

**For information on
15 May 2020**

Legislative Council Panel on Transport

**Introducing the “Central – Hung Hom” ferry and
“water taxi” services**

Purpose

This paper briefs Members on the progress of introducing the “Central – Hung Hom” ferry route and the pilot “water taxi” service, as well as the service details of the two ferry routes.

Background

2. In response to the public view on providing more in-harbour ferry routes and taking forward the suggestion of introducing “water taxi” in the Development Blueprint for Hong Kong’s Tourism Industry, the Government announced in the 2018 Policy Address the plan to launch the “Central – Hung Hom” ferry route and the pilot “water taxi” service plying Kai Tak, Hung Hom, Tsim Sha Tsui East, West Kowloon and Central, and enhance vibrancy of the Hung Hom harbourfront through injecting commercial elements into the Hung Hom (South) Pier.

3. In this regard, the Government invited interested parties to submit expression of interest during August to September 2018 for operating the two licensed ferry services. Subsequently, the Government arranged a “water taxi” service focus group meeting in December 2018, with representatives from the relevant District Councils, ferry trade, tourism industry and hotel and catering industry. Through application of design thinking and interaction with participants, the Government gauged the expectations of stakeholders on the “water taxi” service, with a view to meeting the needs of users as far as practicable.

4. The Government invited tenders during December 2019 to January 2020 for operation of the two services, and received two submissions. After thorough assessment, the Transport Department (TD) announced in March 2020 that Fortune Ferry Company Limited (the operator) was selected to operate the relevant ferry services. The operator will be granted ferry service licences, which will last for five years, to operate the “Central – Hung Hom” and “water taxi” ferry services. The licence period may be extended for a further period or periods of no more

than five years each time, whilst the aggregate licence period shall not exceed ten years.

Service Details of the Two Ferry Routes

Tentative commencement dates

5. The operator is actively gearing up for the introduction of the “Central – Hung Hom” ferry route by recruiting staff, conducting sea and berthing trials and installing pier facilities, electronic ticketing system and electronic display panel showing estimated arrival/departure time, etc. The ferry route is expected to commence operation on 28 June this year. For the “water taxi” service, in view of its wider service area coverage and more diversified nature, the operator needs more time to gear up. This ferry route is anticipated to commence operation by the end of this year. The exact commencement date will be announced in due course.

Gist of the proposed services

6. The “Central – Hung Hom” ferry route will ply between the Hung Hom (South) Ferry Pier and Central Pier No. 8 (Western Berth). The adult fare is \$9 per trip. The ferry operator will provide fare concessions for children, the elderly and persons with disabilities as well as monthly ticket concessions. The basic schedule is every 20 minutes during peak hours from Mondays to Saturdays¹; and every 30 to 50 minutes during non-peak hours, Sundays and public holidays. The operator will closely monitor the passenger demand and strengthen services as necessary.

7. For the “water taxi” service, there will be five calling points along its main route, namely (a) Kai Tak Runway Park Pier Landing No. 1 or No. 2; (b) Hung Hom (South) Ferry Pier; (c) public landing steps at Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade; (d) public landing steps at Central Pier No. 9; and (e) marine landing facilities at the southern waterfront of the West Kowloon Cultural District². Passengers can freely hop on and hop off at any calling point. Section fares will be introduced on the “water taxi” service. Section fares for one calling point on the main route will range

¹ The morning peak period from Mondays to Saturdays is from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.

² Prior to the commissioning of the marine landing facilities at the southern waterfront of the West Kowloon Cultural District, the “water taxi” service will use Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter Landing No. 1 or No. 2 as a temporary landing point.

from \$10 to \$24, while the adult full fare of the main route will be \$136. The ferry operator is also required to provide fare concessions for children, the elderly and persons with disabilities. The operator will operate three to four sailings daily, including one departing at 7:30 p.m. to allow passengers to enjoy the night view of the Victoria Harbour. Depending on passenger demand, the operator will examine the need of increasing the frequency after service commencement and operating other short-working routes³ on both sides of the Victoria Harbour.

