

Sha Tin District Council

Report on the Meeting of Traffic and Transport Committee
held on 5 July 2011

- (1) The Committee discussed:
- (i) the paper on the “Proposed Adjustment of Speed Limit for Tai Chung Kiu Road between Fo Tan Road and Siu Lek Yuen Road from 70km/hr to 50km/hr” submitted by Transport Department;
 - (ii) the paper on “Consultation on the Provision of Barrier-free Access Facilities at Existing Footbridges and Subways in Sha Tin District” submitted by Highways Department, and endorsed the following provisional motion:
 - (a) “Traffic and Transport Committee of Sha Tin District Council supports the retrofitting of lifts and barrier-free access facilities at the footbridges in Sha Tin District by Highways Department. The Committee strongly requests Highways Department to implement the following projects as soon as possible: NF 40, NF 89, NS 28A and NS 175, so that the general public can use the facilities at an early date.” (Unanimously endorsed with a vote of 36 in favour)
 - (b) “The Sha Kok Estate, Pok Hong Estate, Jat Min Chuen, Wong Uk Village and Garden Rivera areas have a total population of over 60,000, and there are a large number of residents commuting between the above areas and Tai Wai MTR Station each day. With an ageing population, many residents are either aged or mobility-handicapped. We learned that Highways Department is going to retrofit lifts at the footbridge connecting Garden Rivera and Sha Kok Estate (Project No. NF 89) for the convenience of aged and mobility-handicapped residents. However, only one end of the footbridge, i.e. the Garden Rivera side, will be retrofitted with a lift, and no lift will be provided on the Sha Kok Estate side. Moreover, pedestrian flow is even higher at the footbridge that links up Exit A of Sha Tin Wai MTR Station with Pok Hong Estate and Sha Kok Estate, but there is no sign of retrofitting lifts at this footbridge in the foreseeable future. Traffic and

Transport Committee of Sha Tin District Council strongly requests that:

- 1) while carrying out Project No. NF 89 (retrofitting a lift on the Garden Rivera side), a date should be fixed for retrofitting a lift on the Sha Kok Estate side, and lifts should be retrofitted at the two ends of the footbridge connecting Exit A of Sha Tin Wai MTR Station and Sha Kok Estate for the convenience of people who need the service;
- 2) in the future, relevant authorities should contact Sha Tin District Council for general consultation and discussion regarding any major project that concerns people's livelihood, so as to understand the actual situation of the district and ensure that the projects can really benefit the residents." (Unanimously endorsed with a vote of 38 in favour)

(2) The Committee endorsed:

(i) the motion on the "Request for Concessionary Monthly Transport Ticket Scheme":

"Traffic and Transport Committee of Sha Tin District Council strongly requests the government to coordinate with public transport companies including the MTRC, franchised bus companies, minibus operators and ferry companies, and implement the concessionary monthly ticket scheme as soon as possible, so as to ease the burden of transport fees for the general public." (Unanimously endorsed with a vote of 25 in favour); and

(ii) the motion on the "Request for Integrated Bus-bus Interchange Concession":

"Traffic and Transport Committee of Sha Tin District Council requests Transport Department to facilitate cross-company cooperation in the provision of integrated interchange concession for bus passengers, thus expanding the scale of interchange service for the convenience of passengers." (Unanimously endorsed with a vote of 25 in favour)

(3) The Committee noted:

- (i) the reply of Transport Department to the question on the "Addition of Octopus Payment Service at Road Tunnels", and endorsed the following provisional motion:

“Traffic and Transport Committee of Sha Tin District Council strongly requests the transport authority to implement the addition of Octopus payment service at road tunnels as soon as possible to further facilitate drivers in using the tunnels.”
(Unanimously endorsed with a vote of 30 in favour)

- (ii) the replies of Highways Department, Transport Department, Sha Tin Lands Office and Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited to the question on the “Progress of Construction of the Footbridge Connecting Sha Tin MTR Station and Sha Tin Government Offices”, and endorsed the following provisional motion:

“Pedestrians in the vicinity of Sha Tin Rural Committee Road and Pai Tau Street face danger not only when crossing the road, but also when vehicles suddenly get onto the pavement. The pavement is packed with people and it is painstaking to walk up the ramp, not to mention the exposure to the sun and rain each day. The existing pavement facilities have long been inadequate to cope with the rapid development of the surrounding areas.

Traffic and Transport Committee of Sha Tin District Council urges Highways Department and relevant departments to hold consultations as soon as possible with the developer that intends to construct a footbridge that links up Sha Tin MTR Station with Grand Central Plaza and Sha Tin Government Offices, and collect views from all parties as well as exploring the details of the construction. If the developer fails to enter into any agreement regarding this item before September this year, the government is advised to take responsibility for the construction of the footbridge and devise a long-term solution for the transport problems of the above areas.” (Endorsed with a vote of 25 in favour and 1 abstention)

- (iii) the replies of Transport Department and Long Win Bus Company Limited to the question on the “Improvement of Public Transport Services in Fo Tan”;
- (iv) the progress report submitted by Transport Department; and
- (v) the minutes of meeting and updated member list of Working Group on Road Safety, and the minutes of meeting of Working Group on Traffic and Transport Study.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat

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