

(Translation)

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee of
Sham Shui Po District Council (7th Term)

Date : 18 April 2024 (Thursday)

Time : 9:30 a.m.

Venue : Conference Room, Sham Shui Po District Council

Present

Chairman

Mr CHAN Kwok-wai, MH

Vice-Chairman

Mr CHEUNG Tak-wai

Members

Mr HO Kwan-chau, Leo

Ms WU Wanqiu

Mr LEE Wing-man, MH

Mr LAM Wai-man, Raymond

Ms KWOK Yin-lai, MH

Mr CHAN Wai-ming, BBS, MH, JP

Mr CHAN Lung-kit

Ms CHEN Lihong

Ms CHUM Pik-wa

Dr WONG Chung-leung, JP

Ms LAU Pui-yuk, MH

In Attendance

Miss LAI Ho-ting, Ally

Assistant District Officer (Sham Shui Po) 1, Sham Shui
Po District Office

Mr LAI Yuk-fai	Station Sergeant of District Traffic Team, Sham Shui Po District, Hong Kong Police Force
Mr YAU Kung-yuen, Corwin	Senior Transport Officer/Sham Shui Po, Transport Department
Mr HO Chun-kit, Ethan	Senior Transport Officer/Events & Projects, Transport Department
Mr LEUNG Pak-ho, Paco	Transport Officer/Sham Shui Po, Transport Department
Mr YU Wai-ho	Project Coordinator/Sham Shui Po, Transport Department
Mr POON Tsing, Leo	Engineer/Cheung Sha Wan, Transport Department
Mr MAN Yui-chit, Michael	Senior Transport Officer/Incident Management 1, Transport Department
Miss CHEUNG Cheuk-yiu, Heather	Transport Officer/Bus/Kowloon, Transport Department
Ms NG Lai-ling, Avis	District Engineer/Lai Chi Kok, Highways Department
Mr YIP Pui-lam, Paul	District Engineer/Sham Shui Po, Highways Department
Mr HO-bun, Ben	Engineer 3/Universal Accessibility, Highways Department
Mr LI Kin-tung	Senior Project Coordinator 1/Universal Accessibility, Highways Department
Mr TSANG Kwok-leung, Anthony	Principal Project Coordinator/Universal Accessibility, Highways Department
Mr Carson FUNG	Operations Manager (Kowloon & New Territories), Citybus Limited
Mr Pedro PANG	Senior Planning Officer, Citybus Limited
Mr Thomas CHAN	Assistant Corporate Communications Officer, Citybus Limited
Mr Alvin KEUNG	Manager, Operations (Acting), Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited
Mr Karl HUEN	Assistant Manager, Public Affairs, Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited
Mr Eric LEE	Officer, Operations Support, Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited
Mr Jacky CHAN	External Affairs Manager, MTR Corporation Limited
Ms Yannes KO	Assistant Manager-External Affairs, MTR Corporation Limited

Secretary

Miss AU Ching-man, Carmen	Executive Assistant (District Council) 3, Sham Shui Po District Office
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Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed members and representatives of government departments to the 2nd meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee (“TTC”) of the seventh term of the Sham Shui Po District Council (“SSPDC”).

Item 1: Confirmation of Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee

2. The Committee confirmed the above minutes without amendment.

Item 2: Bus Route Planning Programme 2024-2025 of Sham Shui Po District (TTC Paper No. 2/2024)

3. Mr Michael MAN introduced Paper No. 2/2024.
4. Members opined that the Bus Route Planning Programme was comprehensive but some of the existing bus routes travelling via Lung Cheung Road only served the stop at Phoenix House but not at Beacon Heights, causing inconvenience to the residents of Beacon Heights or Dynasty Heights. It was hoped that the new routes would serve the stop at Beacon Heights.
5. Mr Michael MAN responded that an assessment would be conducted on the current usage of Beacon Heights Station before any further review.
6. Mr Corwin YAU added that a thorough review would be conducted on the bus routes serving Lung Cheung Road, their service frequency and the possibility of the design capacity of the road to accommodate additional bus routes.
7. The Chairman concluded that members noted the content of the report, and the Transport Department (“TD”) and the bus companies were expected to consider members’ views in future bus route rationalisation.
8. The Chairman announced the adjournment of the meeting for 10 minutes.

[The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes.]