8. In support of the Government’s development of a smart city, the operator will disseminate real-time arrival/departure information of the ferry routes via smartphone applications within six months of service commencement and open up such data in machine-readable format for use by the public via the data.gov.hk portal.

9. In addition, vessels of the “water taxi” ferry service will be equipped with wifi service and battery charging facilities. Catering and other services (including on-board photographer, children ship walk education and tourist history infotainment) will also be provided. Moreover, the operator plans to introduce three new vessels before Q4 2021 and introduce three greener ferries to its fleet between mid-2022 and end-2024.

10. The route map of the two ferry routes is at **Annex 1**, whereas the operation details are summarised at **Annex 2**.

Ancillary Facilities

Public transport connections

11. The “Central – Hung Hom” ferry route and “water taxi” ferry service will provide the public with more diversified travel options. Ferry passengers (including tourists) will be able to interchange for various routes of franchised buses, green minibuses (GMBs) or the MTR for access to different districts on Hong Kong Island, in Kowloon and the New Territories. For example, ferry passengers departing from Central and disembarking at the Hung Hom (South) Ferry Pier can interchange for buses and GMBs at the Hung Hom (Hung Luen Road) Public Transport Interchange nearby to head towards areas around To Kwa Wan,

³ These short-working routes should not directly overlap with any of the existing in-harbour franchised or licensed ferry routes.

Kowloon Tong and Lok Fu⁴, while ferry passengers departing from Hung Hom and disembarking at the Central Pier No. 8 can interchange for franchised buses and GMBs at the nearby bus stops at Man Kwong Street and Man Yiu Street to head towards the Peak and Cyberport⁵. Also, passengers of the “water taxi” ferry service can use the landing at Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade to get to the Avenue of Stars directly (see **Annex 3** for details).

12. To provide more convenience to passengers, TD will ensure that adequate public transport connections are provided at the calling points. In fact, a number of public transport services are already available in the neighbouring areas of the calling points at Kai Tak Runway Park Pier Landing No. 1 or 2, Hung Hom (South) Ferry Pier, the public landing steps at Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade, Central Pier No. 8, the public landing steps at Central Pier No. 9, and Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter Landing No. 1 or 2, etc. TD will explore strengthening and enhancing the public transport connections where necessary.

Pier facilities

13. Moreover, the operator will carry out enhancement works at Hung Hom (South) Ferry Pier and Central Pier No. 8 (Western Berth), including –

- (a) providing free wifi service, battery charging facilities and luggage storage facilities at both piers to offer better services for passengers (including tourists);
- (b) exploring the installation of solar panels for illumination of the external walls of the piers, in order to support the smart city development and promote environmental protection;
- (c) installing LED lighting on the external walls of the piers to

⁴ Ferry passengers departing from Central and disembarking at Hung Hom (South) Ferry Pier can interchange for seven bus routes and one GMB route, including KMB routes no. 3B, 15, 85X and 297, at the adjoining Hung Hom (Hung Luen Road) Public Transport Interchange to reach the area in the vicinity of To Kwa Wan (Ma Tau Wai Road) or GMB route no. 13 to Broadcast Drive.

⁵ Ferry passengers departing from Hung Hom and disembarking at Central Pier No. 8 can interchange for twenty franchised bus routes and three GMB routes. For example, they can take NWFB route no. 15 for the Peak at the nearby bus stop at Man Kwong Street, or take NWFB route no. 30X at the bus stop at Man Yiu Street to reach Cyberport. Passengers heading for the area around Pok Fu Lam Road can also take GMB route no. 22S/22X at the terminus at Man Yiu Street.

- (d) beautify the exterior of the piers; and installing electronic display panels showing the estimated arrival/departure time to provide passengers with real-time arrival information.

