

Islands District Council
Paper IDC 44/2021

Transport Department
Traffic and Transport Working Plan 2021-22

Purpose

This Paper presents the Traffic and Transport Working Plan of the Transport Department for Islands District in 2021-22.

Work Objectives

2. We hope that the work programmes planned for implementation in 2021-22 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 traffic flow and to ensure 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 2021-22:

(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 North Lantau Highway, 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 assessment of temporary traffic arrangement.

(b) Road Network and Traffic Facilities Improvement Projects

5. We will continue to follow up the following projects to improve the road network and traffic facilities:

- (i) Construction of roundabout at the junction of Chung Mun Road and Chung Yat Street;
- (ii) Widening of roundabout at Tung Chung Road near Pa Mei Road;
- (iii) Construction of lay-bys for buses and taxis at Yat Tung Street;
- (iv) Proposed pedestrian crossing at Tat Tung Road near Tung Chung Station Bus Terminus;
- (v) Improvement of the pedestrian crossing at Tung Chung Road near Lung Tseng Tau; and
- (vi) Construction of a bus lay-by on South Lantau Road near San Shek Wan.

B. Public Transport Service

(a) Franchised Bus

6. Franchised buses are major road-based mass carriers with high passenger carrying capacity and provide services with certain flexibility. Having regard to the local developments, demographic changes, completion of transport facilities, existing and planned public transport services in the districts concerned, etc., we have been continuously enhancing the existing bus service network, and planning bus routes and adjusting bus services for developing and newly-developed districts as appropriate, so as to cater for the passenger demands.

7. To better understand the passenger demand and plan for improvement measures, we will continue to conduct surveys regularly and collect opinions from the

public through district councils and other channels. We will continue to 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 efficiency of bus network will be enhanced. The congestion and environmental problems caused by the overlapping of bus services can also be relieved.

8. Also, the TD will continue to follow up with bus operators on the facility improvement arrangements at the bus stops. The arrangements include bus shelter erection, seats and real-time bus arrival information display panels (“display panel”) installation at bus stops. As of April 2021, the bus companies have completed seats installation at 26 covered bus stops and display panels installation at 11 covered bus stops in Islands District under the Government’s Subsidy Scheme.

9. Apart from the Subsidy Scheme, the bus companies would improve the passenger facilities in Islands District at their own initiative. For example, Citybus Limited erected a shelter at the bus stop on Tung Yiu Road on 17 May 2021. The TD will continue to encourage franchised bus companies to enhance the bus stop facilities, including erection of bus shelters at locations where the geographical environment permitted, for the convenience of passengers and better waiting environment.

10. In view of the population intake in Tung Chung North and Tung Chung West, and to meet the passenger travelling demands, the bus companies have implemented a number of bus service improvement measures in 2020-21, of which 12 items are proposals for introduction of new routes, frequency enhancement, adjustment of operating hours or increase in carrying capacity of buses while 33 items involve expansion of service coverage, introduction of special bus services, provision of bus-bus interchange concessions and route rationalisation. At the meetings of Islands District Council (“IDC”) Traffic and Transport Committee (“TTC”) and TTC’s Bus Routes Working Group on 22 March 2021 and 30 April 2021, members were briefed on the Bus Route Planning Programme for Islands District in 2021-22. There are 6 items of new route introduction and 25 items of service improvement/rationalisation in the Programme to offer more frequent bus service to passengers travelling to the urban areas and to extend the bus service coverage within the district.

(b) Ferry Services

11. Starting from the new five-year license period (2021-2026) since 1 April 2021, the ferry operators of the 6 major outlying island routes have implemented a number of service improvement items in order to cater for passenger and operational needs. Details are set out at Annex.

C. Franchised Bus Diversion Arrangement for Commissioning of the Northern Connection of Tuen Mun – Chek Lap Kok Link

12. Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Link (Northern Connection) (“Northern Connection”) commissioned on 27 December 2020. Franchised bus routes operating between North Lantau and Tuen Mun District have been diverted to operate via Northern Connection with effect from 28 December 2020. After consolidating and concluding the views collected, the Transport Department will arrange to divert the following franchised bus routes operating between Yuen Long District and North Lantau via Northern Connection with effect from 20 June 2021 (Sunday):

