

Islands District Council
Paper IDC 44 / 2014

Transport Department
Traffic and Transport Working Plan 2014-2015

Purpose

This Paper presents the Traffic and Transport Working Plan of the Transport Department for Islands District in 2014-15.

Work Objectives

2. We hope that the work programmes planned for implementation in 2014-15 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 existing public transport services to meet the demand of the public; and
- (iii) To coordinate different public transport modes in order to provide efficient public transport services 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 2014-15:

(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) Road facility improvement works from Chung Yan Road roundabout to Tung Chung Road North;
- (v) Provision of footpath along Cheung Tung Road (Pak Mong to Tung Chung section);
- (vi) Widening of Tung Chung Road near San Shek Wan roundabout; and
- (vii) Provision of additional cycle parking spaces (bicycle parking rack) near Cheung Chau Pier.

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 transport 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 operators 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 surveys regularly and collect opinions from the public through district councils and other channels. We will encourage franchised bus companies to provide more 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 2013-14, of which 29 items involve increase in bus departures, frequency adjustment or deployment of additional buses while 8 items involve expansion of service coverage, introduction of special bus services and route rationalisation.

10. At the meeting on 19 May 2014, the Traffic and Transport Committee (“TTC”) under the Islands District Council (“IDC”) was briefed on the Bus Route Development Programme for Islands District in 2014-15. There are 2 items of route

adjustment and 7 items of deployment of additional buses and adjustment of frequency in the Programme.

(b) Ferry Services

11. The licences of the six major outlying island ferry routes (namely “Central - Cheung Chau”, “Inter-islands”, “Central - Mui Wo”, “Central - Peng Chau”, “Central - Yung Shue Wan” and “Central - Sok Kwu Wan” routes) expired respectively in March and June this year. Having regard to the results of the Mid-term Review on the Six Major Outlying Island Ferry Routes, views of the Legislative Council (LegCo), and that the current licences of the six ferry routes started from mid-2011 and further extension of these licences for three years would still meet the 10-year aggregate period rule, we approved the extension of the current licences of the six ferry routes for three years, from April/July 2014 to March/June 2017, in accordance with section 29(2) of the Ferry Services Ordinance. A commitment of about \$190 million has also been approved by the Finance Committee (FC) of the LegCo for the provision of special helping measures to the six major outlying island ferry routes during the three-year licence period from mid-2014 to mid-2017, with a view to enhancing the long term financial viability of these ferry routes and maintaining fare stability.

12. We will re-launch this July the “visiting scheme to outlying islands” by providing fare subsidy to encourage institutions such as qualified schools, authorised charity groups, community and local groups, non-governmental organisations, uniformed groups, district councils, Heung Yee Kuk and rural committees, to organise activities to Cheung Chau, Lantau Island, Peng Chau and Lamma Island to boost the local economy. The scheme will be open for applications from June 16 this year.

13. In addition, in conjunction with the Architectural Services Department (ASD), we will launch the improvement works to Cheung Chau Ferry Pier within this year, to improve the spatial allocation, queuing arrangement and ventilation of the ferry waiting area, and replace the existing shelter at the public walkway with a cantilevered shelter. The ASD is currently working on the design of the improvement works. The local community will be consulted on the works design by us and ASD in due course. Furthermore, we are following up with the views on rent returns, operation and management from the members of the Public Works Subcommittee of the LegCo FC in respect of the “Construction of Additional Floors at Central Piers Nos. 4, 5 & 6” project submitted for approval in the middle of last year.

14. To better meet passenger demand, we and the operators of outlying island ferry routes will continue to conduct surveys to provide references for service improvement. We will also continue to monitor the performance of the operators to ensure that their services can meet the passenger demand and licensing conditions.

15. We will keep close contact and communication with the members, listen to public opinions and actively study the traffic and public transport arrangements in the area.

Transport Department

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