Signages for the piers /landings

14. To provide directions for pedestrians and motorists heading towards the calling points of the “water taxi” service, TD will put up newly-designed directional signages in the vicinity of the aforesaid piers or landings to show the locations of the calling points. To tie in with the commissioning of the “water taxi” service, the related works are expected to be completed prior to the commencement of the service. The newly-designed directional signages are at **Annex 4**.

Follow-up

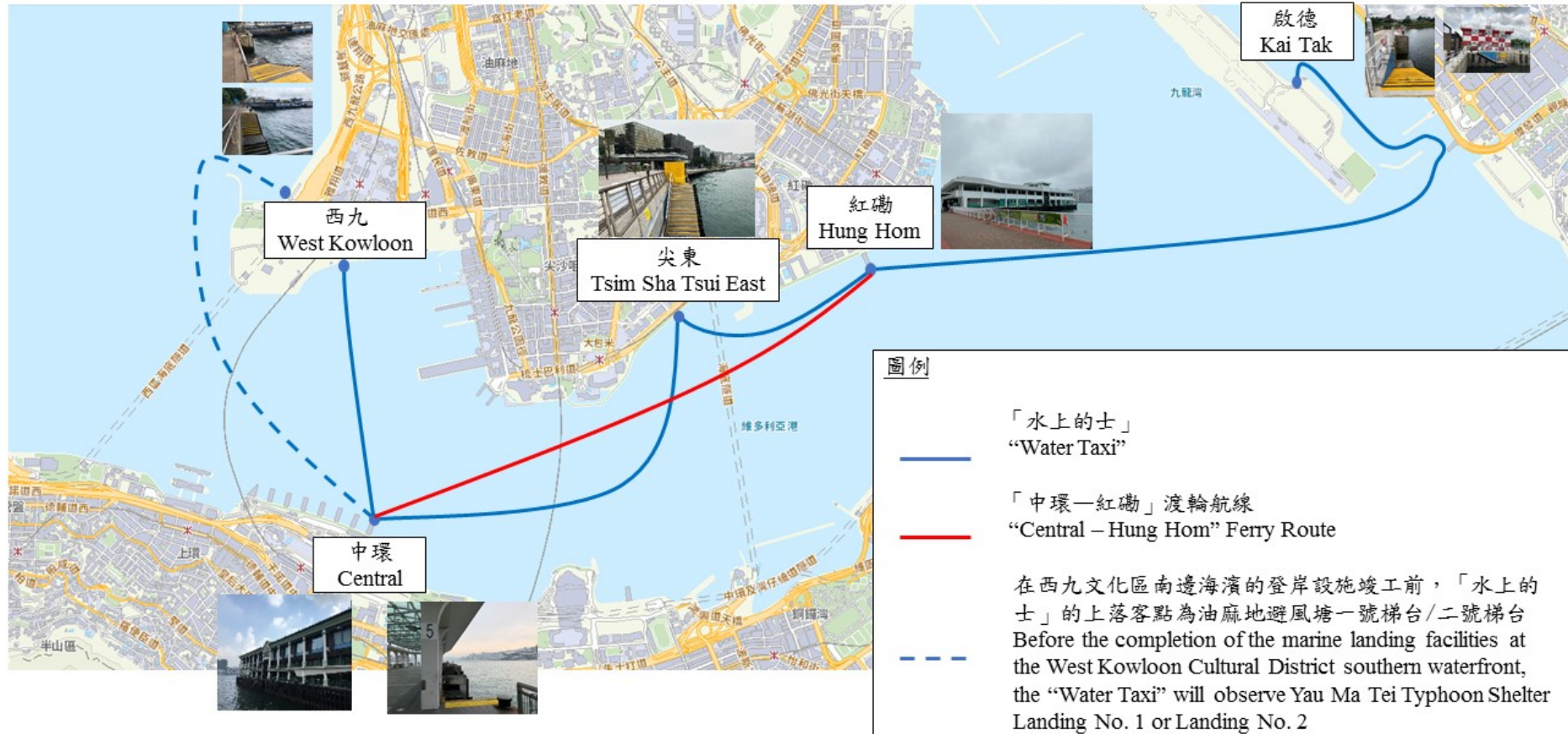
15. TD will closely monitor the preparatory work carried out by the operator and will provide and enhance ancillary transport facilities or arrangements in a timely manner to ensure the smooth introduction of the ferry routes.

