

Islands District Council

Paper IDC 52/2015

Transport Department

Traffic and Transport Working Plan 2015-16

Purpose

This Paper presents the Traffic and Transport Working Plan of the Transport Department for Islands District in 2015-16.

Work Objectives

2. We hope that the work programmes planned for implementation in 2015-16 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 2015-16:

(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, and Tai O Road near Lung Tin Estate;
- (iv) Road facility improvement works from Chung Yan Road roundabout to Tung Chung Road North;
- (v) Widening of Tung Chung Road near San Shek Wan roundabout; and
- (vi) Provision of additional cycle parking spaces behind Cheung Chau Municipal Services Building.

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 demands, the bus companies have implemented a number of bus service improvement measures in 2014-15, of which 57 items involve increase in bus departures, frequency adjustment or deployment of additional buses while 6 items involve expansion of service coverage, introduction of special bus services and route rationalisation.

10. At the meeting on 16 March 2015, the Traffic and Transport Committee (“TTC”) under the Islands District Council (“IDC”) was briefed on the Bus Route Planning Programme for Islands District in 2015-16. There are 8 items of route adjustment and 15 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 trunk routes (namely “Central – Cheung Chau”, “Inter-islands”, “Central – Mui Wo”, “Central – Peng Chau”, “Central – Yung Shue Wan” and “Central – Sok Kwu Wan” routes) have respectively extended from April and July in 2014 for a period of three years. The Finance Committee (“FC”) of the Legislative Council (“LegCo”) has approved a commitment of about \$190 million to facilitate the Government to provide the six ferry routes with Special Helping Measures (“SHM”) during the three-year licence period, with a view to enhancing the long-term financial viability of these services and maintaining fare stability.

12. In addition, the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) is carrying out renovation works at the Pier. The works include increasing the waiting area of the Pier through re-organising the layout of the ticket counters and the associated ticket gates and fences; demolishing the abandoned rooms in the Pier to further enlarge the waiting area and facilitate better passenger flow; improving ventilation within the Pier; modifying the existing toilets at the Pier with a view to improving accessibility for the disabled; as well as constructing a new cantilevered canopy to provide cover for passengers waiting outside the Pier from inclement weather. Most part of the works is scheduled to be completed in May 2015.

13. To better cater for the needs of the passengers, we will conduct regular surveys on ferry services to provide reference for service improvements. 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
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