9. The Chairman announced the resumption of the meeting and decided to discuss Agenda Item 4 first.

Item 4: Proposed Additional Escalator in MTR Nam Cheong Station (TTC Paper No. 6/2024)

10. Members introduced Paper No. 6/2024.

11. Ms Yannes KO responded that the station team had been paying close attention to the operation of MTR Nam Cheong Station and the nearby development of the community . Currently, the passenger flow was smooth at all entrances/exits of MTR Nam Cheong Station including Exit B, and the facilities could meet the needs of the passengers and facilitate their access to and from the station and the community. The MTR Corporation Limited (“MTRCL”) noted Members’ views. When deciding on addition or alteration to the facilities, MTRCL had to take into account various factors, such as geographical and environmental constraints, technical feasibility and the current usage of the station facilities. The station team would keep in view the station operation, development in the vicinity and people flow at each entrance/exit so as to provide an ideal travelling environment.

12. The views raised by members were consolidated as follows: (i) considered that Exit B of MTR Nam Cheong Station had high people flow during peak hours, and that there should be sufficient space for an additional escalator; (ii) expressed that there was only one lift at Exit B of MTR Nam Cheong Station and residents had to wait in a long queue for it or use the long staircase instead to access the station or the community; and (iii) enquired the reason for MTRCL to provide only one upward escalator when designing the station, and expected a timely assessment of the proposed downward escalator based on the latest situation and the feasibility of the works.

13. Ms Yannes KO responded that there were various factors to consider before providing major facilities. To add an escalator at Exit B would require suspending operation there and a prolonged closure; therefore, MTRCL had to take into account the needs of different stakeholders and strike a balance. Besides, the lift at Exit B had a relatively high usage, and MTRCL would proactively explore measures to enhance its stability and ensure smooth people flow. Information would be timely given for any plan in this regard.

14. The Chairman concluded that MTRCL was expected to timely conduct a review of the people flow in MTR Nam Cheong Station to make the future interior design of the station more user-friendly.

Item 3: Progress Report on the Lift Retrofitting at Three Footbridges (Structure Nos. KF98, SSP01 and SSP02) in Sham Shui Po District under the Universal Accessibility Programme (TTC Paper No. 4/2024)

15. Mr Anthony TSANG introduced Paper No. 4/2024.

16. The views raised by members were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired about the official commencement date, the specific schedules and the expected completion dates of the new works; (ii) suggested prioritising the works of SSP01 and SSP02 when the project restarted; (iii) asked the Highways Department (“HyD”) about the measures to address the mosquito infestation and environmental hygiene problem in the work area; (iv) enquired whether HyD would assist in restoring the road tiles within the area under the purview of the Housing Department; (v) asked HyD about its measures to prevent default in works; and (vi) enquired about when the footpath near Nam On House would be reopened.

17. Mr Anthony TSANG responded that: (i) the evaluation of tenders were in progress and the commencement dates of the works were not confirmed yet. Despite this, HyD would endeavour to resume the works of SSP01 and SSP02 in mid-year. HyD would also maintain communication with SSPDC and timely provide the works schedules and relevant information; (ii) efforts would be made to discuss with the contractor about prioritising the lift constructions related to footpaths once the project restarted; (iii) under the co-ordination of HyD, the former contractor would still sent staff to inspect the work site and handle environmental hygiene issues; (iv) the road tiles concerned were restored; (v) the delay in work was an isolated incident. HyD had a monitoring mechanism in place to ensure work progress through regular meetings with contractors or consultancy companies; and (vi) HyD would explore the feasibility of reopening the footpath near Nam On House.

[Post-meeting note: The footpath near Nam On House needed to be closed until the new contractor finished rebuilding the drains underneath. HyD had put up temporary signs to direct the public to the alternative route.]

18. The views raised by members were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired whether HyD would set up a review mechanism regarding the delay; (ii) enquired whether HyD would claim compensation from the contractor; and (iii) HyD was expected to provide SSPDC with the new schedules upon resumption of the works for easy monitoring of the progress.

19. Mr Anthony TSANG responded that: (i) payment to the contractor would be made for each specified process upon its completion under the terms of the works contract. HyD took back the incomplete works from the contractor in 2024 due to unsatisfactory works progress and imposed a fine on the contractor under the works contract; (ii) the additional costs incurred as a result of restarting the project would be recovered from the contractor; and (iii) the works schedules would be timely provided to members upon resumption of the project.

20. The Chairman concluded that members noted the content of the report and expressed concern about the progress of the restarted project. Members understood that there were

many matters involved in the project, and hoped that HyD would provide the works schedules so that members would have an idea of the time required for the works.