16. Members are invited to note the above information.

**Transport and Housing Bureau
Transport Department
May 2020**

「水上的士」及「中環—紅磡」持牌渡輪服務路線圖
 Route Map of “Water Taxi” and “Central – Hung Hom” Licensed Ferry Services

附件一
 Annex 1



Operating Details**“Central – Hung Hom” Ferry Route**

Calling points	1. Hung Hom (South) Ferry Pier 2. Central Pier No. 8 (Western Berth)
Basic frequency	<u>Mondays to Saturdays</u> Peak periods ¹ : 20 minutes Non-peak periods: 30 – 50 minutes <u>Sundays and Public Holidays</u> Whole day: 40 – 50 minutes
Steaming time	18 minutes
Operating hours	<u>Mondays to Saturdays</u> Hung Hom to Central: 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Central to Hung Hom: 7:30 a.m. to 7:20 p.m. <u>Sundays and Public Holidays</u> Hung Hom to Central: 7:30 a.m. to 6:20 p.m. Central to Hung Hom: 7:50 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Fare²	Adult: \$9 per journey Child: \$4.5 per journey Monthly ticket: \$320 Freight (per 0.1 cubic metre): \$20 Bicycle: \$14
Vessel deployment	Two vessels (around 200 seats) with facilities including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Air-conditioning (except open deck)• Toilet (including provision of priority seats for the elderly and passengers with disabilities and addition of braille and tactile signage)

¹ The morning peak period refers to 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. on Mondays to Saturdays.

² The ferry operator must provide concessionary fares for children, the elderly and passengers with disabilities and participate in the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities and the Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme.

“Water Taxi” Ferry Service

Calling points	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kai Tak Runway Park Pier Landing No. 1 or No. 2 2. Hung Hom (South) Ferry Pier 3. Public landing steps at Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade 4. Public landing steps at Central Pier No. 9 5. Marine landing facilities at the southern waterfront of the West Kowloon Cultural District (the Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter Landing No.1/ Landing No.2 will be used temporarily)
Frequency	<p>Main route <u>Mondays to Fridays</u> Three sailings departing at 12:45 p.m., 2:45 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. from Kai Tak</p> <p><u>Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays</u> Four sailings departing at 10:45 a.m., 12:45 p.m., 2:45 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. from Kai Tak</p> <p>Short-working route At least one sailing departing at 5:00 p.m. from Wan Chai Public Pier to East Tsim Sha Tsui via Hung Hom</p>
Steaming time	Main route (whole journey): 110 minutes Short-working route (whole journey): 28 minutes
Fare^{3, 4}	Adult (all calling points on main route): \$136 Adult (section fare for one calling point on main route): \$10 - \$24 Child (all calling points on main route): \$68 Child (section fare for one calling point on main route): \$5 - \$12 Day pass (Adult): \$136 Day pass (Child): \$68 Return ticket (Adult) (purchase to be made one day in advance): \$68

