

(Translation)

**Minutes of Meeting of Islands District Council**

Date : 12 March 2024 (Tuesday)  
Time : 2:30 p.m.  
Venue : Islands District Council Conference Room,  
14/F, Harbour Building, 38 Pier Road, Central, Hong Kong

**Present**

**Chairman**

Ms YEUNG Wai-sum, Amy, JP

**Members**

Mr NG Man-kit  
Mr HO Siu-kei  
Mr NG Choi-wah  
Mr HO Chun-fai  
Mr YU Hon-kwan, MH, JP  
Mr CHOW Yuen-kuk, Jonathan  
Ms KWOK Wai-man, Mealoha  
Mr HUI Chun-lung, MH  
Mr WONG Man-hon, MH  
Ms WONG Chau-ping  
Mr WAN Yeung-kin  
Mr WONG Hon-kuen, Ken  
Mr YIP Pui-kei  
Mr LAU Chin-pang  
Ms LAU Suk-han  
Ms LAU Shun-ting  
Mr LUO Chenghuan

**Attendance by Invitation**

Ms PO Pui-man, Karen	Chief Transport Officer/Planning/Ferry Review, Transport Department
Mr AU Kak-loi, Peter	Senior Transport Officer/Planning/Ferry 2, Transport Department
Dr SHARMA Geeta	Senior Medical & Health Officer (Emergency Preparedness and District Relations) <sup>2</sup> , Department of Health
Dr Marcus WONG	Chief of Service (Family Medicine & Primary Healthcare), Hong Kong East Cluster, Hospital Authority

Mr Carson FUNG	Operations Manager (Kowloon & New Territories), Citybus Limited
Ms Penny CHUNG	Corporate Communications Manager, Citybus Limited
Mr Calvin TSANG	Senior Corporate Communications Officer, Citybus Limited
Mr CHAN Tin-lung	Assistant Operation Director, Kwoon Chung Motors Company Limited
Mr HO Lee-yip	Manager, Operations Support and Community Relations, New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited
Mr Stephen WAN	Manager, Operations, Long Win Bus Company Limited
Ms Rennis LIP	Assistant Manager, Public Affairs, Long Win Bus Company Limited

**In Attendance**

Mr LI Ho, Thomas	Assistant District Officer (Islands)1, Islands District Office
Ms TSE Yik-ting, Ellie	Assistant District Officer (Islands)2, Islands District Office
Mr AU Ho-yin, Gary	Senior Liaison Officer (1), Islands District Office
Mr LAM Wai-chuen, Eddie	Senior Engineer/17 (Lantau), Civil Engineering and Development Department
Mr LING Ka-fai	District Lands Officer/Islands, Lands Department
Mrs RADFORD Kit-ye, Kitty	Administrative Assistant/Lands (District Lands Office, Islands), Lands Department
Ms LAM Bun-gee	District Social Welfare Officer (Central Western/Southern/ Islands), Social Welfare Department
Mr TSANG Chi-yuen	Senior Housing Manager/Hong Kong Island and Islands 2 & Management Control 1, Housing Department
Mr CHAN Ka-leong	District Environmental Hygiene Superintendent (Islands), Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Mr YAN Ka-kit, Ric	Chief Health Inspector(Islands)1, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Ms CHEUNG Suk-man	Chief Health Inspector(Islands)2, Food and Environmental Hygiene Department
Dr CHEUNG Hoi-yan	District Commander (Lantau), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr Clive WALTON	District Commander (Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
Ms LI Ka-chai, Denise	Police Community Relations Officer (Lantau District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr CHAN Sheung-yung, Cyrus	Police Community Relations Officer (Marine Port District), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr KWONG Wang-ngai, Walter	District Planning Officer/Sai Kung & Islands, Planning Department
Ms LIM Ting-ting, Sylvia	Chief Leisure Manager (New Territories West), Leisure and Cultural Services Department
Ms HA Chung-wan, Joanne	District Leisure Manager (Islands), Leisure and Cultural Services Department

Mr AU Siu-fung, Kelvin  
Mr LEE Lap-man  
Ms WONG Shuk-man, Suman

Chief Transport Officer/Islands, Transport Department  
Engineer/Islands 2, Transport Department  
Engineer/Lantau Development, Transport Department

**Secretary**

Ms Kennis CHAN

Senior Executive Officer (District Council),  
Islands District Office

**Absent with Apology**

Mr CHOW Yuk-tong, SBS, MH

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**Welcome remarks**

The Chairman welcomed Members and representatives of the government departments to the meeting of the Islands District Council (IDC), and introduced the following representatives of departments:

- (a) Mr LAM Wai-chuen, Eddie, Senior Engineer/17 (Lantau) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department (CEDD), who stood in for Mr CHENG Yuk-lung, Stanley; and
- (b) Mr TSANG Chi-yuen, Senior Housing Manager/Hong Kong Island and Islands 2 & Management Control 1 of the Housing Department (HD), who stood in for Mr TO Chak-foo.

I. **Confirmation of the Minutes of Meeting held on 5 January 2024**

2. The Chairman said that the captioned minutes had incorporated the amendments proposed by the government departments and Members and had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting. Members had no other amendment proposals and the minutes were confirmed unanimously.

II. **Question on the improvement of traffic safety on Ying Tung Road, Tung Chung (IDC Paper No. 9/2024)**

3. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the IDC Paper No. 9/2024 and welcomed Dr CHEUNG Hoi-yan, District Commander (Lantau) of the Hong Kong Police Force; Mr LEE Lap-man, Engineer/Islands 2 of the Transport Department (TD); Mr Stephen WAN, Manager, Operations and Ms Rennis LIP, Assistant Manager, Public

Affairs of the Long Win Bus Company Limited (LWB); Mr Carson FUNG, Operations Manager (Kowloon & New Territories), Ms Penny CHUNG, Corporate Communications Manager and Mr Calvin TSANG, Senior Corporate Communications Officer of the Citybus Limited (Citybus); Mr HO Lee-yip, Manager, Operations Support and Community Relations of the New Lantau Bus Company (1973) Limited (NLB); and Mr CHAN Tin-lung, Assistant Operation Director of the Kwoon Chung Motors Company Limited to the meeting to respond to the question. The written replies of the LWB and Citybus had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

4. Mr YIP Pui-kei briefly presented the question.
5. Dr CHEUNG Hoi-yan responded as follows:
  - (a) According to the records of the Lantau Police District, there were seven traffic accidents involving injuries to drivers and passengers with minor injuries on Ying Tung Road and Ying Hei Road in 2022 and 2023 respectively. The major cause of the above traffic accidents was related to the driving attitude of drivers.
  - (b) The Police had always been concerned about road safety. In order to combat inappropriate driving behaviours, the Police worked with the TD and adopted a “3E” multi-pronged approach, viz. through road engineering (Engineering), public engagement (Engagement) and proactive enforcement (Enforcement), to improve the traffic in the district.
  - (c) On law enforcement, although the above locations were not classified by the TD as traffic black spots, the Police would regularly take enforcement actions, such as issuing summons against road users in relation to illegal parking at bus stops and nearby roads as well as towing away illegally parked vehicles which caused serious obstruction, so as to ensure smooth traffic flow in the district.
  - (d) Raising the road safety awareness of drivers and road users through publicity and education was an effective way to enhance road safety. The Lantau Police District, in collaboration with the Traffic New Territories South and various community stakeholders (including representatives of the public transport operators), had been carrying out relevant publicity and education work to enhance the law-abiding awareness of road users. The Police would continue to ensure the safety of road users through law enforcement and collaboration with community stakeholders.
6. Mr LEE Lap-man said that the current design of Ying Tung Road was in compliance with the road design standards of Hong Kong. The TD would maintain close communication with the Police, and would review and formulate corresponding

measures based on the Police's investigation results. In addition, the Department had urged the bus companies to draw bus captains' attention to the traffic condition on the road section concerned, so as to ensure driving safety.

7. Mr Stephen WAN said that the LWB had three bus routes that passed through the above-mentioned road section, but no traffic accidents were recorded on these routes in the past year. In addition, the LWB welcomed any measures for improving the design of the roads and bus stops. As regards bus captain training, the LWB had reminded bus captains to pay attention to the traffic conditions at particular locations (including the above-mentioned road section).

