

Panel on Transport

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 13 December 2019)

	Items	Proposed timing for discussion
1.	6875TH – Noise enclosures at Gascoigne Road Flyover The Administration will consult the Panel on the funding proposal for upgrading 6875TH "Noise enclosures at Gascoigne Road Flyover" to Category A.	January 2020
2.	Fuel subsidy and one-off subsidy to transport trades The Administration will consult the Panel on the proposed fuel subsidy and one-off subsidy to transport trades.	January 2020
3.	Progress of implementation of the Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme The Administration will report the Panel on the progress of implementation of the Scheme as well as the overall framework of the review to be conducted in 2020.	January 2020
4.	Proposed creation of six permanent posts in the Highways Department, viz one Principal Government Engineer (D3) and three Chief Engineer (D1) posts to strengthen management and support in taking forward projects under the policy initiative of "Walk in Hong Kong" so as to enhance pedestrian networks and environment; and two Chief Engineer (D1) posts to strengthen road maintenance and district administration work in urban and New Territories regions	February 2020

Items

Proposed timing for discussion

The Administration will consult the Panel on the following staffing proposals in the Highways Department:

- (1) one permanent Principal Government Engineer and three permanent Chief Engineer posts in the Walkability Project Management Office to strengthen management and support in taking forward projects under the policy initiative of "Walk in Hong Kong" so as to enhance pedestrian networks and provide a safe and quality pedestrian environment (e.g. provision of Hillside Escalator Links and Elevator Systems, walkway covers, footbridges, lifts, etc.); and
- (2) two permanent Chief Engineer posts, one in the Urban Regional Office and one in New Territories Regional Office, to take up additional road maintenance and district administration work arising from the commissioning of new mega transport infrastructure projects and connecting roads.

5. Proposed creation of a dedicated team in the Transport Department to enhance the safety of franchised bus service

February 2020

The Administration will consult the Panel on the staffing proposal for establishing a dedicated team including one permanent Franchised Bus Safety Director post, one permanent Principal Transport Officer post and one permanent Chief Electrical and Mechanical Engineer post in the Transport Department to enhance the safety of franchised buses as recommended by the Independent Review Committee on Hong Kong's Franchised Bus Service.

- 6. Relaxation of vehicle length restriction of light bus and other relevant technical amendments** February 2020

The Administration will consult the Panel on the legislative proposal to relax the vehicle length restriction of light bus and other technical amendments.

- 7. 6853TH – Widening of Castle Peak Road – Castle Peak Bay** March 2020

The Administration will consult the Panel on the funding proposal for upgrading 6853TH "Widening of Castle Peak Road – Castle Peak Bay" to Category A.

- 8. Public Vehicle Park at Areas 4 and 30 (Site 2), Sheung Shui** March 2020

The Administration will consult the Panel on the proposed public vehicle park at the proposed public housing development site at Areas 4 and 30 (Site 2), Sheung Shui with about 300 parking spaces.

- 9. Comprehensive review of Private Driving Instructors' licences ("PDI licences")** March 2020

The Administration will inform the Panel on the outcome of the Transport Department's comprehensive review of PDI licences.

- 10. 6856TH – Flyover from Kwai Tsing Interchange Upramp to Kwai Chung Road** April 2020

6866TH-1 – Road improvement works to Container Port at Container Port Road South, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi Road, Tsing Yi (Phase 1)

The Administration will consult the Panel on the funding proposal for upgrading 6856TH "Flyover from Kwai Tsing Interchange Upramp to Kwai Chung Road" and the other one for upgrading 6866TH-1 "Road

improvement works to Container Port at Container Port Road South, Kwai Chung and Tsing Yi Road, Tsing Yi (Phase 1)" to Category A.

- 11. Proposed revision to the reference occupancy rate for franchised bus service frequency adjustment** April 2020

The Administration will consult the Panel on the proposal of revising the reference occupancy rate for frequency adjustment in the Guidelines on Service Improvement and Reduction in Bus Route Development Programmes.

- 12. MTR Fare Adjustment for 2020** April 2020

The Administration will brief the Panel on the details of MTR fare adjustment for 2020.

- 13. 6170TB – Braemar Hill Pedestrian Link** May 2020

The Administration will consult the Panel on the funding proposal for upgrading 6170TB "Braemar Hill Pedestrian Link" to Category A.

- 14. Ferry and "water taxi" services: reviving the "Central – Hung Hom" ferry service and introducing the "water taxi" service** May 2020

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Dr Helena WONG suggested discussing the latest development of the policy initiative related to ferry and "water taxi" services under the 2018 policy address.

The Administration will brief the Panel on the latest proposals by the operator on the "Central – Hung Hom" ferry and "water taxi" services.

15. Improvement works of cycle track network in new towns and latest situation of automated dockless bicycle rental services

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.

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)).

To promote self-regulatory and sustainable operation of automated dockless bicycle rental services ("ADBRS"), the Transport Department announced the Code of Practice for ADBRS and signed the Memorandum of Understanding on the Operation of ADBRS with four automated bicycle rental operators on 28 September 2018.

