



For information
on 22 November 2018

STDC Paper 99/2018

Sha Tin District Council

Report on the meeting of the
Traffic and Transport Committee held on 25 October 2018

- (1) The Committee discussed the following:
- (i) “Provision of Additional Cycle Parking Facilities in Sha Tin and Ma On Shan New Towns” submitted by the Transport Department (TD) and the Highways Department, with the following provisional motion passed:

“The Traffic and Transport Committee of the Sha Tin District Council requests that the Transport Department, when planning to increase the number of parking spaces, comprehensively examine the demand and supply of bicycle parking spaces in the district and re-plan their distribution to replace existing unsuitable parking spaces; maintain inter-departmental communication to jointly formulate work strategies for managing bicycle parking spaces; and fully consult different stakeholders in the community.” (Unanimously passed);

- (ii) “Improvement Works for Ma On Shan Town Centre Public Transport Terminus” submitted by the TD and the Architectural Services Department, with the following provisional motion passed:

“Background

The Policy Agenda of the Chief Executive’s 2017 Policy Address mentioned the formulation of a pilot scheme for improvement works at covered public transport interchanges, with the Ma On Shan Town Centre Public Transport Interchange as the pilot area. The proposed improvement works included:

- (a) a layout conversion from traditional parallel bus bays to saw-tooth bus bays;
- (b) provision of air-conditioned waiting rooms for passengers, improvements on bus stop signage designs and provision of passenger facilities in the waiting rooms, including seats and passenger information display systems;
- (c) provision of a bus regulator kiosk;

(d) renovation to the columns near the proposed passenger waiting rooms and the bus regulator kiosk; and

(e) relocation of the affected bicycle parking spaces at the interchange.

Motion

As a major transport hub in the district, the Ma On Shan Town Centre Public Transport Interchange is always packed with buses, passengers and passers-by. It currently has the following problems: unsatisfactory waiting environment for passengers, congestion with buses when they enter or leave the interchange, illegal parking of bicycles, etc. The Traffic and Transport Committee of the Sha Tin District Council (STDC) agrees in principle that the Transport Department (TD) should improve the situation by way of a pilot scheme. However, it is necessary for the TD to formulate suitable solutions to the problems listed below and submit them to the STDC for discussion before applying to the Legislative Council for funding:

(A) Consult relevant stakeholders before detailed temporary traffic arrangements are made.

(B) Given the insufficient supply of bicycle parking spaces in the district, more of the same type of space must be provided to cater for the demand when the affected parking spaces are relocated.

(C) Before the setting up of passenger waiting rooms and a bus regulator kiosk, it is necessary for the Government to consider the impact of the facilities on pedestrian walkways and to regularly monitor the indoor air quality therein to ensure that the levels of respirable suspended particulates (PM_{2.5}), formaldehyde, volatile organic compounds, nitrogen oxides, oxygen, etc. are in compliance with the Environmental Protection Department's latest standards.

(D) The Committee has repeatedly relayed to the TD the demands of the residents for extending the cross-harbour routes running from the Sha Tin District via the Western Harbour Crossing (WHC), including Route Nos. 980X, 981P, 982X and 985, to return from and terminate at Wan Chai / Causeway Bay instead of the existing terminus at Admiralty Station; for boosting the bus services during the morning peak hours to divert the huge passenger and vehicle flows of Route No. 681; for extending the services to full-day to meet passengers' needs so as to alleviate the congestion resulting from the reduction of parking spaces due to the layout conversion from traditional parallel bus bays to saw-tooth bus bays; and for addressing residents' demands to further improve

the services of cross-harbour bus routes running from Sha Tin and Ma On Shan via the WHC.” (Unanimously passed);

- (iii) the response of the TD to the question on “Operation of New Territories Taxis in Sha Tin District”, with the following provisional motion passed:

“Background

Hospitals are major public medical care facilities in Hong Kong. However, the Government is currently causing immense inconvenience to residents by permitting New Territories taxis to reach Prince of Wales Hospital (PWH), but not other facilities in the same cluster, including Shatin Hospital, the decanting building of PWH, Cheshire Home, Shatin and Bradbury Hospice.

Motion

The Traffic and Transport Committee of the Sha Tin District Council urges the Transport Department to expeditiously study and implement the plan to allow New Territories taxis to access Shatin Hospital and other medical facilities in Sha Tin via A Kung Kok Street and A Kung Kok Shan Road for the convenience of members of the public in need.” (Unanimously passed);

- (iv) the responses of the Civil Aviation Department, the TD and Long Win Bus Company Limited to the question on “Overnight Service of Airport Buses”, with the following 2 provisional motions passed:

“Due to the increasing number of overnight flights at the Hong Kong International Airport as well as the gradual commencement and completion of various infrastructure projects in the area of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities, the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Sha Tin District Council strongly requests that the Transport Department and the bus company proactively study enhancing the frequency of Overnight Airport Route Nos. NA40 and NA41 running to and from Sha Tin and Ma On Shan to meet passengers’ needs.” (Unanimously passed);

“The Traffic and Transport Committee of the Sha Tin District Council strongly requests that the Transport Department and Long Win Bus Company Limited arrange for Route No. A41P to run via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong Kong Boundary Crossing Facilities for residents’ convenience.” (Unanimously passed); and

- (v) the responses of the TD, the Sha Tin District Office, the District Lands Office / Sha Tin, the Planning Department and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department to the question on “Parking Spaces in Tai Wai”.
- (2) The Committee noted the following:
- (i) responses of government departments and organisations to matters arising from the previous meeting;
 - (ii) progress report submitted by the TD;
 - (iii) the minutes of the Working Group on Development of Major Transport Infrastructures and Cycle Network under the Committee;
 - (iv) financial position and activity progress of Expenditure Head 7 (Traffic and Transport);
 - (v) report on the progress of works submitted by the Highways Department;
 - (vi) “Population of Public Housing Estates and Private Sector Participation Scheme Courts in Sha Tin” submitted by the Housing Department; and
 - (vii) “Prosecution Figures on Traffic Offences in Sha Tin, Tai Wai and Ma On Shan” submitted by the Hong Kong Police Force.
- (3) As the member raising the question on “Requesting Immediate Commencement of the Endorsed Project of ‘Construction of Cover for the Pavement of Lok King Street’” was absent, the Chairman decided to postpone the handling of it to the next meeting.

Sha Tin District Council Secretariat
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