8. Ms Penny CHUNG said that on the day of the accident mentioned in the question, a bus of Citybus passing through Ying Tung Road was hit by another franchised bus that cut the lane. Citybus always attached great importance to traffic safety and would continue to reflect to the TD its views on bus stop enhancement and traffic safety.

9. Mr HO Lee-yip said that the NLB would apply to the TD for relocating the terminus of route 37M to the Tung Chung Station Bus Terminus, so as to reduce the time for picking up or dropping off passengers at the Ying Tung Estate Bus Terminus, thereby alleviating the traffic congestion on Ying Tung Road.

10. Mr CHAN Tin-lung said that there were many vehicles illegally parked on Ying Tung Road (especially near the roundabout). He hoped that the Police would solve the problem.

11. Mr YIP Pui-kei expressed his views as follows:

- (a) The Police responded that seven traffic accidents involving injuries were recorded at the road section in 2022 and 2023 respectively. However, according to his observation, traffic accidents involving only minor collisions but no casualties often occurred at the road section concerned. Whenever a traffic accident occurred on the road section, traffic congestion would be caused.
- (b) Although the design of the road section was in compliance with the road design standards of Hong Kong, he opined that the road surface of the section was narrow. In view of the low utilisation rate of the bicycle track next to the road, he hoped the TD would enhance or widen the road section.
- (c) Currently, about 10 to 20 bus, light bus and school bus routes as well as the heavy vehicles going to and from the construction sites in Area 99 would pass through Ying Tung Road. Therefore, the road had a high utilisation rate and was prone to wear and tear.
- (d) Regarding the NLB's application to the TD for relocating the terminus

of route 37M to the Tung Chung Station Bus Terminus, residents were worried that the change would affect their daily travelling. He hoped the NLB would explain whether the change would affect the regular bus service or aggravate the lost trip problem in the morning. In addition, he asked if the MTR could increase the train frequency accordingly.

12. Mr NG Choi-wah said that the CEDD was carrying out construction work on Ying Tung Road, but some water-filled barriers were placed beyond the works area, thus further reducing the space for vehicle passage, which could lead to traffic accidents easily. He hoped that the CEDD would narrow the area where the water-filled barriers were placed. In addition, he hoped the Police would step up patrols on the relevant road section and appeal to works vehicles to slow down when passing through the road section.

13. Mr LUO Chenghuan opined that the causes of traffic accidents were related to the driving attitude of drivers, road design and works. He suggested strengthening driver training to educate drivers on the importance of strict compliance with traffic regulations, and hoped that the departments would optimise the road design.

14. Mr WONG Man-hon concurred with Mr YIP Pui-kei. He said that the roads in the vicinity of the roundabout at Ying Tung Road were not up to standard, and the departments had not improved the traffic planning for Tung Chung and the traffic capacity of the district. In anticipation of the future increase in the population of Tung Chung and the completion of the reclamation works, the departments should make long-term traffic planning accordingly.

15. Ms WONG Chau-ping hoped the departments would optimise the design of the relevant road section. She asked about the content of Citybus's proposal to the TD on enhancing safety at bus stops.

16. Mr Kelvin AU said there were currently 14 bus routes plying the road section. The TD would review the impact of the relocation of terminus on the service of the NLB route 37M. In addition, the Department had requested all bus companies to remind bus captains on driving safety, and would work out improvement plans based on the Police's investigation results.

17. Mr HO Lee-yip said that if the terminus of route 37M was relocated to the Tung Chung Station Bus Terminus, the NLB would increase the number of morning special departures from Ying Tung Estate to the MTR Tung Chung Station.

18. The Chairman enquired of the TD how the traffic planning and optimisation for the relevant road section would tie in with future development, and sought the Department's response on the improvement of drivers' driving attitude through public education and publicity.

19. Mr LEE Lap-man said that the roundabout at Ying Tung Road would be rebuilt in the future to tie in with the Tung Chung New Town Extension project and

would be connected to the roads in the new areas. He believed that the problems would be improved after the roundabout was connected to the roads in the new areas.

20. Mr Eddie LAM said that as for the water-filled barriers' close location to the carriageway at the construction site of the CEDD, the Department had implemented temporary traffic arrangement in accordance with the plan and locations approved by the Police and TD. The Department would step up inspections of the construction site to ensure that the layout of the site facilities met the standards.

21. Ms Penny CHUNG said that Citybus had proposed to the TD the improvement of the bus bay at Ying Tung Road, so that there would be more space for buses to park.

22. Mr HO Siu-kei said that traffic accidents occurred frequently along the road, coupled with the increasing population and vehicular flow in the area, he opined that the TD should deal with the problem immediately, instead of waiting for two or three years until the completion of the Tung Chung New Town Extension project.

23. Mr LAU Chin-pang said that the existing bus termini at Ying Tung Estate and Mun Tung Estate were both located on the roadside. As a result, buses stopping at the termini would occupy the traffic lanes from time to time, which affected the road traffic and could easily cause traffic accidents. The situation was not satisfactory. Taking the Yat Tung Estate Bus Terminus as an example, he explained that it would be more appropriate to set up bus termini inside the newly completed public housing estates or private residential estates. In anticipation of the completion of a number of public housing estates and private residential estates in Tung Chung in the future, he hoped the TD would avoid setting up bus termini on the roadside when providing additional bus termini at the estates in the future.

24. Mr YIP Pui-kei expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Ying Tung Road was an essential route for vehicles going to the Tung Chung New Development Area. He opined that the above-mentioned road section was narrow. If the carriageways were not widened, the traffic congestion problem might not be improved even if the roundabout on Ying Tung Road was removed.
- (b) Due to the ongoing construction work on Ying Tung Road, currently the 14 bus routes had to pick up and drop off passengers at a bus stop of about 50 metres long. The location was very narrow and prone to traffic congestion (especially during peak hours). He hoped the departments would improve the problem.
- (c) He hoped the TD would provide Members with details of future road planning and conduct site visits at Ying Tung Road during rush hours in the morning or the evening in the future.

25. Ms WONG Chau-ping opined that the TD or other departments concerned should explore short, medium and long-term solutions to avoid the occurrence of similar traffic accidents.

26. Mr LEE Lap-man said that the TD would explore jointly with the CEDD on the optimisation options for the future road design and the current works issues at Ying Tung Road.

27. Mr Kelvin AU said that after the traffic accident occurred, the TD and the NLB had conducted an on-site inspection and discussed the proposed relocation of the terminus of route 37M. The Department would also consider any feasible improvement options.

28. Mr YU Hon-kwan hoped the Secretariat would arrange for the relevant departments, bus companies and Members to conduct a site visit at Ying Tung Road for discussing improvement options.

29. Mr HUI Chun-lung said that apart from Ying Tung Road, there were also many problems concerning the bus stops and roads throughout Tung Chung. He hoped to inspect other problematic road sections on the day of the site visit to Ying Tung Road. In addition, he believed that some Members might not accept or agree with the departments' responses above. He asked the Chairman if trainings could be arranged for the departments, so that they would have some knowledge of the differences between the current term of District Councils and previous ones, so as to effectively address the most imminent concerns of the public.

30. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to arrange the site visit mentioned above after the meeting and concluded as follows:

- (a) As for the site visit, many Members had pointed out in the Report on Study of Road Traffic Congestion Problem in Tung Chung Town Centre and the Nearby Areas a number of traffic black spots in Tung Chung. The Secretariat would arrange a site visit of about one to two hours, and would discuss with the departments on inspecting another traffic black spot that was of concern to Members on the day of the site visit to Ying Tung Road.
- (b) The departments and Members might have different views when discussing the agenda items at meetings. Since the departments had their own policy considerations, the responses given by the departments might not satisfy all Members. She believed that the departments were well aware of the expectations of the public and the mode of operation of the new-term District Councils. She would communicate with the relevant departments with regard to the situation.

(Post-meeting note: Site visits to Ying Tung Road and Tat Tung Road were conducted on 10 April and 23 April this year respectively.)

