

Panel on Transport

List of outstanding items for discussion
(position as at 12 October 2020)

Items	Proposed timing for discussion
<p>1. 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</p>	November 2020

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.

- 2. 3023TP - Public vehicle park at Areas 4 and 30 (Site 2), Sheung Shui** December 2020

The Administration will consult the Panel on the funding proposal for upgrading 3023TP – "Public vehicle park at Areas 4 and 30 (Site 2), Sheung Shui" to Category A.
- 3. 6856TH – Flyover from Kwai Tsing Interchange Upramp to Kwai Chung Road** January 2021

The Administration will consult the Panel on the funding proposal for upgrading 6856TH "Flyover from Kwai Tsing Interchange Upramp to Kwai Chung Road" to Category A.
- 4. Improvement of Lion Rock Tunnel** To be confirmed

The Administration will brief the Panel on the planning of rehabilitating the Lion Rock Tunnel and increasing its capacity.
- 5. Proposals on revisions of penalty levels of certain traffic offences under Fixed Penalty (Criminal Proceedings) Ordinance (Cap. 240) and Road Traffic Ordinance (Cap. 374)** To be confirmed

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.
- 6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Congestion problem in Causeway Bay and Happy Valley To be confirmed

Mr Paul TSE wrote to the Panel Chairman on 29 November 2019 expressing concern about the persistent congestion problem in Causeway Bay and Happy Valley. He raised that the Administration had used traffic data of more than two years ago in assessing the impact of a development project on Caroline Hill Road to the adjacent road sections, and that the conduct of driving lessons and road tests in the regions had further aggravated the problem.

At the Panel meeting held on 20 December 2019, Panel members agreed to put this matter under the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

- 9. Private member's bill proposed by Mr HUI Chi-fung relating to the carrying of bicycles on MTR and "Star" Ferry Services** To be confirmed

Mr HUI Chi-fung wrote to the Panel Chairman on 12 August 2019 (LC Paper No.CB(4)1174/18-19(01)) requesting to consult the Panel on three Amendment Bills proposed by himself relating to the carrying of bicycles into the railway premises of MTR and vessels of the "Star" Ferry Service. The Panel agreed at its meeting on 17 January 2020 to put this matter under the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

- 10. Provision of public transport subsidy under the Anti-epidemic Fund** To be confirmed

Mr Alvin YEUNG wrote to the Panel Chairman on 12 May 2020 vide LC Paper No.CB(4)558/19-20(01) suggesting to discuss the provision of subsidy to all public transport operators. He also raised concern regarding the taking of unpaid leave by frontline drivers on a compulsory basis due to the acute drop in patronage. After discussion, the Panel agreed at its meeting on 15 May 2020 to put this matter under the Panel's list of outstanding items for discussion.

As regards the taking of unpaid leave by frontline drivers, Mr YEUNG agreed to follow-up with the Administration at other avenues for a quicker response in addressing the issue.

The Administration's written response to Mr YEUNG's letter was issued to members vide LC Paper No. CB(4)642/19-20(01) on 27 May 2020. In this connection, the Administration has requested to remove this item from the Panel's list of follow-up actions.

- 11. 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.

- 12. 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.

13. 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. The Administration proposed to remove this item from the list as the subject should be referred to the Panel on Environmental Affairs.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.