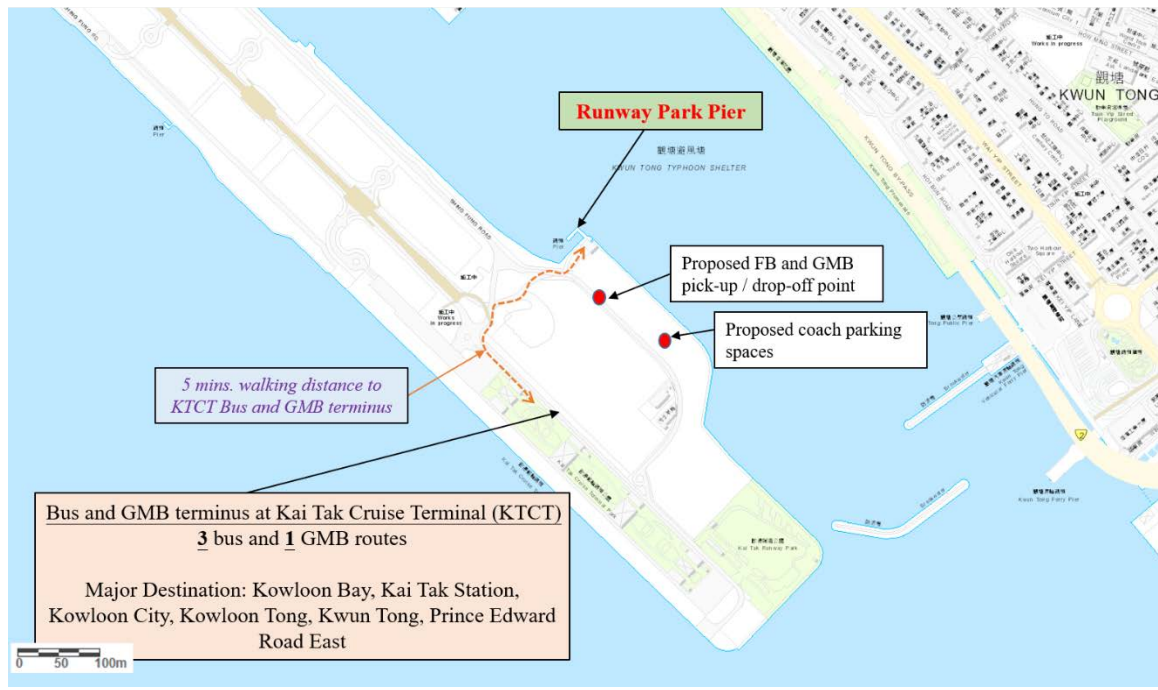
³ The ferry operator must provide concessionary fares for children, the elderly and passengers with disabilities and participate in the Government Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly and Eligible Persons with Disabilities.

⁴ Fares proposed by the operator are pending for approval.

	<p>Return ticket (Child) (purchase to be made one day in advance): \$34</p> <p>Freight (per 0.1 cubic metre) : \$20 Bicycle: \$14</p> <p>Short-working route: Adult: \$24 ; section fare: \$10 - \$14 Child: \$12 ; section fare: \$5 - \$7</p>
<p>Vessel deployment</p>	<p>One vessel (around 130 seats) with facilities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air-conditioning (except open deck) • Octopus fare collection system • Toilet (including provision of priority seats for the elderly and passengers with disabilities and addition of braille and tactile signage) and breast feeding room • Large windows and observation area • Luggage storage facilities • Trilingual audio tour guide service • Upholstered seats with high back • Wifi service and battery charging facilities • Catering and other services (including on-board photographer, children ship walk education and tourist history infotainment)