III. Question on the medical services in the Islands District  
(IDC Paper No. 10/2024)

31. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the IDC Paper No. 10/2024, and welcomed Dr SHARMA Geeta, Senior Medical & Health Officer (Emergency Preparedness and District Relations)<sup>2</sup> of the Department of Health (DH) and Dr Marcus WONG, Chief of Service (Family Medicine & Primary Healthcare) of Hong Kong East Cluster of the Hospital Authority (HA) to the meeting to respond to the question. The written replies of the DH and the HA had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

32. Ms LAU Shun-ting briefly presented the question.

33. Dr SHARMA Geeta presented the key points of the written reply.

34. Dr Marcus WONG drew Members' attention to the written reply of the HA. He added that it was difficult for the HA to increase medical services at GOPCs amid the tight manpower situation. Since the provision of 24-hour doctor on-site service would necessitate the provision of out-patient as well as accident and emergency services, the HA opined that the provision of the said services might not be cost-effective. The HA noted the problem of ageing facilities at the North Lamma General Out-patient Clinic. It was currently conducting a preliminary study to plan for the replacement of the facilities to improve the clinic environment and strengthen infection control measures. In addition, given the remote locations of the outlying islands, the HA was exploring the feasibility of providing tele-consultation service, with a view to improving medical services under the resource constraints.

35. Ms LAU Shun-ting said that there was a lack of evening medical services in Sok Kwu Wan. She opined that in deciding whether medical services would be provided, the HA should take the needs of residents into consideration, rather than focusing solely on cost-effectiveness.

36. Mr NG Choi-wah said many Tung Chung residents had reflected that the waiting time for services of the Tung Chung Maternal & Child Health Centre (Tung Chung MCHC) was too long, causing inconvenience to working young parents. With the development of the Tung Chung New Town, it was expected that more young parents would move in, which would increase the local demand for the services of the Tung Chung MCHC. Also, given that the Government was encouraging childbirth, he hoped the DH would increase number of service days of the Tung Chung MCHC from three days to five days per week.

37. Mr Jonathan CHOW said many residents hoped that ophthalmic service and dental service would be added to the specialist out-patient services of the North Lantau Hospital (NLTH). He asked the HA to consider the suggestion. He understood that it might be difficult for the HA to increase resources and manpower, but he opined that

the HA should seek to solve the existing problems with other solutions. In addition, in the face of an ageing population, he opined that the relevant departments should strengthen the ageing-in-place services, support for caregivers and district support.

38. Mr LAU Chin-pang said that according to his experience, the waiting time at the Tung Chung MCHC was indeed very long. He pointed out that the NLTH was well-equipped, but some of its services had a low utilisation rate. Since the Government was encouraging childbirth, he suggested replacing the under-utilised services with maternal and child health services to meet demand. In addition, he noted that the NLTH would be undergoing phase two development. He hoped the software of the project could facilitate the addition of specialist services, so that Tung Chung residents would not have to travel to the urban areas for specialist treatment and the increasing service demand could be met in the future.

39. Ms Mealoha KWOK understood that the HA faced a tight healthcare resources and a shortage of manpower. She said that due to the remoteness of the outlying islands, in the event of emergency at night, there might not be a helicopter ready for providing transfer service, therefore, she opined that the provision of 24-hour doctor on-site service was necessary. In addition, she pointed out that although ophthalmology and dental specialist services were provided at the St. John Hospital, the services were still insufficient to meet the demand. She requested the addition of more specialist out-patient services. In addition, the current waiting time for specialist services was too long, which was very inconvenient for the elderly who needed to attend regular follow-up consultations. She hoped the HA would enhance the relevant services to shorten the waiting time for residents. She also mentioned she had reported to the HA in the past that many people from other districts would seek medical consultation in Cheung Chau by making appointments through the online booking system, making it more difficult for Cheung Chau residents to make successful booking for general out-patient services. She asked the HA to explore improvement measures for the above problem.

40. Mr WONG Man-hon said that the supply of medical services in Mui Wo was insufficient. Many people (including the elderly and people with disabilities) would arrive at the Mui Wo General Out-patient Clinic (Mui Wo GOPC) at as early as 7 a.m. to queue up for discs, but no seats were provided outside the clinic for the waiting people. He pointed out that residents of Tai O and South Lantau would also go to the Mui Wo GOPC for medical consultation. In view of the small number of private doctors and the growing population in Mui Wo, he hoped the HA would increase the consultation quota at the clinic to meet the demand. In addition, he pointed out that there was a long-standing shortage of ambulances in Mui Wo, and it took time for ambulances to travel from other areas to Mui Wo. The doctors had no choice but to advise residents to travel to the clinic by private cars or public transport. He opined that the relevant departments should seek to improve the situation.

41. Dr SHARMA Geeta thanked Members for their views. She said that the DH had reviewed the current services of the three Maternal and Child Health Centres in the Islands District, including the child health services, antenatal and postnatal services and

family planning service provided at different service sessions, and opined that the supply of such medical services were sufficient to meet the demand. She would convey Members' opinions on the long waiting time at the Tung Chung MCHC to the relevant service after the meeting. The Department would closely monitor the demand in the Islands District and would deploy manpower and resources as necessary in a timely manner to increase the services.

42. Dr Marcus WONG made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The HA noted the keen demand for general out-patient clinic (GOPC) services in different districts in Hong Kong. Due to the resources constraint and the high wastage rate of doctors in recent years, it was difficult to recruit and replenish experienced doctors. The HA would continue to actively recruit manpower, with a view to further enhancing the service capacity of the GOPCs subject to manpower availability.
- (b) Although the Sok Kwu Wan General Out-patient Clinic (Sok Kwu Wan GOPC) provided doctor consultation service two days a week, the service utilisation rate remained low at 19% to 29% last year, which was far below that of nearly 100% of GOPCs in other districts. In addition, the number of cases in which Sok Kwu Wan residents were transferred to other districts for using accident and emergency services was only a single-digit figure. The HA understood that residents would feel frustrated if they were unable to seek immediate medical treatment nearby when feeling unwell. The HA would closely monitor the utilisation rate of the above services and make adjustments to its services in a timely manner.
- (c) He would convey Members' views to the relevant divisions for follow-up, including the suggestions for the addition of ophthalmology and dentistry to the specialist out-patient services at the NLTH; the enhancement of ageing-in-place services; the provision of tele-consultation service at the St. John Hospital; and the provision of seats outside the Mui Wo GOPC.
- (d) As for the insufficiency of ambulances in Mui Wo mentioned by Members, he suggested that Members should directly reflect their views to the Fire Services Department (FSD).

43. The Chairman asked the Social Welfare Department (SWD) to consider the suggestion on the enhancement of ageing-in-place services and support for caregivers.

44. Mr YIP Pui-kei expressed his views as follows:

- (a) After the epidemic, many people from other districts would seek medical consultation in the Islands District. As a result, the local residents were unable to make appointments for GOPC services. He

asked whether the HA could reserve some GOPC consultation quotas for residents of the Islands District.

- (b) Although the Tung Chung MCHC currently opened for three days a week, child health services were provided for only half a day. With the increase in the population of Tung Chung, he pointed out that Tung Chung residents would have a great demand for child health services. His ward office had once arranged to provide vaccination services for children. He opined that the DH should open more child health service sessions in response to the population growth. In addition, the DH stated in the written reply that the current service utilisation rates of the three Maternal and Child Health Centres in the Islands District were all below 50%. He opined that the unused service quotas should be reallocated for providing other services.
- (c) There were not many private doctors in Tung Chung. When the private clinics were closed during holidays, it was difficult for residents to seek medical treatment. He drew the HA's attention to it.
- (d) The HA had earlier mentioned that a public-private partnership model would be implemented in the phase two development of the NLTH. He asked about the progress and details of the project.
- (e) He was pleased to learn that the HA planned to launch the video consultation service, but he opined that drug delivery service should be provided at the same time.

45. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that Members had repeatedly asked questions in relation to the issue. Given the remote location of the Islands District, comparison with other districts on the provision of medical services should not be simply based on statistics alone. In case of sudden illnesses, such as heart diseases, seeking medical services in other districts might delay the treatment. Therefore, she opined that it was necessary to provide 24-hour doctor on-site service. In addition, pointing out that ambulance transfer service was very important, she considered the relevant departments should maintain close liaison and explore the provision of more ambulances. She also pointed out that people from other districts seeking medical treatment in the Islands District would dilute the medical resources available for local residents. She opined that the HA should explore solutions.

