



Sha Tin District Council

Report on the meeting of the
Traffic and Transport Committee held on 3 July 2012

(1) The Committee discussed the following:

- (i) consultation paper on *Proposal to Retrofit Barrier-free Access Facilities at the Existing Footbridge on Tai Po Road over the MTR Sha Tin Station near Tin Liu (Structure No.: NF71)* submitted by the Highways Department, which was passed by a vote of 22 in favour and 4 against;
- (ii) consultation paper on *Temporary Traffic Management Measures on Tai Po Road - Sha Tin (Phase 2)* submitted by the Transport Department. The Committee did not support the option proposed by the Transport Department, and requested relevant government departments to keep exploring other feasible options for easing traffic congestion on Tai Po Road – Sha Tin;
- (iii) replies of the Transport Department, the Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited (KMB), the New World First Bus and Citybus (NWFB/CTB), and the Long Win Bus Company Limited (LWB) to the question on bus seat belts, and passed the following provisional motion:

“The Traffic and Transport Committee of the Sha Tin District Council urges the Transport Department to discuss with the bus companies about the requirement that all buses have seat belts installed for the sake of passengers’ safety.”
(Unanimously passed);

- (iv) replies of the Transport Department and the KMB to the question on the KMB’s fare mechanism and provision of sectional fares, and passed the following provisional motion:

“The Traffic and Transport Committee of the Sha Tin District Council strongly requests the Transport Department to review the existing fare adjustment mechanism of the bus companies, increase transparency of the mechanism, consider the financial affordability of the public such as providing sectional fares, and avoid excessive fare increase that is unacceptable to the public.

Moreover, while raising their fares, the bus companies should improve the quality of their service, i.e. added fares should be coupled with added service.” (Unanimously passed);

- (v) replies of the Transport Department, the KMB, the NWFB/CTB and the LWB to the question on barrier-free access facilities at bus stops, and passed the following provisional motion:

“The Traffic and Transport Committee of the Sha Tin District Council moves a motion requesting the acceleration of the process of providing barrier-free access facilities and electronic display boards at the bus termini in Sha Tin and Ma On Shan as well as at the public transport interchange.” (Unanimously passed);

- (vi) replies of the Transport Department and the Hong Kong Police Force to the question on regulating cycling safety, and passed the following provisional motion:

“With the government’s active promotion of the sport of cycling, more and more people are using bicycles for transport and leisure purposes. Nevertheless, it is worrying that the law does not ensure the safety of cyclists and other road users.

In view of the above, the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Sha Tin District Council strongly requests the government to take the following actions:

- (a) increase the number of cycling practice areas for beginners as soon as possible;
 - (b) require cyclists to use hands-free communication devices;
 - (c) review the position of the bicycle again and promote the bicycle as an environmentally friendly mode of transport in the district;
 - (d) classify bicycles in the midst of rapid emergence of new designs, and advise on the code of practice for the use of bicycles.” (21 in favour and 1 abstention); and
- (vii) reply of the MTR Corporation Limited to the question on the train frequency of Ma On Shan Rail, and passed the following provisional motion:

“The Traffic and Transport Committee of the Sha Tin District Council strongly requests the MTR Corporation Limited to increase the train frequency of the Ma On Shan Rail during evening peak hours as soon as possible, with the frequency of trains running from the Tai Wai Station towards Wu Kai Sha being increased to every three minutes so as to ease the passenger flows, and to deploy more staff and step up management measures to improve the management of station platforms.” (22 in favour and 1 abstention).

- (2) The Committee endorsed the revised annual work plan of the Working Group on Road Safety.
- (3) The Committee noted the following:
 - (i) progress report submitted by the Transport Department;
 - (ii) minutes of meetings of the Committee’s Working Group on Road Safety and Working Group on Development of Cycle Network;
 - (iii) report on the progress of works of the Highways Department;
 - (iv) population of public housing estates and Private Sector Participation Scheme courts in Sha Tin District; and
 - (v) prosecution figures on traffic offences in Sha Tin town centre.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat

STDC 13/55/25

July 2012