Bus and GMB Services Connecting to the Ferry Piers

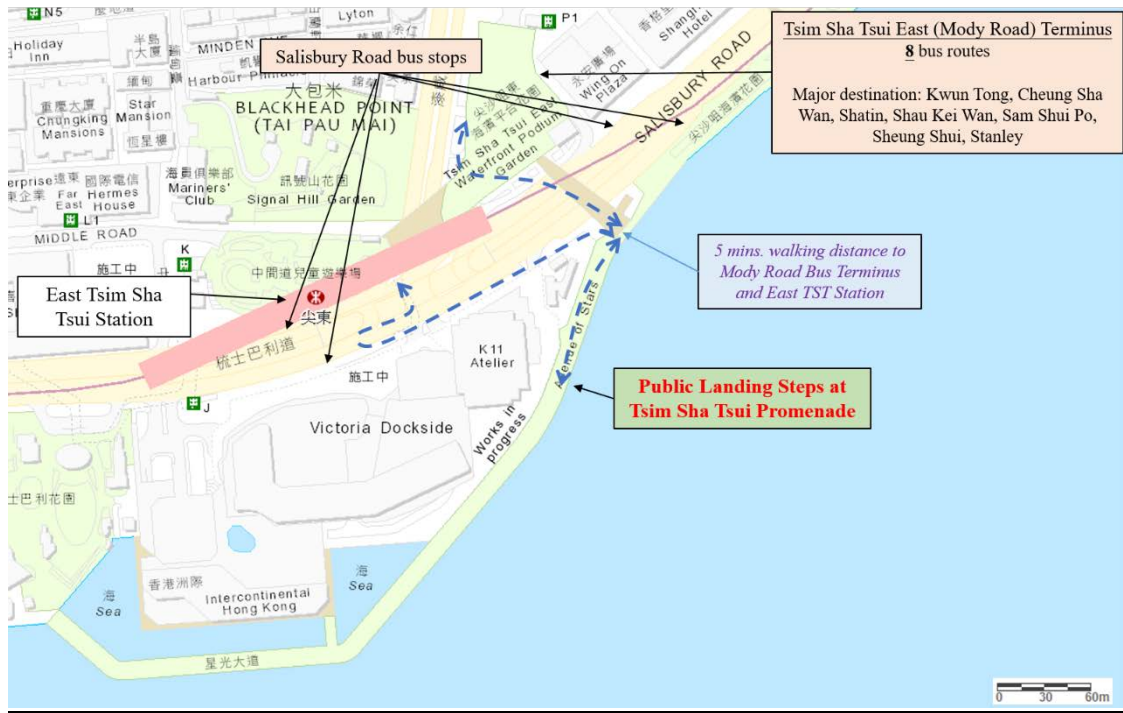
Runway Park Pier Landing No.1/ Landing No.2, Kai Tak