46. Mr Ken WONG said that there were few private doctors in the Islands District and it was inconvenient for residents to travel to the urban areas to seek medical treatment. As a result, residents relied on the services of public hospitals and the GOPCs. Although the present situation of people from other districts seeking medical treatment in the Islands District was not serious, he considered it necessary for the departments concerned to explore measures to prevent the situation from worsening and ensure that Islands District residents' opportunities of receiving medical treatment would not be taken by people from other districts. In addition, he pointed out that if

the Government refused to consider increasing the number of doctors at the GOPCs in the Islands District, public resources would still be consumed when residents used the emergency medical transfer services provided by the Government Flying Service or the Marine Region of the Police in case of emergency. In addition, the relevant departments might not be able to provide services immediately under adverse weather conditions. There had been a case in the district where a resident had to take a boat to the urban area for medical treatment due to difficulty in breathing caused by bee stings. Therefore, he opined that it was necessary for the HA to provide 24-hour doctor on-site service in the outlying islands or to arrange doctor on-site service at the relevant clinics in inclement weather.

47. Ms LAU Shun-ting said that in 2014, after a visit to the Sok Kwu Wan GOPC, the then Under Secretary for Food and Health, Professor Sophia Chan added a half-day service session with nurses on duty to the clinic. However, the medical services in Sok Kwu Wan had not been enhanced since then. She pointed out that if residents fell ill outside the service hours of the Sok Kwu Wan GOPC, they would travel to the urban areas to seek medical treatment on their own, which resulted in the low utilisation rate of the services of the clinic concerned. In addition, she said that after the epidemic and the peak period of the seasonal influenza, many people from other districts would seek medical treatment in the Islands District through appointment booking. Many residents had complained that the situation made it impossible for them to make appointments for the GOPC services, and they requested that the number of doctors on duty be increased and the service hours of the clinic be extended. She opined that the HA had to take the problem seriously.

48. Mr WAN Yeung-kin opined that access to public medical services was a basic right of the residents. If the medical services provided in the Islands District were insufficient, people's desire to live in the district would be undermined. He opined that departments concerned had to address the problem squarely.

49. Dr Marcus WONG made a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) The current mechanism of the HA allowed members of the public to seek medical treatment from different districts. He would convey the suggestion of reserving some GOPC consultation quotas for Islands District residents to the relevant divisions for follow-up after the meeting.
- (b) At the Peng Chau General Out-patient Clinic, the North Lamma General Out-patient Clinic and the Sok Kwu Wan GOPC, there had not been any cases of local residents being unable to book the GOPC services due to people from other districts seeking medical treatment. The HA noted that there was an increasing number of people from other districts used the services of the above-mentioned GOPCs. However, the overall utilisation rate of those GOPCs had not yet reached saturation and therefore no reported unmet demand from patients with chronic diseases. In the event of emergency, the doctors and nurses would also

exercise discretion to increase the number of consultation discs.

- (c) He reiterated that the GOPCs were not designed for the provision of emergency services. The effective operation of 24-hour emergency services with doctors on duty mentioned by Members required ancillary facilities such as the accident and emergency department. He pointed out that there were already 24-hour services with nurses on duty in the Islands District, and the nurses had received first aid training. If the nurse considered a patient had urgent clinical needs, he/she would discuss with the accident and emergency department doctors at the Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital and call the Government Flying Service to transport the patient to a hospital in the urban area for treatment.
- (d) As for the insufficient number of private doctors in the Islands District mentioned by Members, he would relay the views to the relevant divisions for follow-up after the meeting.
- (e) The HA would consider and explore the introduction of drug delivery service to the tele-consultation service.

50. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to convey Members' views on the insufficiency of ambulances to the FSD and to write to the HA to request the provision of details of the phase two development plan of the NLTH to Members.

(Post-meeting note: The replies of the HA and the FSD had been forwarded to Members for information on 26 April and 30 April this year respectively.)

51. Dr SHARMA Geeta said that the Tung Chung MCHC currently opened for three days a week. There were six service sessions in total and three of which would provide child health services. She pointed out that the Maternal and Child Health Centres would arrange vaccination for children in accordance with the Schedule of Hong Kong Childhood Immunisation Programme. Currently, the Maternal and Child Health Centres in the Islands District were able to arrange such services in a timely manner. She would relay Members' views to the relevant service for follow-up. She reiterated that the DH would closely monitor the utilisation of the service in the Islands District and deploy manpower internally as necessary to enhance the service quality.

52. Mr HO Chun-fai said that there was no GOPC in South Lantau and residents needed to go to the nearest GOPC in Mui Wo to seek medical treatment. He pointed out that many elderly people would go to the Mui Wo GOPC by bus at around 6 a.m. to queue up for consultation discs. However, the clinic would not start distributing discs until 8 a.m., which meant the elderly needed to leave home early and queue for more than an hour to avoid disappointment. He asked whether the relevant departments could optimise the procedures, such as advancing the disc distribution or switching to other means of distribution for the convenience of the residents.

53. Mr YU Hon-kwan said that the issues involved in this agenda item had been discussed in the IDC previously. He understood that the HA was in a shortage of manpower, but he opined that the HA should work out solutions to solve the problem. He suggested that when providing video consultation services, the HA should arrange clinical staff to provide assistance on site and arrange video consultation services for residents who were unable to obtain a consultation disc on that day. In addition, although the DH stated in the written reply that the services of the Maternal and Child Health Centres in the Islands District were sufficient to meet the demand, Members did notice that the waiting time for some services was too long. In view of the increase in the population of the district, he suggested that the DH should work out short, medium and long-term measures for upgrading the services of the Maternal and Child Health Centres and provide a written reply to the IDC in due course.

54. Dr Marcus WONG asked the relevant Members to provide in writing details of the problems encountered by South Lantau residents seeking medical treatment at the Mui Wo GOPC, so that he could forward the concerns to the responsible colleagues for follow-up. As tele-consultation service required more ancillary facilities than face-to-face consultation, the HA was exploring ways to optimise the service.

55. The Chairman requested the Secretariat to contact Mr HO Chun-fai after the meeting with regard to the problems encountered by South Lantau residents seeking medical treatment at the Mui Wo GOPC and then forward the relevant details to Dr WONG in writing for follow-up. She also asked Dr SHARMA Geeta to provide a written reply to the IDC after the meeting on the proposal of upgrading the services of the Maternal and Child Health Centre.

(Post-meeting note: The HA's reply to Mr HO Chun-fai and the reply of the DH had been forwarded to Members for information on 8 April and 26 April this year respectively.)

#### IV. Question on the SKYCITY project (IDC Paper No. 11/2024)

56. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the IDC Paper No. 11/2024, and welcomed Mr AU Siu-fung, Kelvin, Chief Transport Officer/Islands and Ms WONG Shuk-man, Suman, Engineer/Lantau Development of the TD to the meeting to respond to the question. The written reply of the Airport Authority Hong Kong (AA) and the New World Development Company Limited had been distributed to Members for perusal prior to the meeting.

57. Mr LAU Chin-pang briefly presented the question. He pointed out that the Airport Tung Chung Link (ATCL) was expected to commence service in 2028, and asked about the relevant departments' arrangement for the transportation of the SKYCITY before the ATCL was put into operation.

58. Mr Kelvin AU responded as follows:

- (a) The TD had already relocated the origins of nine bus routes from the AsiaWorld-Expo Bus Terminus to the SKYCITY on 26 November 2023, and had arranged for another seven bus routes to operate via the SKYCITY.
- (b) The TD would present the Bus Route Planning Programme 2024-2025 for Islands District at the Traffic and Transport Committee (TTC) meeting on 15 April 2024.
- (c) The TD would maintain liaison with the AA on the public transport services of the SKYCITY.

59. Mr LAU Chin-pang said there used to be only route S64 for travelling to the Hong Kong International Airport (Airport) from Tung Chung, and many residents had to leave home at around 4 a.m. to catch the first departure, which was very inconvenient. The situation was not improved until the addition of route S64X, route S64C and route S65. He said it was expected that many Tung Chung residents would work in the SKYCITY after the completion and commissioning of the project, but the service of route S65 was currently suspended due to the temporary closure of Passenger Terminal 2. He opined that the current transport services were insufficient to cope with the future development, therefore he requested the TD and the LWB to plan ahead. He hoped that the AA would encourage tenants of the SKYCITY to give priority to Tung Chung residents in recruitment, but he emphasised that the relevant departments had to improve the transport arrangement in order to facilitate residents to work in the district where they live.

