

Transport Department
Traffic and Transport Working Plan 2024-25

Purpose

This Paper presents the Traffic and Transport Working Plan of the Transport Department (“TD”) for Islands District in 2024-25 to the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Islands District Council (“T&TC”).

Work Objectives

- 2. We hope that the work programmes planned for implementation in 2024-25 can achieve the following objectives:
 - (i) To monitor and improve the traffic and transport facilities to meet local development needs;
 - (ii) To adjust existing public transport services to meet passenger demand; and
 - (iii) To co-ordinate 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 schemes, if necessary, to improve the efficiency, performance and safety of the road network. The following traffic management programmes have been planned for implementation in 2024-25:

(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) Improvement of the pedestrian crossing at Tung Chung Road near Lung Tseng Tau;
- (ii) Extension of the bus bay on Chung Yan Road near North Lantau Hospital;
- (iii) Construction of motorcycle parking spaces on Yu Tung Road near Yat Tung Estate;
- (iv) Construction of a bus lay-by and public parking spaces on South Lantau Road near Lo Wai Tsuen in Pui O; and
- (v) Addition of a footpath at South Lantau Road near Tong Fuk Beach.

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 district, 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 passenger demand.

7. To better understand the passenger demand and plan 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 the bus network will be enhanced. The congestion and environmental problems caused by the overlapping of bus services can also be relieved.

8. Also, we will continue to follow up with bus companies 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. We will continue to review the feasibility of seats or display panels installation at bus stops with shelters.

9. Apart from the Subsidy Scheme, the bus companies would improve the passenger facilities in Islands District on their own initiative. We 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 demand, the bus companies have implemented a number of bus service improvement measures in 2023-2024, including 8 items for the introduction of new routes to meet passenger demand, frequency enhancement, adjustment of operating hours or increase in carrying capacity of buses, as well as 12 items for the expansion of service coverage, introduction of special bus services, provision of bus-bus interchange concessions and route rationalisation. We have settled the Bus Route Planning Programme for Islands District in 2023-2024 which includes 9 items of service improvement / rationalisation after consulting the T&TC.

(b) Ferry Services

11. Ferry service is one of the public transport modes in Islands District and is of particular importance to passengers travelling to/ from outlying islands without land transport link. The operators of the six major outlying island ferry routes¹ have been closely monitoring the service level of the routes and have operated additional sailings in response to passenger demand, especially during festive days and long holidays, so as to better suit the needs of passengers.

12. To enhance the experience of passengers and promote environmental protection, the Government implements the Vessel Subsidy Scheme (“VSS”) to fully subsidise 10 outlying island ferry routes to replace the entire existing fleet with greener vessels and newer facilities in two phases. Under Phase I of the VSS, 22 new vessels will be procured for the six major outlying island ferry routes. Under the VSS, the first three new vessels procured have been gradually deployed to operate the “Central – Cheung Chau”, “Central – Mui Wo” and “Central – Peng Chau” routes since March 2024. About half of the new vessels under Phase I are expected to arrive gradually by the end of 2024.

13. Also, the Government will continue to improve the ferry pier facilities of outlying island ferry routes. The Upgrading Project of Yung Shue Wan Ferry Pier was completed in end-2021 and the minor improvement works for Mui Wo Ferry Pier, including repainting of interior walls and ceiling, which commenced in December 2023, are expected to complete in April 2024. The improvement works of Peng Chau Ferry Pier, including the refurbishment of the passenger waiting room, replacement of the canopy at the entrance of the pier and the provision of a baby-care room with lactation facilities, etc., are expected to commence in the second quarter of 2024 for completion in the fourth quarter of 2026.

14. The Government has also planned to carry out toilet improvement works for Central Pier No. 4, which is used by “Central – Yung Shue Wan” and “Central – Sok Kwu Wan” routes, and Central Pier No. 6, which is used by “Central – Peng Chau” and “Central – Mui Wo” routes, from 2024 to 2025.

¹ The six major outlying island ferry routes refer to the “Central – Cheung Chau”, “Central – Mui Wo”, “Inter-Islands” (i.e. “Peng Chau – Mui Wo – Chi Ma Wan – Cheung Chau”), “Central – Peng Chau”, “Central – Yung Shue Wan” and “Central – Sok Kwu Wan” routes.

C. Franchised Bus Diversion Arrangement for Population Intake of Yu Nga Court, Cheung Tung Estate and Chun Tung Estate in Tung Chung

15. The gradual population intake of Yu Nga Court has taken place since early 2023. Apart from the implemented “Bus Route Planning Programme” items in the first half of 2023, 5 bus routes have been diverted via Yu Nga Court from the second half of 2023, namely LW Route No. N31 (Airport (Ground Transportation Centre) – Tsuen Wan (Discovery Park)), CTB Route No. E11A (SKYCITY Transport Terminal – Tin Hau Station), CTB Route No. E11B (Tung Chung (Mun Tung Estate) – Tin Hau Station), CTB Route No. E22S (Tung Chung (Mun Tung Estate) – Tseung Kwan O (Po Lam)) and CTB Route No. S56 (Tung Chung Station Bus Terminus to Airport (Passenger Terminal Building) (Circular)).

16. We will continue to closely monitor the passenger demand in the area and liaise with the bus companies for service adjustment whenever necessary, and will implement the remaining settled “Bus Route Planning Programme” by introducing NLB Route No. 36M (Tung Chung North (Yu Nga Court) to Sunny Bay Station) during morning peak hours from Mondays to Saturdays (except public holidays).

17. The population intake of Cheung Tung Estate and Chun Tung Estate will take place in 2025. Through the settled “Bus Route Planning Programme 2023-2024”, the terminating point of NLB Route No. 37A (Tung Chung North (Yu Nga Court) to Tung Chung Station Bus Terminus (Circular)) will be extended to Cheung Tung Estate. Besides, subject to the progress of population intake, the following external bus routes operating via Tung Chung North will be diverted via Cheung Tung Estate Bus Terminus:

- (i) LW Route No. E32A (Tung Chung Development Pier – Kwai Chung (Container Port Road) Public Transport Interchange);
- (ii) CTB Route No. E21A (Tung Chung (Yat Tung Estate Public Transport Terminus) – Ho Man Tin (Oi Man Estate));
- (iii) CTB Route No. E21D (SKYCITY Transport Terminal – Tai Kok Tsui (Islands Harbourview)); and
- (iv) CTB Route No. E21X (Tung Chung (Mun Tung Estate) – Hung Hom Station);
- (v) CTB Route No. S52A (Tung Chung (Yu Nga Court) – Airport (Aircraft Maintenance Area));
- (vi) CTB Route No. S56 (Tung Chung Station Bus Terminus – Airport (Passenger Terminal Building) (Circular)); and
- (vii) LW Route No. N31 (Airport (Ground Transportation Centre) – Tsuen Wan

(Discovery Park)).

18. We 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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