

Summary of Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee (2014-2015)

Meeting

The Traffic and Transport Committee (“TTC”) held its 2nd meeting on 17 January 2014.

Setting Up of Working Groups under TTC (2014-2015)

2. The TTC endorsed the setting up of the Working Group on Tuen Mun External Traffic and the Working Group on Traffic Problems within Tuen Mun District. Mr SO Shiu-shing and Mr CHAN Wan-sang were elected convenors of the aforesaid working groups respectively.

Widening of Castle Peak Road - Castle Peak Bay

3. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, the representatives of the Highways Department (“HyD”) and its consultant reported to Members on the latest progress of the project. A Member criticised the HyD for not reporting the results of consultation to the TTC before gazetting the project, and wondered if the project could meet road users’ needs. Another Member expressed concern about the arrangements for trees being affected. After discussion, the Chairman asked the HyD to give a clear account of residents’ intentions at the next meeting, such as reporting which housing estates were for or against the project, and to explain how to deal with the tree issue for Members’ reference.

Design and Build of Traffic Improvements to Tuen Mun Road Town Centre Section (Contract No. HY/2009/03)

Temporary Traffic Arrangement for Road Surface Maintenance Works during Lunar New Year

4. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, the representatives of the HyD and its consultant briefed Members on the background and design of the project. A number of Members put forward their views or questions about such issues as road closures, traffic diversion measures and contingency plans. After discussion, the Chairman asked the HyD and its consultant to consider Members’ views, and provide the works schedule of the project, emergency telephone numbers and details of the contingency measures to Members.

Calling for 24-hour Opening of the Footbridge Connecting V city and Trend Plaza

5. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, the representatives of the Lands Department (“LandsD”) and the developer briefed Members on the opening arrangements of the footbridge. The Members who submitted the captioned paper indicated that there were still complaints from residents in the area after the opening hours of the footbridge had been changed. Therefore, the possibility of further extending the opening hours could be explored. After discussion, the property management company agreed to further extend the opening hours of the footbridge during Lunar New Year and other major festivals. In addition, a Member enquired about the rebuilding of the walkway cover demolished for the construction of the footbridge years ago. The Chairman asked the LandsD to give a written reply to the enquiry.

Strong Call for Turning Down the Fare Increase Application by Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited (“KMB”) and Early Review of KMB’s Franchise

6. The Members who submitted the paper queried why the surplus of RoadShow Holdings Limited (“RoadShow”) could not be used for making up the loss of KMB, and enquired

whether the KMB had been granted different franchise terms from those of other companies that allowed the exclusion of its advertising revenue from earnings calculation. A number of Members opposed the KMB's fare increase application, and expressed concern about its service standards and accounting methods. A representative of the Transport Department ("TD") explained the considerations made in assessing fare increase applications, and the differences between the business operations of the KMB and RoadShow. After discussion, the Chairman said that he would relay the TTC's views to the Transport and Housing Bureau in writing.

Calling for Provision of Traffic Lights at the Crossing of Light Rail Kei Lun Stop

7. The Members who submitted the paper indicated that over the years, the TD had refused to provide traffic lights at Light Rail Kei Lun Stop on the grounds of disruption to traffic and inadequate pedestrian flow. Yet recently, the TD had planned to provide traffic lights at Siu Hong Road for the proposed public housing development at Tsz Tin Tsuen, and even between Tuen Mun Hospital ("TMH") and Siu Hong Court where the pedestrian flow was lower. The criteria adopted by the TD were considered inconsistent. Furthermore, they pointed out that as the crossing of Light Rail Kei Lun Stop was used mainly by primary school students and their parents, as well as patients of the TMH Rehabilitation Block and their friends and relatives, it was a high risk spot where accidents happened from time to time. Moreover, due to its proximity to Ching Chung Koon, the pedestrian flow there during religious festivals was even higher. Hence, they opined that traffic lights should be provided.

8. The representative of the TD responded that the traffic and pedestrian flows at the crossing were not adequate enough to support the provision of traffic lights, and a zebra crossing would be a more cost-effective option. She also explained the reasons for providing traffic lights at various locations nearby. After discussion, the Chairman asked the TD to consider the provision of push-button traffic lights at the crossing and the Working Group on Traffic Problems within Tuen Mun District to take follow-up action.

Calling for Provision of a Bus-stop at Lung Yat Estate

9. The Members who submitted the paper indicated that at present, residents of Lung Yat Estate returning home from Kowloon had to get off at Glorious Garden Stop and walk a rather long distance. If a bus-stop could be provided at Lung Yat Estate, both residents of the estate and some home owners of Lung Mun Oasis could enjoy the convenience. The representative of the TD responded that it was not advisable to provide a bus-stop at the section of Lung Mun Road near Wong Chu Road due to steep gradient and high vehicular speed, while the gentler section of the road was already very close to the existing bus-stop at Glorious Garden. The need for providing another bus-stop was arguable. After discussion, the Chairman asked the TD and the Working Group on Traffic Problems within Tuen Mun District to follow up on this item.

New Territories Green Minibus Route No. 44

10. A number of Members expressed concern about the service standards of the captioned route. The Chairman asked the Working Group on Tuen Mun External Traffic to follow up on this item.

Secretariat, Tuen Mun District Council
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