60. Mr Jonathan CHOW said that he shared the views of Mr LAU Chin-pang. The SKYCITY would provide nearly 15 000 job opportunities. He hoped that tenants of the SKYCITY would give priority to Tung Chung residents when hiring, so as to establish a stable labour force. In addition, only bus services were available in Tung Chung for going directly to the Airport. It currently took longer time for Tung Chung residents to go to the Airport by bus than for Tsing Yi residents to go there by MTR. Therefore, he opined that bus route planning was very important. If the bus routes going from Tung Chung to the SKYCITY were well planned, it would encourage residents to seek employment in the SKYCITY. He was pleased to learn that the ATCL was expected to come into operation in 2028, but he opined that the ATCL might not be able to facilitate traffic diversion.

61. Mr YIP Pui-kei noted that the Bus Route Planning Programme 2024-2025 for Islands District did not make any major changes to the bus route planning to cater for the population growth in Tung Chung East. He said the TD had no plan to increase the feeder transport from Tung Chung East to the Airport or increase the service frequency of route S56. Instead, the Department arranged for the “A” and “E” routes to operate via Tung Chung. He opined that such planning only provide convenience for residents of other districts, but neglected the needs of Tung Chung residents. He pointed out that the current journey time of route S56 was about 45 minutes, and he

wondered why it took longer for Tung Chung residents to travel to the Airport than residents of other districts. As the SKYCITY would be commissioned in 2025, he requested the Department to make appropriate traffic planning as soon as possible.

62. Mr Kelvin AU said the TD had collected opinions from various stakeholders (including Members) on the bus route planning programme and also maintained liaison with the AA.

63. Mr Jonathan CHOW pointed out that some of the offices in the SKYCITY had been rented and there would be staff working in the SKYCITY soon. He opined that the current transport services in Tung Chung could not cope with the increase in passenger flow. Therefore, he requested the TD to review the situation and make planning accordingly as early as possible.

64. Mr LAU Chin-pang said the above-mentioned problems were expected to emerge and he hoped the TD would make corresponding planning in advance, instead of looking for improvement measures after the problems had emerged. He asked the Department to seriously consider Members' suggestions to facilitate Tung Chung residents to work at the Airport, and to make short, medium and long-term traffic planning with the bus companies for the completion and opening of the SKYCITY.

65. Mr YIP Pui-kei said the TD often made improvements only after problems had emerged. He opined that such a practice should be changed. He pointed out that if the Department could plan well in advance to improve the transport services between Tung Chung and the Airport, residents might be attracted to work in the SKYCITY.

66. Mr Kelvin AU said the SKYCITY was a mega development project, and the TD had made corresponding traffic planning for its completion and commissioning.

67. The Chairman asked the TD to convey to the relevant divisions Members' views with regard to Members' concerns about the bus route arrangement and the impact of the relevant arrangement on residents' access to the SKYCITY for employment, and to further discuss with Members at the TTC meeting on 15 April.

V. Question on the Tung Chung New Town Extension  
(IDC Paper No. 12/2024)

68. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the IDC Paper No. 12/2024, and welcomed Mr LAM Wai-chuen, Eddie, Senior Engineer/17 (Lantau) of the CEDD; Mr KWONG Wang-ngai, Walter, District Planning Officer/Sai Kung & Islands of the Planning Department (PlanD); Mr AU Siu-fung, Kelvin, Chief Transport Officer/Islands of the TD; and Mr TSANG Chi-yuen, Senior Housing Manager/Hong Kong Island and Islands 2 & Management Control 1 of the HD to the meeting to present the paper. The written reply of the HD had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

69. Mr LAU Chin-pang briefly presented the question.
70. The Chairman said that the HD had submitted a written reply on the development projects that would provide public housing units in the first phase development of the Tung Chung New Town Extension (TCNTE) project and their expected completion dates. She invited the representative of the CEDD to respond to the question.
71. Mr Eddie LAM said that the Department's population growth projections were mainly based on the estimated building completions each year. The Department estimated that upon completion of the TCNTE project, the population of the new extension area would be as high as 184 000 and the total population of Tung Chung would increase to 320 000.
72. Mr Walter KWONG said that the total population of Tung Chung was about 116 000 at present and was expected to increase to 320 000 in the future. Sufficient land had been reserved at the planning stage for supporting facilities in accordance with the Hong Kong Planning Standards and Guidelines (HKPSG) and the needs of government departments so as to meet the demand arising from population growth.
73. Mr Kelvin AU said that the Department would adjust the bus routes in response to passenger demand. He took Yu Nga Court in Tung Chung as an example, saying that upon the occupation of the estate in 2023, the Department had arranged for 11 bus routes and one overnight bus route to route via Yu Nga Court. To cope with the traffic demand arising from the occupation of Tung Chung Areas 99 and 100 in 2025, the Department had made corresponding planning, including adjusting the bus routes and increasing the service frequency.
74. Mr TSANG Chi-yuen said that the Department's development projects in Tung Chung Areas 99 and 100 were expected to be completed and ready for occupation in the first quarter of 2025, which would provide about 10 000 residential units and were expected to accommodate a population of about 30 000 by then.
75. Mr LAU Chin-pang expressed his views as follows:
- (a) He asked how the PlanD would handle the lands that were unsuccessfully tendered and whether it would re-plan their land uses.
  - (b) As the population of Tung Chung Areas 99 and 100 would reach 30 000 upon their completion, he asked whether the Department would increase the community ancillary facilities to meet the demand of the increasing population.
  - (c) He pointed out that there was less than one year left before the expected completion dates of the said two areas. Members had asked at a committee meeting under the IDC whether the existing facilities such as leisure and car parking facilities in the district were sufficient to cope

with the demand arising from the future population growth, and he hoped that the Department would provide more relevant information.

76. Mr YIP Pui-kei expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He hoped that the Department would specify what community services and ancillary facilities would be provided to meet the demand of the increasing population.
- (b) He said that at present, Members were only aware of the expected completion dates of the above public housing projects, but had no knowledge of what ancillary transport facilities, recreational facilities and community support, etc. would be provided upon completion of the projects, so it was difficult for them to explain to the public.
- (c) Taking Yu Nga Court as an example, he said that at that time, Members could only learn about the transport arrangements for Yu Nga Court after its occupation through members of the Legislative Council (LegCo), but the relevant transport arrangements had fallen quite short of the residents' expectations. In addition, although the Department had arranged for 11 bus routes to travel via Yu Nga Court, the journey time of the bus routes concerned had increased as a result, which had affected some passengers. Therefore, he hoped that the Department would make comprehensive planning for the transport network of the new extension area.

77. Ms WONG Chau-ping hoped that the Department would consider providing transport services to and from the stations of the Tung Chung Line Extension for residents of Tung Chung Areas 23, 42, 46 and Yu Tai Court.

78. Mr HUI Chun-lung asked whether the Department could provide phased targets from now until the first quarter of 2025 or up to 2029-2030 to facilitate Members' understanding of the details of the plans for transport, healthcare, social welfare and education, etc.

79. Ms LAU Suk-han said she was surprised that Areas 99 and 100 were expected to be completed next year and she was concerned that non-profit-making organisations might not be ready to provide services to the residents. She hoped that the departments concerned would explain to Members the planning of the development projects, so that Members could effectively publicise or prepare for the district work, so that various stakeholders could be well-prepared for the completion of Areas 99 and 100 next year.

80. The Chairman said that the Secretariat would organise a briefing on the latest progress of the TCNTE project on 26 March 2024. The CEDD, the PlanD and other departments concerned would send representatives to attend to brief Members on the latest position of the TCNTE project, including Members' concerns about the ancillary facilities and the planning by the first quarter of next year. The departments would

also give an account of their future development directions through the briefing, so that Members could have more information to facilitate the commencement of the preparatory work.

81. Mr Walter KWONG gave a consolidated response as follows:

- (a) One residential site in Tung Chung was unsuccessfully tendered in 2023/24. Another site in Tung Chung Area 106A was included in the Government's 2024/25 Land Sale Programme, but there was no concrete tender timetable at present. As regards land use aspect, in general, unsuccessful tender would not affect the planned use of the sites concerned. Although unsuccessful tender might delay the occupation date of the housing projects concerned, it would not affect the overall planned population of the TCNTE project.
- (b) The PlanD and the CEDD would brief Members in detail on the TCNTE project at the briefing to be held on 26 March 2024.
- (c) In formulating Outline Zoning Plans of TCNTE, relevant government facilities had been planned to meet the needs of the future population. The facilities could be classified into two categories. The first category was for facilities to be erected on a piece of land, such as schools and sports grounds, etc. Sufficient land had been reserved in the Tung Chung East reclamation area and the Tung Chung West area for the construction of such facilities, but the actual date of commencement of construction would depend on the actual planning of the relevant policy bureaux and departments. The second category was for facilities not requiring free-standing sites, such as community facilities and kindergartens to be provided in the shopping malls or in non-domestic portions of the HD's housing estates, which would be provided by the relevant government departments according to the development schedule.

