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**Transport and
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Ms Sophie LAU
Clerk to Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways
Legislative Council Panel on Transport
Legislative Council Complex
1 Legislative Council Road
Central, Hong Kong

26 May 2021

Dear Ms LAU,

Progress update on upgrading signalling system for railway lines

At its meeting held on 9 April 2021, the Subcommittee on Matters Relating to Railways requested the Transport and Housing Bureau and the MTR Corporation Limited (“MTRCL”) to provide supplementary information on the captioned subject. The relevant information is enclosed for the Secretariat’s reference.

Yours sincerely,

(Veronica TSE)
for Secretary for Transport and Housing

c.c.:
MTR Corporation Limited
Electrical and Mechanical Services Department

(Attn.: Mr Y C CHAN)
(Attn.: Mr John CHU)

Progress update on upgrading signalling system for railway lines

MTRCL is replacing the signalling systems of seven railway lines (Tsuen Wan Line, Island Line, Kwun Tong Line, Tseung Kwan O Line, Disneyland Resort Line, Tung Chung Line and Airport Express). Upon completion of the works, it is expected that the overall capacity can be increased by about 10%.

Passenger flow management

MTRCL has been taking various measures to facilitate passenger flow, especially during peak hours. Among the measures, MTRCL has been adjusting train service timely in the light of changes in patronage and arranging additional short-haul special trips to run busy sections as far as possible under safe and feasible conditions to ease passenger flow. MTRCL is also rearranging the layout of individual station concourses as appropriate to increase station space as well as retrofitting facilities such as lifts, staircases and ticket gates at suitable locations in order to smoothen passenger flow. Also, through application of technology, MTRCL has introduced more functions to the MTR Mobile application to help passengers plan their journeys effectively, with a view to facilitating passengers to plan their journeys with real-time information. In addition, new railway lines to be put into service successively in the future will provide passengers with more route options, which may lead to a change in the riding pattern and habit of some passengers. MTRCL will continue to closely monitor the railway lines and take appropriate passenger flow management measures in order to enhance passengers' travelling experience.

Software and hardware compatibility of the new signalling system

Regarding software and hardware compatibility of the new signalling system, at present, the hardware installation works for some railway lines have been completed or are underway, while static tests are being conducted. That said, the hardware concerned can only commence operation with the support of the software of the new signalling system. The hardware installation works will not affect the safe operation of the existing signalling system.

Before completion of the signalling system upgrading project, MTRCL will continue to follow its railway asset management system to repair and maintain the existing railway assets, with a view to ensuring that the relevant assets are kept in safe and good condition at all times in order to ensure railway safety. The Electrical and Mechanical Services Department ("EMSD") will continue to closely monitor MTRCL's signalling system upgrading works for railway lines, including hardware

installation works, static tests, the relevant works of software review and testing, etc.. The Government will only allow MTRCL to resume dynamic train testing of the new signalling system on the Tsuen Wan Line after MTRCL has completed the relevant remedial work and EMSD has confirmed the safety of the new signalling system upon inspection. The new signalling system must also pass EMSD's "safety and soundness assessment" before commissioning.

Transport and Housing Bureau
MTR Corporation Limited
May 2021