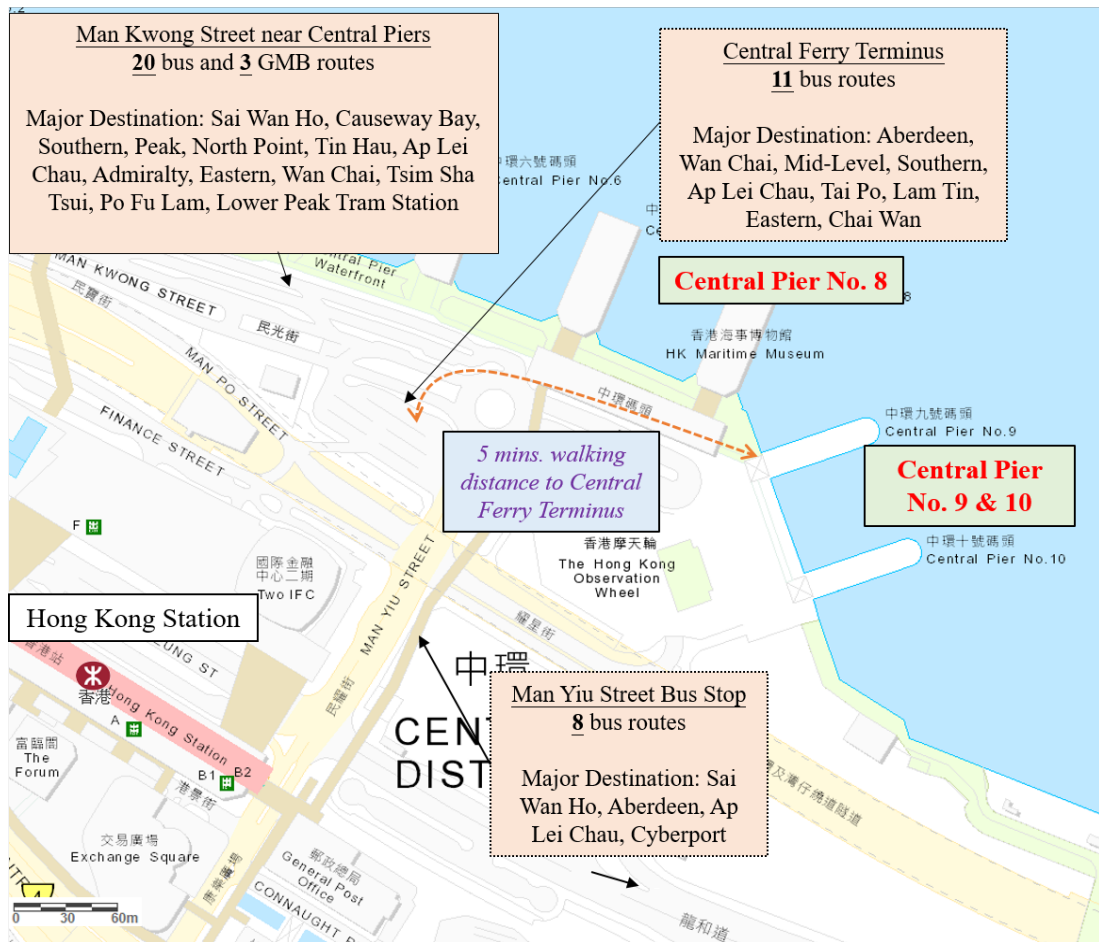
Hung Hom (South) Ferry Pier



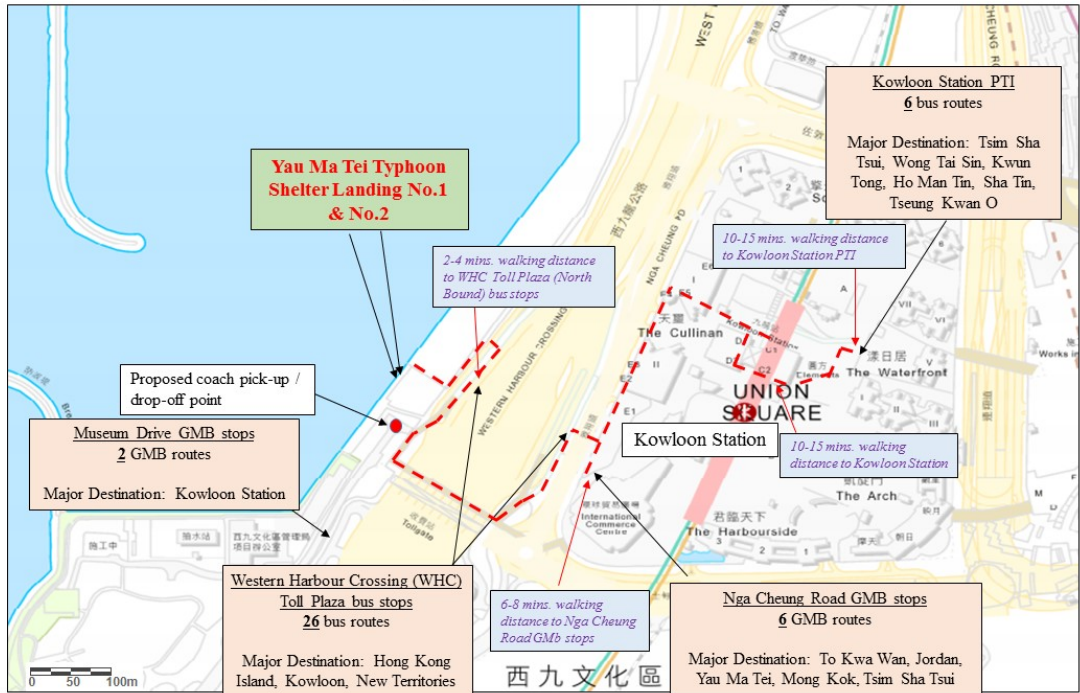
Public Landing Steps at Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade



Central Piers No. 8-10



Yau Ma Tei Typhoon Shelter Landing No.1/ Landing No.2



Road signs



Signage for pedestrians

