

香港特別行政區政府
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

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Clerk to the Legislative Council Panel on Transport
Legislative Council Secretariat
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong
(Attn.: Ms Sophie LAU)

By e-mail and fax
(Fax: 2840 0716)

9 August 2021

Dear Ms LAU,

Timetable for Implementation of Autonomous Vehicles

Thank you for your letter dated 24 June 2021, conveying Hon Tony TSE Wai-chuen's proposals on the captioned subject. Our reply is as follows:


The vision of materialising autonomous vehicle ("AV") trials on public roads or even introducing autonomous driving for public transport was set out in the Smart Mobility Roadmap for Hong Kong, published by the Transport Department ("TD") in July 2019.

To realise this vision, we need to overcome the regulatory barriers posed by existing legislation. Thus, establishing a flexible regulatory framework for AVs is our primary goal at the current stage. We are working on the details of the legislative amendments, and intend to introduce the Bill into the Legislative Council ("LegCo") in 2022. Before submitting the Bill, we will consult the LegCo Panel on Transport again.

Furthermore, in order to promote the long-term development of AVs, we need to consider the implementation of other complementary smart mobility initiatives, such as the promotion of vehicle-to-everything (“V2X”) technology, such that AVs may be introduced into the busy urban road network of Hong Kong safely and efficiently. TD has been cooperating and liaising with the trade to draw on local experience of trials of AV and other relevant technologies. In November 2019, TD also set up the Technical Advisory Committee on the Application of AV Technologies in Hong Kong (“the Committee”). The Committee, comprising representatives and experts from the trade and relevant research and development institutes, has been exploring support measures to promote the development of AV technologies.

In addition, the \$1-billion Smart Traffic Fund (“the Fund”) has been set up by the Government and started accepting applications in March 2021. The Fund provides funding support to enterprises and organisations for conducting research and application of innovation and technology, including projects in relation to vehicle-related big data analysis and V2X technology. We believe that the Fund can facilitate the development of AVs in Hong Kong. TD will continue to maintain close communication with relevant stakeholders to further promote the trials and application of AV technologies.

Yours sincerely,



(Sam SZE)

for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.:

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