The Administration proposes to report the improvement works of cycle track network in new towns and the latest situation of automated dockless bicycle rental services.

16. Improvement of Lion Rock Tunnel

June 2020

The Administration will brief the Panel on the planning of rehabilitating the Lion Rock Tunnel and increasing its capacity.

17. Proposals on revisions of penalty levels of certain traffic offences under Fixed Penalty (Criminal Proceedings) Ordinance (Cap. 240) and Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374)

June 2020

The Administration will consult the Panel on the proposed revisions of penalty levels of certain serious traffic offences such as careless driving, dangerous driving, drink driving and drug driving under Cap. 374 and the fixed penalty levels of the scheduled traffic offences under Cap. 240, such as speeding, etc.

18. Comprehensive Transport Studies

To be confirmed

On 20 December 2018, Mr Tony TSE wrote to the Panel Chairman proposing the Panel to discuss matters relating to the commissioning of Comprehensive Transport Studies ("the Studies"). The Panel Chairman agreed to discuss with the Administration the timetable and scope of the Studies.

At the Panel meeting on 18 October 2019, Mr CHAN Han-pan and Ms Tanya CHAN requested an early discussion on the item. Mr CHAN opined that the Studies would provide useful insight for the Administration to map out future transport strategy, in particular the impact of population increase arising from housing development projects in the New Territories West regions. Ms CHAN said that the Studies could facilitate a holistic and sustainable development of transport systems in Hong Kong.

- 19. Utilization and operation of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai Macao Bridge ("HZMB")** To be confirmed

Mr LAM Cheuk-ting suggested at the Panel meeting on 25 October 2019 the discussion of the utilization and operation of HZMB. Mr LAM said that there was a great discrepancy in the actual usage of HZMB since its commissioning in October 2018 vis-à-vis the traffic forecast projected by the Administration. He also expressed concern over the imbalance of revenue and expenditure during the operational stage of the HZMB given its low utilization. The Administration's response was issued to the Panel vide LC Paper No. CB(4)136/19-20(01) on 22 November 2019.

- 20. 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 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 utilization of parking spaces in South Lantau. The Transport Department 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.

- 21. Setting up a pedestrian street in Central** To be confirmed

Proposed by Mr Charles Peter 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.

Some community organizations filed an application in 2015 under the Town Planning Ordinance requesting to rezone Des Voeux Road Central ("DVRC") as a pedestrian and tram precinct. Relevant departments provided views to the Town Planning Board under their respective purviews, including raising concerns about disruption to emergency and rescue operation, bus route diversion, knock-on environmental impacts on other roads, etc. The organizations subsequently withdrew the rezoning request in 2016. A separate proposal was received by the Central and Western District Council ("CWDC") in late 2018 from a community organization to hold an event for 3 months by converting a section of DVRC into a pedestrian and tram precinct. The CWDC expressed initial reservation and the proposer has subsequently made a number of amendments to the proposal at different times. The government departments have provided feedback on the revised proposal.

The Administration welcomes proposals from all sectors to improve the walking environment. When considering various proposals, the Administration will take into account the demands of the local community and businesses, local characteristics, street management and impact on traffic.

22. Electric Vehicles ("EVs")

To be confirmed

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.

On 15 November 2018, the Administration further advised that the policy of EVs falls under Environment Bureau/Environmental Protection Department.

23. Measures to tackle traffic congestion in the New Territories To be confirmed

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Mr LAU Kwok-fan suggested discussing the long term measures for improving the traffic flow of New Territories East. Ms Elizabeth QUAT also expressed concern about transport planning of Ma On Shan and supported to discuss the above said item. Expressing his particular concern about the worsening traffic condition in Yuen Long, Mr Steven HO suggested discussing measures to tackle traffic congestion in the New Territories West.

24. Construction of a fourth cross-harbour tunnel To be confirmed

On 10 October 2018, Dr Hon CHIANG Lai-wan submitted a letter to the Panel Chairman proposing to discuss the feasibility of constructing a fourth cross-harbour tunnel.

25. Feasibility study on the construction of the Tsing Yi - Lantau Link To be confirmed

On 12 October 2018, Mr Holden CHOW submitted a letter to the Panel Chairman stating that he had proposed to include a study on the feasibility of constructing the Tsing Yi – Lantau Link under the feasibility study on Route 11. Mr CHOW requested the Administration reporting the progress of the above mentioned study to the Panel.

26. Smart Mobility Initiatives Relating to Road Transport and the introduction of a smart transport system

To be confirmed

On the subject of smart mobility initiatives relating to road transport being implemented by the Administration, the item was originally proposed for discussion in July 2019 but the meeting was subsequently cancelled. The Administration later on provided an information paper on the implementation of various smart mobility initiatives, which was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4) 1110/18-19(01) on 12 July 2019.

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

At the meeting on 11 October 2018, Ms QUAT reiterated her concern over the Administration's plan to introduce a smart transport system. Mr MOK urged the Administration to brief the Panel on the policies and issues related to opening up of transport-related data.

The Administration proposed on 9 October 2019 that the item be removed from this list.

Council Business Division 4
Legislative Council Secretariat
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