

( Translation )

**Islands District Council**

**Paper IDC 68/2012**

**Transport Department**

**Traffic and Transport Working Plan 2012 - 2013**

**Purpose**

This Paper presents the Traffic and Transport Working Plan of the Transport Department for Islands District in 2012-2013.

**Work Objectives**

2. We hope that the work programmes planned for implementation in 2013-2013 can achieve the following objectives:

- (i) To monitor and improve the traffic and transport facilities to cope with the local development needs;
- (ii) To adjust the public transport service to suit the demand of the public; and
- (iii) To coordinate different public transport modes in order to provide an efficient public transport service to the public.

**Brief Description of Work**

**A. Traffic Management**

3. One of the major objectives of traffic management is to improve the traffic flow and to ensure the road safety. We will continue to closely monitor the overall traffic situation and to design and implement suitable traffic management scheme, if necessary, to improve the efficiency, performance and safety of the road network. The following traffic management programmes have been planned for implementation in 2012-13:

**(a) Monitor the Traffic Network and Management Measures**

4. We will continue to monitor the traffic network of Islands District to enhance the safety and improve its efficiency. The major items include:

- (i) To monitor and review the road traffic situation of Tung Chung Road and south Lantau, and to implement suitable traffic management measures, if necessary;
- (ii) To monitor and review the operation of major junctions in the district, including the operational efficiency of road and pavement junctions, and to enhance their safety; and
- (iii) To regularly meet the project contractors in the district for the assessment of temporary traffic arrangement.

#### **(b) Road Network and Traffic Facilities Improvement Projects**

5. We will continue to follow up the following projects (some projects are in progress) to improve the road network and traffic facilities:-

- (i) Minor improvement works to some bends at Keung Shan Road;
- (ii) Minor improvement works to some bends at South Lantau Road near Pui O Au and San Shek Wan;
- (iii) Extensions of bus-laybys at South Lantau Road near Pui O and San Shek Wan, Keung Shan Road near Sham Wat Road, Tai O Road near Ling Yan Monastery and Lung Tin Estate;
- (iv) Provision of additional cycle parking spaces at Mui Wo;
- (v) Road facilities improvement works from Chung Yan Road roundabout to Tung Chung Road North;
- (vi) Extension of motor cycle parking area near Yat Tung Estate;
- (vii) Provision of footpath along Cheung Tung Road (Pak Mong to Tung Chung section);  
and
- (viii) Improvement works to the directional signs at Yu Tung Road.

#### **B. Public Transport Service**

6. Railways are environmentally friendly and efficient mass carriers. It is the Government's transport policy to develop railways as the backbone of Hong Kong's public transport system. Therefore, we will promote maximum utilisation of railways supplemented by feeder public transport services. We will also continue to encourage other public transport operators to improve the quality of their services. On the premises of environmental protection and efficient use of resources, we will continue to enhance the public transportation network, review and coordinate various public transportation services to avoid route duplication and vicious competition.

##### **(a) Franchised Bus**

7. Franchised bus services will continue to play an important role in public transport system. We will consider the following factors in planning bus route development:

- (i) the existing and planned public transport services in the district;
- (ii) the development of the district;
- (iii) the completion of transport infrastructure;
- (iv) the impact of the programme on traffic, environment, the public transport operator and passengers concerned;
- (v) the cost-effectiveness of the programme; and
- (vi) the comments and suggestions from the public.

8. To better understand the service demand and consider improvement measures, we will continue to conduct passenger surveys regularly and collect opinions from the public through district councils and other channels. We will encourage franchised bus companies to provide additional bus-bus interchange schemes at appropriate and feasible locations to facilitate passengers to travel to different destinations with concessionary fares. This will reduce the demand for long haul and direct “point-to-point” bus services. As a result, the road space and bus resources will be better utilised and the efficiency of the bus network will be enhanced. The congestion and environmental problems caused by the overlapping of bus services can also be relieved.

9. To meet the passenger demand, the bus companies have implemented a number of bus service improvement measures in 2011-2012, of which 31 items involve increase in bus departures, frequency adjustment or deployment of additional buses while 11 items involve expansion of service coverage and route rationalisation.

10. We introduced the Bus Route Development Programme for Islands District in 2012-2013 at the meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee under the Islands District Council on 26 March 2012. There are 4 items of route adjustment and 14 items of deployment of additional buses and adjustment of frequency in the Programme..

#### **(b) Ferry Services**

11. The new licences of the six major outlying island ferry trunk routes (viz. “Central – Cheung Chau”, “Inter-islands”, “Central – Mui Wo”, “Central – Peng Chau”, “Central – Yung Shue Wan” and “Central – Sok Kwu Wan” routes) have respectively commenced from April and July last year for a period of three years. The Finance Committee of the Legislative Council has approved a commitment of about \$120 millions to facilitate the Government to

provide the six ferry routes with special helping measures during the three-year new licence period, with a view to enhancing the long-term financial viability of these services and maintaining fare stability.

12. We have launched the “Visiting Scheme to Outlying Islands 2012” since 3 January 2012, which provides fare subsidy to encourage eligible organisations such as schools, approved charitable institutions, community and local groups, non-governmental organisations, uniformed groups, District Councils, Heung Yee Kuk and Rural Committees to organise activities to visit Cheung Chau, Lantau Island, Peng Chau and Lamma Island in order to promote the local economy.

13. To better cater for the needs of the passengers, we will conduct surveys on ferry services with ferry operators as and when necessary. The results of which will provide reference for improving the outlying island ferry services. We will continue to monitor the performance of ferry operators to ensure that the ferry services can meet passengers’ needs and comply with the conditions of licences.

14. We will continue to liaise closely with members of the District Council, listen to the opinions of the members of the public and actively consider the traffic and transport issues in the district.

**Transport Department**  
**June 2012**