82. Mr Eddie LAM said that the Department would continue to take forward the relevant works projects to cope with the demand of the growing population and the completion schedule of the housing estates. In addition, the public housing developments in Tung Chung Areas 99 and 100 would be completed in the first quarter of 2025, and the neighbouring road network works would be completed on time to meet the demand.

83. Mr TSANG Chi-yuen said that the public housing developments in Tung Chung Areas 99 and 100 were expected to be completed by 2025. The Department had substantially completed the planning for various aspects such as shops and social welfare facilities, and would provide the relevant supplementary information to the Secretariat for Members' perusal after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The public housing estates in Areas 99 and 100 in the Tung Chung

New Development Area were expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2025 at the earliest. The estates would provide a wide range of shops and restaurants to cater for the different needs of residents in their daily lives. In accordance with the HKPSG, car parking facilities would also be provided in each estate for the use of residents. Moreover, a wide range of social welfare, educational and recreational facilities would be provided in the estates to cater for the needs of the residents.)

84. Mr YU Hon-kwan expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Regarding the briefing to be held on 26 March 2024, it was stated in the notification received by Members that only the PlanD and the CEDD would send representatives to attend. However, the issues of concern to Members straddled the portfolios of the HD, the Education Bureau, the SWD and other departments. Therefore, he hoped that the relevant departments could provide more information to Members on their development plans from now to 2029.
- (b) As the briefing was arranged by the District Infrastructure and Development Planning Committee, representatives of the PlanD and the CEDD would be the guest speakers. He suggested that the Chairman should task the other departments to provide a table outlining the projects planned to be completed by the departments concerned in each year from 2025 to 2029 to tie in with the increase in population from the current 110 000-odd to 320 000 people.
- (c) The said table would enable Members to examine the work undertaken by various departments in each year. Although the contents of the table were only of a planning nature and might be subject to change in the light of actual circumstances, he believed that the information would enable Members to understand the annual work progress of the departments concerned.
- (d) As mentioned by Mr YIP Pui-kei and Mr LAU Chin-pang, in the past, many new housing estates did not have sufficient district ancillary facilities to meet the demand of the residents even after they had moved in. Therefore, although the PlanD had reserved land for future development projects for use by other departments, it would still be difficult to solve the problem of insufficient ancillary facilities without the active co-operation of the departments concerned.
- (e) He said that he had high expectation of the briefing, and hoped that apart from the PlanD and the CEDD, other departments concerned would also send representatives to attend the briefing.

85. The Chairman said that while the briefing would mainly be presented by representatives of the PlanD and the CEDD, other departments concerned would also send representatives to attend to answer Members' questions and give an update on the

progress of the TCNTE project.

86. Mr Thomas LI said that the briefing was modelled on a similar one held four years ago. More than ten departments would send representatives to attend the briefing. He believed that the departments concerned would take the opportunity to brief Members on the planned development projects and respond to their concerns, including the progress and target completion dates of the infrastructures. He hoped Members would understand that the targets set might be subject to variations due to actual circumstances (such as financial or planning constraints). He also hoped that Members would actively participate in the discussion and reflect the views of the public.

87. The Chairman said that Members had expressed views on issues such as the adequacy of community facilities or the need for additions or reductions. The departments had also listened to the suggestions and would consider incorporating them into their future development plans. If Members had other views on the issues, they could discuss and exchange them with the departments concerned in detail at the briefing to be held on 26 March 2024.

VI. Question on the enhancement of the attractiveness of local tourism, the improvement of road traffic planning and the expedition of the development of outlying islands  
(IDC Paper No. 13/2024)

88. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the IDC Paper No. 13/2024, and welcomed Mr AU Siu-fung, Kelvin, Chief Transport Officer/Islands of the TD to the meeting to present the paper. The written replies of the Culture, Sports and Tourism Bureau (CSTB), the PlanD and the CEDD had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

89. Mr Jonathan CHOW briefly presented the question.

90. Mr Kelvin AU said that the TD was formulating the Bus Route Development Programme. In the meantime, the Department would review the transport needs of the various areas of the Islands District and further discuss with the bus companies to formulate plans accordingly.

91. Mr Jonathan CHOW expressed his views as follows:

(a) He thanked the CEDD for its written reply. As repeatedly pointed out by Members of the IDC, since the population of the Islands District (especially the Tung Chung New Town) was increasing significantly, Members were very concerned about the overall planning and the latest progress of the road network in the district. He hoped that various departments would maintain close communication with the IDC on the planning progress, so as to allay the concerns of Tung Chung residents.

(b) Regarding the development of the overall road network in the Islands

District, apart from the Tung Chung New Town, he was also very concerned about the timetable for road construction in the Lantau area. The Government put forward a proposal in 2022 to construct “two tunnels and one viaduct” on Lantau Island, including the construction of a new road tunnel in East Lantau to connect Mui Wo in the south and Discovery Bay in the further north, and the construction of a new road tunnel in West Lantau to connect Shek Pik and Tai O in the north. Subsequently, in response to Mr CHAN Hok-fung’s enquiry about the traffic and transport network on Lantau Island at the LegCo meeting on 15 February 2023, the Development Bureau pointed out that the CEDD would commence a feasibility study on the above proposal in March of the same year, which was expected to be completed in 2025. The said study had been in progress for more than a year, and he enquired about its progress. He also asked whether the Department could provide a specific timetable for the phased minor road widening works along the road sections of South Lantau Road, Keung Shan Road and Tai O Road, etc.

92. Mr HO Siu-kei expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Whenever large-scale cultural events were organised in Tai O, many visitors would be attracted to the area. For example, the Lanterns Festival two years ago attracted about 10 000 visitors. However, since the traffic in the area was insufficient to cope with the heavy flow of people, the daily life of the residents had been greatly affected. He opined that in order to promote Tai O as the “Venice of the Orient”, it was necessary to first solve the traffic problems in the area in the long run. He enquired whether the Government’s “two tunnels and one viaduct” proposal could fully address the traffic problems in the area.
- (b) At present, there was only one road connecting the north and south of Lantau Island. In the event of typhoons or serious incidents such as landslides, the external land transport in South Lantau would be paralysed. Therefore, he considered it necessary to have long-term planning for the “two tunnels and one viaduct” project to meet the needs of the area.

93. Mr LUO Chenghuan said that some residents had reflected to him that the section of the Tung O Trail between Sham Wat and Tai O was very difficult to walk. Being one of the special tourist routes in the Islands District, the Tung O Trail was instrumental in enriching the tourism resources of the outlying islands as well as promoting the tourism industry in Tai O. Therefore, he suggested that the relevant departments should improve and repair the section of the Tung O Trail between Sham Wat and Tai O.

94. Mr HO Chun-fai said that the section of South Lantau Road between Mui Wo and Tung Chung Road was four kilometres long with a total of 24 bends, of which 50%

were potentially dangerous for vehicles travelling in both directions at the same time, and 30% could not accommodate the passage of vehicles travelling in both directions at the same time. The bends were designed in the 1960s and were suitable for the 29-seat buses at that time, but were now outdated. He had repeatedly reflected the problem at the IDC meetings and to the Sustainable Lantau Office and the TD, but the relevant departments did not address the problem squarely. He hoped that the TD and the Highways Department (HyD) would properly follow up on the problem and improve the transport facilities in the area.

95. The Chairman said since the departmental representatives did not have the details of the “two tunnels and one viaduct”, the road network development and the enhancement of the bends on South Lantau Road in hand at the moment, she suggested that the Secretariat should forward Members’ questions and suggestions in writing to the departments concerned for follow-up after the meeting. Regarding the problem of the section of the Tung O Trail between Sham Wat and Tai O, the Islands District Office (IsDO) would liaise with the departments concerned to arrange for repair works.