- (i) LW Route No. A36 (Yuen Long (Kam Sheung Road Station) – Airport (Ground Transportation Centre));
- (ii) LW Route No. A37 (Yuen Long (Long Ping Station) – Airport (Ground Transportation Centre));
- (iii) LW Route No. E36 (Yuen Long (Pat Heung Road) – Airport (Ground Transportation Centre));
- (iv) LW Route No. E36A (Yuen Long (Tak Yip Street) – Tung Chung (Yat Tung Estate Public Transport Bus Terminus));
- (v) LW Route No. E37 (Tin Shui Wai Town Centre – Airport (Ground Transportation Centre));
- (vi) LW Route No. NA36 (Yuen Long (Kam Sheung Road Station) – Airport (Cathay Pacific City));
- (vii) LW Route No. NA37 (Tin Shui Wai Town Centre – Airport (Cathay Pacific City));
- (viii) LW Route No. N30 (Yuen Long Station – Airport (Cheong Tat Road))

At the same time, LW Route No. E36P will be introduced to provide special departures between Yuen Long (Sheung Tsuen) and AsiaWorld-Expo via Tai Lam Tunnel and Lantau Link during the morning and evening peak.

13. The details of arrangement were issued to the TTC members via IDC Secretariat on 31 May 2021 for information.

14. The TD will continue to maintain close liaison and communication with Members, listen to views of the public, and actively study the traffic and public transport matters in the district.

Transport Department
June 2021

Service Improvement Items
Implemented by the Six Major Outlying Island Routes in 2021 - 2022

The service level of individual routes has been adjusted as follows starting from the new five-year licence period (2021 – 2026) to cater for passenger and operational needs:

(a) “Central-Cheung Chau” route

Sailings in last licence period	Sailings in new licence period after adjustment	Reason(s) for adjustment
From Central (on weekdays from Mondays to Saturdays)		
6:20 p.m. (Fast ferries)	Remain unchanged	To cater for needs of passengers leaving from work.
--	Provided an additional fast ferry sailing departing at 6:30 p.m. (Only on weekdays from Mondays to Fridays, to be served by 200-seat fast ferries)	To increase the frequency of 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. sailings from every 20-25 minutes to every 10-20 minutes to cater for passenger needs.
From Cheung Chau (on weekdays from Mondays to Saturdays)		
8:10 a.m. (Fast ferries)	8:10 a.m. (Served by 400-seat fast ferries on weekdays from Mondays to Fridays and 200-seat fast ferries on Saturdays)	To strike a balance between meeting passenger needs and more effective use of resources.
--	Provided an additional fast ferry sailing departing at 4:30 p.m. (Only on weekdays from Mondays to Fridays)	To increase the frequency of 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. sailings from every 30 minutes to every 15 minutes to cater for passenger needs.

(b) “Inter-islands” route

Sailings in last licence period	Sailings in new licence period after adjustment	Reason(s) for adjustment
From Chi Ma Wan (daily)		
2:20 p.m. (Cheung Chau-bound) 4:20 p.m. (Cheung Chau-bound) 5:10 p.m. (Mui Wo-bound)	2:15 p.m. (Cheung Chau-bound) 4:15 p.m. (Cheung Chau-bound) 5:05 p.m. (Mui Wo-bound)	Sailings depart 5 minutes earlier to facilitate passenger interchange to Central at Cheung Chau/Mui Wo.
--	Provided an additional sailing departing at 3 p.m. (i.e. The sailing departing from Cheung Chau would detour via Chi Ma Wan before arriving Mui Wo and Peng Chau.)	To increase the frequency of sailings to Mui Wo/Peng Chau in the afternoon to cater for passenger needs.
--	Provided an additional sailing departing at 11:05 p.m. (i.e. The sailing departing from Cheung Chau would detour via Chi Ma Wan before arriving Mui Wo and Peng Chau, from where it would depart for the last calling point at Mui Wo.)	To increase the frequency of sailings to Mui Wo/Peng Chau at night to cater for passenger needs.
From Cheung Chau (daily)		
2:50 p.m. (Mui Wo/Peng Chau-bound)	2:45 p.m. (Mui Wo/Peng Chau-bound via Chi Ma Wan)	To align with the above adjustment.
From Mui Wo (daily)		
--	Provided an additional Cheung Chau-bound direct sailing	To cater for the needs of passengers leaving from work.

