

Islands District Council

Paper IDC 37/2023

Transport Department

Traffic and Transport Working Plan 2023-24

Purpose

This Paper presents the Traffic and Transport Working Plan of the Transport Department (“TD”) for Islands District in 2023-24.

Work Objectives

2. We hope that the work programmes planned for implementation in 2023-24 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 2023-24:

(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) Proposed pedestrian crossing at Tat Tung Road near Tung Chung Station Bus Terminus;
- (ii) Improvement of the pedestrian crossing at Tat Tung Road near Cheung Tung Road;
- (iii) Improvement of the pedestrian crossing at Tung Chung Road near Lung Tseng Tau;
- (iv) Extension of bus bay on Chung Yan Road near North Lantau Hospital;
- (v) Construction of a bus lay-by on Chung Yan Road near Yu Tai Court;
- (vi) Construction of a bus lay-by and public parking spaces on South Lantau Road near Lo Wai Tsuen in Pui O; and
- (vii) Proposed pedestrian crossing at South Lantau Road near Ma Po Ping Road.

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 panels”) installation at bus stops. The bus companies have completed seats installation at 27 bus stops with shelters and display panels installation at 11 bus stops with shelters 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 initiatives. 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 growth in Tung Chung, and to meet the passenger travelling demands, the bus companies have implemented a number of bus service improvement measures in 2022-23, 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 36 items involve expansion of service coverage, introduction of special bus services, provision of bus-bus interchange concessions and route rationalisation. The TD has settled the Bus Route Planning Programme for Islands District in 2023-24 which includes 29 items of service improvement / rationalisation after consulting the Islands District Council Traffic and Transport Committee (“the T&TC”).

(b) Ferry Services

11. Ferry service is the major means of public transportation in Islands District, especially those islands without land transport links. In 2022-23, the ferry operators of the 6 major outlying island ferry routes had been closely monitoring the service level of the routes and operated additional sailings, especially during festive days and long holidays, so as to better

cater for passenger demand.

12. As for the operator of “Tuen Mun – Tung Chung – Sha Lo Wan – Tai O” ferry route, Fortune Ferry Co. Ltd (“Fortune Ferry”) had deployed a spare vessel which is newer, with higher carrying capacity and higher wave-resistant ability to operate some of the additional subject-to-demand direct sailings between Tuen Mun and Tai O since 16 January 2023. Starting from 4 April 2023, Fortune Ferry further deployed that vessel to the Route as a regular vessel for operation of full trip sailings via Tung Chung and Sha Lo Wan, with a view to minimizing the chance of service disruptions caused by adverse weather and sea conditions.

13. To further enhance the ferry pier facilities, toilet improvement works at Central Pier No.5 for the operation of “Central – Cheung Chau” route was completed in April 2023, including refurbishing the existing accessible toilet and adding two unisex toilets. We have planned to arrange the same toilet improvement works at both Central Pier No.4 for the operations of “Central – Yung Shue Wan” and “Central – Sok Kwu Wan” routes and Central Pier No.6 for the operations of “Central – Peng Chau” and “Central – Mui Wo” routes from 2023 to 2024.

14. Besides, with the completion of Upgrading Project of Yung Shue Wan Pier in end-2021, Peng Chau Ferry Pier was selected as the next ferry pier for renovation. The renovation, including the refurbishment of passenger waiting room, the replacement of canopy at the entrance of the pier and the provision of a baby-care room with lactation facilities, etc., is expected to commence in the second quarter of 2024 for completion in the fourth quarter of 2026.

C. Franchised Bus Diversion Arrangement for Population Intake of Yu Nga Court

15. In view of the gradual population intake of Yu Nga Court since early 2023, the TD has implemented the settled “Bus Route Planning Programme” in phases, including the introduction of NLB Route No. 37A (Tung Chung North (Yu Nga Court) to Tung Chung Station Bus Terminus (Circular)) during morning peak hours from Monday to Friday and diversion of NLB Route No. 37M (Tung Chung North (Ying Tung Estate) to Tung Chung Station Bus Terminus (Circular)) via Yu Nga Court during non-service hours of Route No. 37A since 27 March 2023 to facilitate the public to travel between Yu Nga Court and Tung Chung Station Bus Terminus. Besides, some bus routes operating via Tung Chung North were also diverted via Yi Tung Road to facilitate the public to travel starting from 30 July 2023, including:

- (i) LW Route No. E32A (Tung Chung Development Pier – Kwai Chung (Container Port

Road) Public Transport Interchange);

- (ii) LW Route No. E36A (Tung Chung (Yat Tung Estate) – Yuen Long (Tak Yip Street));
- (iii) CTB Route No. E21A (Tung Chung (Yat Tung Estate Public Transport Terminus) –Ho Man Tin (Oi Man Estate));
- (iv) CTB Route No. E21D (AsiaWorld-Expo – Tai Kok Tsui (Islands Harbourview)); and
- (v) CTB Route No. E21X (Tung Chung (Mun Tung Estate) – Hung Hom Station).

16. At the same time, the terminating points of CTB Route No. S52A (Tung Chung (Yu Nga Court) - Airport (Aircraft Maintenance Area)) was extended to Yu Nga Court to facilitate the public to travel to the Airport. The TD and the bus companies will closely monitor the passenger demand in the area, and will divert the remaining bus routes via Yu Nga Court, including:

- (i) LW Route No. N31 (Airport (Ground Transportation Centre) – Tsuen Wan (Discovery Park));
- (ii) CTB Route No. E11A (AsiaWorld-Expo – Tin Hau Station);
- (iii) CTB Route No. E11B (Tung Chung (Mun Tung Estate) –Tin Hau Station);
- (iv) CTB Route No. E22S (Tung Chung (Mun Tung Estate) – Tseung Kwan O (Po Lam)); and
- (v) CTB Route No. S56 (Tung Chung Station Bus Terminus to Airport (Passenger Terminal Building) (Circular)).

17. 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

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