(Post-meeting note: The IsDO conducted a site inspection at the relevant locations on 27 March 2024 and noted that some of the concrete pavements were damaged. The IsDO would carry out improvement works to the concrete pavements in a timely manner as far as practicable and had explained the arrangement to Mr LUO Chenghuan.)

96. Ms WONG Chau-ping pointed out that the development of Lantau Island and the outlying islands had been continuously discussed at the IDC meetings in the past few years. She considered that improving the transport network in the area would not only solve the existing livelihood problems of the residents, but also facilitate the tourism development in the Islands District in the future, thereby achieving a win-win situation.

97. Mr Jonathan CHOW expressed his views as follows:

- (a) He clarified that the above question was about the entire Islands District and not just Tung Chung.
- (b) He thanked the CSTB for providing a written reply within a short period of time. He pointed out that the above problems were interlinked. Without a comprehensive road network and transport facilities, there would be no conditions for the development of local tourism. He understood that the departmental representatives did not have sufficient information at the moment to respond to the questions. He would later forward the questions to the departments concerned through the Secretariat in the hope that they would attach importance to the road problems on Lantau Island.
- (c) According to published information, the CEDD would consult the IDC and the relevant stakeholders on the “two tunnels and one viaduct”

proposal. He enquired again about the progress of the study on the above proposal.

- (d) The current term of the District Council had been in operation for a quarter. He considered it a good start to include local tourism in the discussion and hoped that local characteristics could be fully utilised to promote the tourism development of the Islands District.

98. Mr YU Hon-kwan expressed his views as follows:

- (a) Both the previous agenda item and this agenda item required long-term discussion, and it was impossible to have an answer after today's discussion. Members should continue to pay attention to the relevant issues.
- (b) In addition, he reminded the Secretariat that Mr LUO Chenghuan was referring to the "Tung O Trail" and not the "Tung O Ancient Trail". He pointed out the need to be careful with the wording of the minutes of meetings to avoid misunderstanding in future discussions on planning.

99. The Chairman concluded as follows:

- (a) Members were concerned about how to improve the transport and road network support in the rural areas, the progress of the "two tunnels and one viaduct" and other long-term proposals, and whether the proposals could achieve the desired effect of relieving the existing pedestrian flow and traffic congestion in the areas.
- (b) The Secretariat would consolidate Members' views and forward them in writing to the relevant departments for response.

(Post-meeting note: The reply of the CEDD was forwarded to Members for perusal on 26 April this year. The consolidated replies of the TD and the HyD were forwarded to Members for perusal on 30 April this year.)

VII. Question on the design of the new vessels of Hong Kong and Kowloon Ferry Limited  
(IDC Paper No. 14/2024)

100. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the IDC Paper No. 14/2024, and welcomed Ms PO Pui-man, Karen, Chief Transport Officer/Planning/Ferry Review and Mr AU Kak-loi, Peter, Senior Transport Officer/Planning/Ferry 2 of the TD to the meeting to present the paper. The written replies of the TD and Hong Kong and Kowloon Ferry Limited (HKKF) had been distributed to Members for perusal before the meeting.

101. Ms LAU Shun-ting briefly presented the question.

102. Ms Karen PO responded as follows:

- (a) In response to Members' views, the HKKF had optimised the design of the new vessel. Apart from widening the entrance/exit of the enclosed cargo area to 2.7 metres, the HKKF had also reduced the number of luggage racks and rearranged their positions to improve the sense of space in the cabins, thereby enhancing the overall comfort of the environment.
- (b) During the site visit to the new vessel on 6 March, the TD exchanged views with Members on the enhancement proposals, and Members expressed support for the relevant measures. The HKKF and the shipyard had commenced the enhancement works, and the new vessel was expected to be modified and put into service by the end of March.
- (c) As for the new vessels that would arrive in Hong Kong gradually, their design had incorporated Members' views, including the one raised by Ms LAU Shun-ting just now.

103. Mr WAN Yeung-kin said that during the site visit to the new vessel, he had discussed with the representatives of the TD and the HKKF the issue concerning the escape of passengers. He requested the HKKF to place on board tools that could be used to break glass to facilitate the escape of passengers and crew members in case of vessel accidents. The HKKF agreed to follow up on the suggestion at that time, but no follow-up measures were shown in the paper. He asked whether the TD would adopt his suggestion.

104. Ms Karen PO said that the written reply was made in response to Ms LAU Shun-ting's question. As regards the views expressed by Mr WAN during the site visit, the Department would follow up with the HKKF and the shipyard, and would update Mr WAN on the progress after the meeting.

(Post-meeting note: The HKKF had informed Mr WAN that the shipyard had undertaken to retrofit each new vessel with emergency window breakers for use when necessary.)

### VIII. Progress Report of Major Projects in Islands District (IDC Paper No. 8/2024)

105. The Chairman drew Members' attention to the IDC Paper No. 8/2024, and invited Mr LAM Wai-chuen, Eddie, Senior Engineer/17 (Lantau) of the CEDD to present the paper.

106. Mr Eddie LAM referred Members to the above paper on the "Progress Report of Major Projects in Islands District".

107. Mr WONG Man-hon said that the drainage works at Tai Tei Tong Village and Pak Ngan Heung in Mui Wo were not mentioned in the paper. It was learnt that the works had been suspended for half a year without any reason from the Drainage Services Department (DSD). He said that the drainage works contract covered villages in Peng Chau. The original works contractor had been wound up and a new contractor had taken over the works, which had not yet been completed. He requested the Department to update Members on the latest situation of the project.

108. Ms Mealoha KWOK said that there had been delays in the advance works of Project No. 196SC “Community Hall-cum-Home Affairs Enquiry Centre in Cheung Chau” (CHHAEC), and residents had reflected to her the slow progress of the project. Given that it had been several years since the commencement of the project, she queried whether there had been any delay in the works. She enquired whether the whole project could be completed in the third quarter of 2024 as scheduled, and whether non-profit-making organisations could apply to set up offices in the CHHAEC.

109. Mr Eddie LAM said that the CEDD would follow up with the DSD on the situation of the drainage works in Mui Wo and revert to the IDC after the meeting. As to whether the CHHAEC could be completed on schedule, the Department would refer the enquiry to the Architectural Services Department (ArchSD) for information on the works progress of the CHHAEC. The Department would also discuss with the relevant departments on the setting up of offices of non-profit-making organisations in the CHHAEC.

(Post-meeting note: The ArchSD said that the facilities of the CHHAEC would include a multi-purpose hall with a stage, a multi-purpose stage meeting room, a stage store room, male and female dressing rooms, a multi-purpose conference room, a management office, a baby care room and toilets, etc., so there would be no additional space available for rental by non-profit-making organisations.)

110. Mr Thomas LI said that according to his understanding, the works of the CHHAEC were affected in terms of transport and manpower during the COVID-19 epidemic, and there were other obstacles and technical difficulties that had to be overcome by the ArchSD and the contractor during the construction period, resulting in delays in the works of the CHHAEC. Nevertheless, he believed that the Department still aimed at completing the project by the third quarter of 2024.

111. Mr NG Man-kit said that at the IDC meeting held on 4 September 2023, he had enquired about the works progress of the CHHAEC, the foundation of which had not been completed at that time, but the representative of the ArchSD responded that due to the discovery of rock strata underneath the site, the completion of the foundation construction works was delayed. As it was only at that stage that the Department found that there were rock strata underground, he queried at that time that the Department had not carried out any investigation work. He also questioned why no contingency plan had been formulated in advance if the investigation work had been carried out properly, but the Department did not respond directly. Subsequently,

although the progress of the project had improved slightly, it had recently come to a standstill again, and the structural works were still in progress. He considered it unlikely that the project could be completed on schedule. He hoped the ArchSD would respond to the above questions.

112. The Chairman said that she would follow up with the ArchSD on the works of the CHHAEC and hoped that the whole project could be completed on schedule. The IsDO would also follow up closely with the ArchSD on the completion date.

(Post-meeting note: The ArchSD replied that due to the equipment failure of the only concrete plant in Cheung Chau in late February, the supply of concrete on the island was temporarily suspended. The contractor needed to use concrete supplied from outside the island, as well as other construction methods and equipment to lay the concrete, which would increase the time required for the project. The ArchSD had instructed the contractor to improve the workflow, allocate more resources and implement feasible solutions to catch up with the progress of the project. The Department would continue to strive to complete the project within 2024.)