Sailings in last licence period	Sailings in new licence period after adjustment	Reason(s) for adjustment
	departing at 5:25 p.m. (Only on weekdays from Mondays to Fridays)	
11:20 p.m. (To Peng Chau and afterwards returns to the last calling point at Mui Wo)	11:25 p.m. (To Peng Chau and afterwards returns to the last calling point at Mui Wo)	To align with the adjustment of having an additional calling point at Chi Ma Wan at 11:05 p.m.
From Peng Chau (daily)		
11:40 p.m. (To the last calling point at Mui Wo)	11:45 p.m. (To the last calling point at Mui Wo)	To align with the adjustment of having an additional calling point at Chi Ma Wan at 11:05 p.m.

(c) “Central – Mui Wo” route

Sailings in last licence period	Sailings in new licence period after adjustment	Reason(s) for adjustment
From Central (on weekdays from Mondays to Saturdays)		
9:10 a.m. (Fast ferries)	9 a.m. (Fast ferries)	To align with the adjustment of Central-bound ordinary ferry sailing departing at 9:30 a.m. by fast ferry sailing departing at 9:40 a.m..
5:10 p.m. (Fast ferries)	5:20 p.m. (Fast ferries)	To align with time of passengers leaving from work.
8:30 p.m. (Ordinary ferries)	8:35 p.m. (Fast ferries charged at the ordinary ferry level)	To provide passengers with a balanced mix of fast ferry and ordinary ferry sailings from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m..
From Mui Wo (on weekdays from Mondays to Saturdays)		
--	Provided an additional fast ferry sailing departing at 7:20 a.m.	To increase the frequency of 7 a.m. to 8:05 a.m. sailings from every 10-40 minutes to every 10-30 minutes to cater for

Sailings in last licence period	Sailings in new licence period after adjustment	Reason(s) for adjustment
		passenger needs.
8:30 a.m. (Fast ferries)	8:30 a.m. (Served by 400-seat fast ferries)	To cater for passenger needs.
9:30 a.m. (Ordinary ferries)	9:40 a.m. (Fast ferries charged at the ordinary ferry level)	To provide passengers with a balanced mix of fast ferry and ordinary ferry sailings from 8:30 a.m. to 9:40 a.m..
9:30 p.m. (Ordinary ferries)	Remain unchanged	To cater for passenger needs.
10:40 p.m. (Fast ferries)	Remain unchanged	To cater for passenger needs.

(d) “Central-Peng Chau” route

Sailings in last licence period	Sailings in new licence period after adjustment	Reason(s) for adjustment
From Central (on weekdays from Mondays to Saturdays)		
--	Provided an additional fast ferry sailing departing at 7:30 p.m.	To increase the frequency of 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. sailings from every 40 minutes to every 30 minutes to cater for passenger needs.
7:40 p.m. (Fast ferries)	8 p.m. (Fast ferries)	
From Peng Chau (on Sundays and public holidays)		
--	Provided an additional fast ferry sailing departing at 5:30 a.m.	To enhance the service in early mornings on Sundays and public holidays.

“Peng Chau – Hei Ling Chau” special departures

Sailings in last licence period	Sailings in new licence period after adjustment	Reason(s) for adjustment
From Peng Chau (on weekdays from Mondays to Saturdays)		
8:10 p.m.	8 p.m.	To align with the adjustment of sailings from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. of

Sailings in last licence period	Sailings in new licence period after adjustment	Reason(s) for adjustment
		“Central-Peng Chau” route.
From Hei Ling Chau (on weekdays from Mondays to Saturdays)		
8:20 p.m.	8:10 p.m.	To align with the above adjustment.

(e) “Central- Yung Shue Wan” route

Sailings in last licence period	Sailings in new licence period after adjustment	Reason(s) for adjustment
From Central (on weekdays from Mondays to Saturdays)		
--	Provided an additional fast ferry sailing departing at 9 p.m.	To increase the frequency of 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. sailings from every 30-60 minutes to every 30 minutes to cater for passenger needs.
From Yung Shue Wan (on weekdays from Mondays to Saturdays)		
--	Provided an additional fast ferry sailing departing at 6:40 p.m.	To increase the frequency of 6:20 p.m. to 7:20 p.m. sailings from every 20-40 minutes to every 20 minutes to cater for passenger needs.

(f) “Central- Sok Kwu Wan” route

On Sundays and public holidays, additional ferry sailings would continue to be provided according to passenger needs.