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Ms Sophie LAU
Clerk to Panel on Transport
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

13 December 2018

Dear Ms LAU,

**Transport arrangements related to
the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (“HZMB”)**

Thank you for your letters of 6 and 7 November 2018 referring to us the letters of 2 and 6 November 2018 from Hon Jeremy TAM Man-ho and Dr Hon KWOK Ka-ki to the Panel on Transport. Our reply to the letters is as follows.

Since the commissioning of the HZMB on 24 October 2018, the Transport Department (“TD”) has been closely monitoring the operations of the related ancillary transport facilities. Passengers travelling to the Hong Kong Port can take B6 feeder bus route plying to and from Tung Chung. The TD has also advised passengers to take route B5 to travel to and from Sunny Bay MTR Station, and travel to other districts on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and the New Territories via the railway network. Meanwhile, passengers may take nine franchised bus “A” routes to travel to various districts on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon, the New Territories and on South Lantau.

To divert passengers travelling from Tung Chung to the Hong Kong Port of the HZMB, New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited, operating B6 feeder bus route plying between the Hong Kong Port of the HZMB and Tung Chung, has

implemented a series of measures starting from 10 November to improve the queuing arrangement of route B6 at Tung Chung, including arranging passengers to buy return tickets in advance, arranging two buses for passengers to get aboard at the same time during peak hours, and deploying more staff to facilitate passengers queuing up so as to enable group visitors and ordinary passengers to get aboard in an orderly manner. These measures have effectively shortened the time for boarding the buses and there is no long queue during most of the peak hours. Besides, setting mills barriers at the bus stop has allowed the queues to proceed in an orderly manner. The above measures have proved to be effective and reduced the inconvenience caused to residents in Tung Chung. The TD has no plan to divert tour groups from ordinary passengers.

For the nine airport bus "A" routes plying between the Hong Kong Port Public Transport Interchange and various districts across the territory (i.e. route A11 (plying to and from North Point), route A21 (plying to and from Hung Hom), route A22 (plying to and from Lam Tin), route A29 (plying to and from Tseung Kwan O), route A31 (plying to and from Tsuen Wan), route A33X (plying to and from Tuen Mun), route A35 (plying to and from Mui Wo), route A36 (plying to and from Yuen Long), and route A41 (plying to and from Sha Tin)), apart from route A35 plying to and from Mui Wo, the remaining eight "A" routes to the airport will follow the former routing along Airport Road, set down passengers at the airport first and then the Hong Kong Port before returning to the terminating point at the airport. Passengers heading towards the airport will not be affected by this arrangement. For the journeys to the urban area or the New Territories, starting from 27 November, the eight "A" routes have been re-routed to North Lantau Highway via the Southern Connection of the Tuen Mun - Chek Lap Kok Link, i.e. Shun Long Road, which is of a shorter journey, after picking up passengers at the Hong Kong Port. The arrangement of stopping at the Hong Kong Port has increased the journey time of these eight "A" routes (by about 6 minutes) on their journeys to the urban area or the New Territories. But after re-routing via Shun Long Road, the journey time has been shortened by about 4 minutes when comparing to the time spent on the journey via Airport Road during the initial period upon the commissioning of the HZMB.

To cope with the growth of passenger traffic, the bus companies concerned have deployed a total of 28 additional buses, representing an increase of 37% in the number of buses, to the nine airport bus "A" routes mentioned above. At the end of November, four more buses were deployed to routes A11, A21 and A31 during the peak hours. The bus companies will continue to strengthen their services by deploying additional buses and providing special departures from the

Hong Kong Port on specific routes according to the passenger demand during peak days or periods. The current arrangement of having the above-mentioned nine airport bus "A" routes serving the Hong Kong Port can make effective use of the existing bus network and resources. The TD and the bus companies will continue to closely monitor the occupancy of the bus routes serving the Hong Kong Port and conduct a review in a timely manner. When considering introducing a new franchised bus route, the TD will, as always, examine the sufficiency of passenger demand, the route design, the availability of a suitable location to be used as a terminus, and the impact of the new service on other services, etc. In addition, the TD will also consider whether the operator has sufficient buses to meet the demand for the new route without affecting the existing services, and has to conduct the relevant consultation.

Apart from franchised bus services, tour group visitors may also choose to book the coach services with appropriate service endorsements and travel directly from the Hong Kong Port to other tourist destinations. This also helps divert incoming tourists. To further assist the coach operators in picking up passengers at the pick-up area of the Hong Kong Port Public Transport Interchange (South), the TD implemented a new measure on 21 November to shorten the time for reserving time slots for picking up passengers. Under the new measure, provided that registered coach operators have submitted applications and completed certain simple procedures via the TD's online system by 9 p.m. on any day, they can enter the area to pick up passengers on the next day. This arrangement will help operators flexibly deploy their coaches to provide services at the Hong Kong Port and hence divert inbound tourist flows.

Yours sincerely,



(Nick CHOI)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.: Commissioner for Transport (Attn: Mr Eric WAN)