113. Mr HO Chun-fai made a suggestion on the project under Project No. 433DS “Construction of San Shek Wan Sewage Treatment Works and Pui O village sewerage”. He pointed out that since the site vehicular entrance/exit of the sewage treatment works in Ngau Au Yuen was located at a road bend, large vehicles entering and leaving the site had to occupy the opposite traffic lane, which could be prone to collision with vehicles on the opposite lane. He said that he had suggested to the engineering consultant of the project that the site vehicular entrance/exit should be widened to allow sufficient space for large vehicles to make turns and prevent them from occupying the opposite traffic lane. He requested the DSD to follow up on the suggestion as soon as possible.

114. Mr WAN Yeung-kin said that the temporary pedestrian walkway opposite to Yung Shue Wan Ferry Pier on Lamma Island had been completed and was expected to be opened for public use next week, after which the Department would arrange for the demolition of the original catwalk. He said that he and Ms LAU Shun-ting had submitted a question on the cycle parking space arrangement in the course of the road improvement works at the meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee (T&TC) held on 20 February 2024. He had proposed using the open space opposite to the Lamma Post Office as a temporary bicycle parking area, and had submitted the schematic plan of the proposed location to the District Lands Office, Islands (DLO/Is) after the meeting. He hoped that the DLO/Is would arrange for a site visit as soon as possible.

115. Mr WONG Man-hon said that he had raised a question on the problems arising from the sewage pipe laying works in South Lantau at the meeting of the District Facilities and Works Committee held on 26 February 2024. At the meeting, the DSD said that temporary traffic light signals were manually controlled during daytime to shorten the waiting time of vehicles, yet the problem had not been improved so far. In addition, he said that the works were currently being carried out at three road sections

at the same time, with temporary traffic lights installed at each section. He was concerned that if the traffic lights broke down during non-office hours, immediate repairs would not be available, which might cause traffic chaos. He requested the DSD to urge the contractor to deal with the problem properly.

116. Mr NG Man-kit agreed with Mr WONG Man-hon's view that the contractor had not properly dealt with the problem of the traffic light signals. He said that traffic lights with sensor systems had been available as early as 20 years ago. When an approaching vehicle was detected, a green light signal would be displayed. He opined that the use of traffic lights with sensor systems could reduce the need for manpower and suggested that the DSD should consider using them.

117. The Chairman said that no representative of the DSD attended the meeting. She requested the Secretariat to forward Members' concerns and views on the drainage works in South Lantau to the DSD in writing for follow-up.

(Post-meeting note: The reply from the DSD was forwarded to Members for perusal on 26 April this year.)

118. Mrs Kitty RADFORD said that regarding Mr WAN Yeung-kin's proposal to set up a temporary bicycle parking area at the open space opposite to the Lamma Post Office, the DLO/Is had discussed its feasibility with the TD after the last T&TC meeting. However, since the proposed location was an offshore deck, the TD preliminarily opined that there might be a potential safety hazard at the site. The Department advised that the site was currently on government land under the purview of the Lands Department, and the DLO/Is would continue to liaise with the TD on the proposal and would report on the progress at the next T&TC meeting.

119. The Chairman considered that there was considerable urgency in setting up the temporary bicycle parking area and requested the DLO/Is Office to follow up with the TD as soon as possible.

120. Ms WONG Chau-ping said that the DLO/Is responded positively to the question raised at the last T&TC meeting and opined that the DLO/Is should take immediate action.

121. Mr WAN Yeung-kin was dissatisfied that the TD only focused on road safety in considering the approval criteria. He opined that the setting up of a bicycle parking area at the open space opposite to the Lamma Post Office was only a temporary measure. Moreover, since the reconstruction works of the Yung Shue Wan Ferry Pier would take several years to complete, it was necessary to provide residents with suitable bicycle parking spaces to prevent the parking of bicycles on both sides of the temporary pedestrian walkway, so as to avoid vehicle-pedestrian conflicts or obstruction of the passage of ambulances.

122. The Chairman requested the DLO/Is to liaise closely with the TD on the safety of the above temporary bicycle parking area and follow up the proposal as soon as possible.

(Post-meeting note: Regarding paragraphs 114 and 119 to 122 above, the DLO/Is conducted a site inspection of the proposed location on 7 March 2024 and subsequently passed the relevant information of the site to the TD on 13 March 2024 for consideration of the feasibility of the proposal. The DLO/Is reported on the above issues at the T&TC meeting held on 15 April 2024.)

IX. Reports on the Work of the IDC Committees / Working Group  
(IDC Papers No. 15-20/2024)

123. Members noted and endorsed the papers unanimously.

X. Preliminary Findings of the Study on Issues of Community Concern and Collection of Public Views

124. The Chairman said that all the research reports submitted by the 18 Members on the preliminary findings of the Study on Issues of Community Concern and Collection of Public Views had been received. In brief, a total of ten Members conducted studies on Topic (I): Road Traffic Congestion Problem in Tung Chung Town Centre and Nearby Areas, seven Members conducted studies on Topic (II): The Use and Parking Problems of Bicycles (including Electric Bicycles), and one Member's report covered both topics. After a preliminary review of the reports, the major views and recommendations were summarised below:

**Topic (I): Road Traffic Congestion Problem in Tung Chung Town Centre and Nearby Areas**

125. The majority of Members opined that the black spot of traffic congestion in Tung Chung was Tat Tung Road, and therefore would accord priority to following up the various major congested sections of Tat Tung Road. The causes of traffic congestion included: an increase in population of Tung Chung; heavy road traffic flow; inadequate road design and planning; high concentration of economic and livelihood activities in the town centre; inadequate planning of transport facilities, making it inconvenient for various areas of Tung Chung to interconnect; insufficient frequency of railway and bus services; unsatisfactory planning of bus routes; insufficient car parking spaces and unclear signage in the district; illegal parking and waiting of vehicles and loading/unloading of goods; and road works that affected the traffic, etc.

126. Members proposed the following major improvement measures for the above problems:

- (a) Develop another transport hub in Tung Chung;

- (b) Re-plan the direction of vehicular flow and provide additional exits on Tat Tung Road;
- (c) Re-plan the traffic at Exits A and D of the MTR Station;
- (d) Improve the planning of the transport and road network in the district;
- (e) Widen the roads in the district;
- (f) Increase the number of parking spaces in the district (including night-time parking spaces, short-term tenancy parking spaces, and opening up the unleased monthly parking spaces in Yat Tung Estate for tenancy by residents of other public housing estates), and install display panels in the car parks to show the number of remaining parking spaces;
- (g) Increase the train frequency of the MTR Tung Chung Line;
- (h) Rationalise the bus routes;
- (i) Construct a light rail transit;
- (j) Build viaducts to reduce the number of at-grade traffic lights;
- (k) Expedite the progress of the Road P1 project; and
- (l) Minimise the occupation of roads by works.

**Topic (II): The Use and Parking Problems of Bicycles (including Electric Bicycles)**

127. Members opined that the problems of illegal parking of bicycles and abandoned bicycles were common in the rural areas of the outlying islands, mainly due to the reliance of residents on bicycles for travelling, insufficient parking spaces in the district, and insufficient enforcement efforts against illegal parking of bicycles. In addition, some of the reports identified problems relating to cyclists' driving attitudes, such as driving too fast, obstructing passageways and disregarding the convenience and safety of other road users.

128. Members proposed the following major improvement measures:

- (a) Step up enforcement against illegal parking of bicycles, prolonged occupation of bicycle parking spaces and abandoned bicycles;
- (b) Increase the number of bicycle parking spaces and explore the provision of metered bicycle parking spaces;
- (c) Set up a licensing system for bicycles and electric bicycles; and
- (d) Step up the relevant publicity and education work.

129. As a next step, the Secretariat would scrutinise the contents of the reports and compile a summary on each issue, which would set out in detail the views collected and recommendations made by Members in their study findings, so as to follow up on the relevant improvement measures as appropriate. Individual recommendations involving territory-wide policies, such as the licensing system for bicycles and electric bicycles, might not be appropriate for the IDC to follow up and had to be referred to the relevant authorities for study. In addition, the Secretariat would select issues and improvement proposals of greater concern to Members for priority follow-up at the T&TC meetings. Members would be informed of the details in due course.

XI. Date of Next Meeting

130. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m. The next meeting would be held at 2:30 p.m. on 14 May 2024 (Monday).

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