018.

10. Co-location of customs, immigration and quarantine arrangements of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link

At the meeting held on 12 October 2017, Dr Helena WONG expressed concern over the issue of the co-location of customs, immigration and quarantine arrangements of the Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link. She expressed that this Panel should be consulted on the detailed arrangements before its implementation.

The Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Co-location) Bill was passed by the Legislative Council at the meeting of 13 June 2018.

The item on "The Operating arrangements for the Hong Kong Section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link" was discussed at the special meeting held on 31 August 2018.

11. Regulation of hire car service

Q1 2019
(To be confirmed)

At the meeting held on 25 July 2018, the Panel Chairman recalled that he had written to the Administration to express his concern over a fatal accident involving an illegally hired car (CB(4)983/17-18(01)). The Panel Chairman proposed to discuss the issues relating to the regulation of hire car service and protection of road users. Members agreed to discuss this issue at a meeting of the 2018-2019 legislative session.