Item 5: Project Items and Schedules of District Traffic Improvement Works Completed, under Construction or Under Planning within the Past Two Months by the Transport Department/Highways Department (TTC Paper No. 7/2024)

21. Mr Leo POON introduced Paper No. 7/2024.

22. The views raised by members were consolidated as follows: (i) enquired about the number of those new parking spaces as listed in the paper and the number of parking spaces to be provided in the year; (ii) suggested incorporating district-specific design in the road signs; (iii) suggested adding a column in the list to indicate if the projects were related to the “Walk in HK” initiative; (iv) enquired about the progress of the “Walk in HK” initiative; (v) pointed out that some known projects were not listed in the paper, and suggested adding them back in future updates. Completed projects or those with unsatisfactory progress should be clearly marked for record purpose; (vi) enquired about the work progress of the additional railings in Wing Hong Street; (vii) enquired about the work progress of the additional traffic sign at the junction of Woh Chai Street and Tong Yam Street where the traffic turned into Tai Hang Tung Road; and (viii) suggested providing seats at the minibus stop in Tonkin Street in Cheung Sha Wan for the convenience of elderly passengers.

23. Mr Leo POON responded that: (i) members would be informed of the number of the additional parking spaces after the meeting, and suggestions for the respective location were welcome; (ii) the projects which were still at the stage of design and local consultation were excluded from the list while consideration would be given to including those which were recommended by HyD for commencement, along with the schedules ; (iii) the list in the paper mainly introduced minor works while efforts would be made to review if it was appropriate to include major works and consideration would be given to adding a remark for projects related to the “Walk in HK” initiative; (iv) the most important consideration in the design of road signs was the safety of pedestrians and drivers, and the design had to be clear. TD noted members’ views and would review whether there was room for incorporating district-specific design in the road signs; and (v) the works of additional railings in Wing Hong Street and traffic sign at the junction of Woh Chai Street and Tong Yam Street were still under design. Efforts would be made to follow up and members would be informed of the progress afterwards.

24. Mr Corwin YAU added that as the green minibus operators were generally small and medium enterprises operating on small scale, they might not be able to provide seats at their own cost like the franchised bus companies, with regard to financial consideration or

experiences in project management. TD, however, would work with relevant departments to explore the possibility of providing the seats using government resources, after confirming the specific location with Members.

25. The follow-up views raised by members were consolidated as follows: (i) suggested including the works under consultation in the list so that members could receive more comprehensive information and raise their views; and (ii) progress updates of the following works were expected in the next meeting: the provision of stripe markings at the pedestrian crossing in Lai Ying Street near Hoi Ying Estate leading to the Cheung Sha Wan Promenade, the provision of a cover and seats at the bus stop in Sham Mong Road near Hoi Tat Estate, the provision of a taxi stand in the Hoi Tat Public Transport Interchange in place of the one in MTR Nam Cheong Station, and the road surface repair works in the vicinity of Sham Mong Road.

26. Mr Leo POON responded that: (i) TD would consider putting on the list in the paper the works which had a commencement date and conducted public consultation; and (ii) TD had sent staff to conduct site inspection at the crossing in Lai Ying Street, and was examining the feasibility of a refuge island with regard to the environmental constraints in the area and the impact on road users.

27. Mr Corwin YAU added that TD was working with the two bus companies to coordinate the provision of a cover at the bus stop in Sham Mong Road near Hoi Tat Estate.

28. The Chairman concluded that members noted the content of the report and hoped that the departments would report on the project items and schedules of the district traffic improvement works completed, under construction or under planning within the following half year.

Item 6: Any Other Business

29. The views raised by members were consolidated as follows: (i) expressed that the airport-bound trips of bus route no. A21 were always full midway, making it impossible for some of the passengers at the bus stop near Fu Cheong Estate and Hoi Lai Estate to get on the bus and causing impact on their travelling. It was suggested that TD and the bus companies consider arranging empty buses to pick up passengers at en-route stops during peak hours; (ii) expressed concern about the loose road tiles next to the big tree outside Lucky Dragon Restaurant on Tai Hang Tung Road, as they might easily cause pedestrians to trip; and (iii) expressed that the insufficient frequency of bus and minibus services to and from Caritas Medical Centre was causing inconvenience to the elderly.

30. Mr Corwin YAU responded that TD noted members' views and would review the routes serving public hospitals in the district.

31. Mr Ethan HO responded that the bus company would be contacted for information about the operation of bus route no. A21, and ways of improvements would be discussed.

32. The Chairman concluded that members noted the report concerned, and encouraged members to submit papers with regard to the routes of buses and minibuses for further discussion.

Item 7: Date of next meeting

33. The next meeting would be held at 9:30 a.m. on 6 June 2024 (Thursday).

34. There being no other business, the meeting ended at 10:52 a.m.

District Council Secretariat
Sham Shui Po District Office
April 2024