

(Translation)

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee
7th Term of Wan Chai District Council
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Date: 6 February 2024 (Tuesday)
Time: 3:00 p.m.
Venue: District Council Conference Room, Wan Chai District Office, 21/F
Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Hong Kong

<u>Present</u>	<u>Arrival</u>	<u>Departure</u>
<u>Chairperson</u>		
Mr LAM Wai-kong, MH	3:00 p.m.	3:43 p.m.
<u>Vice-chairperson</u>		
Mr SUN Tao-hung, Stanley, JP	3:00 p.m.	3:43 p.m.
<u>Members</u>		
Mr NG Chak-sum, Sam	3:00 p.m.	3:43 p.m.
Mr LEE Man-lung, Joey, MH	3:00 p.m.	3:35 p.m.
Ms LEE Pik-yee, Peggy, MH	3:00 p.m.	3:43 p.m.
Dr CHOW Kam-wai, BBS, MH	3:00 p.m.	3:43 p.m.
Mr LAM Wai-man, Anson	3:23 p.m.	3:43 p.m.
Ms MOK Ruby	3:00 p.m.	3:43 p.m.
Mr MUK Ka-chun	3:05 p.m.	3:43 p.m.

Representatives of Core Government Departments

Mr CHEUNG Ho-yat, Steven	Assistant District Officer (Wan Chai), Home Affairs Department
Ms YAN Yuet-han, Fion	Senior Liaison Officer (Building Management)2/Wan Chai, Home Affairs Department
Ms TSANG Wai-yee, Olivia	Senior Estate Surveyor/Hong Kong East (2), Lands Department
Mr LI Wing-yip, Foreaf	District Operations Officer (Wan Chai),

Mr AU YEUNG Leung	Hong Kong Police Force Officer-in-charge, District Traffic Team (Wan Chai), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr HO Wing-wah	Officer-in-charge, District Traffic Team (Eastern), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr LAU Tak-yin, Philip	Senior District Engineer/Northwestern Hong Kong Island, Highways Department
Mr CHEUNG Man-chung, Tim	District Engineer/Wan Chai, Highways Department
Miss TANG Ka-yuet, Annie	Engineer/Wan Chai 1, Transport Department
Miss LEE HO-yan, Grace	Engineer/Wan Chai 3, Transport Department
Miss LEUNG Hoi-kei, Christina	Senior Transport Officer/Wan Chai, Transport Department

Secretary

Miss YAU Tim-yi, Chloe	Executive Officer (District Council) 4, Wan Chai District Office, Home Affairs Department
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Opening Remarks

The Chairperson welcomed all Members and representatives of government departments to the 1st meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee (“TTC”) of the 7th Wan Chai District Council (“WCDC”).

Item 1. Summary of Major Temporary Traffic Arrangements in Wan Chai District **(TTC Paper No. 1/2024)**

2. The Chairperson asked the representative of Transport Department (“TD”) to introduce the TTC Paper No. 1/2024.
3. Miss LEUNG Hoi-kei, Christina, Senior Transport Officer/Wan Chai of TD introduced the paper.
4. Members had the following opinions/questions:
 - (i) Members received complaints from residents in the neighbourhood of Broadwood Road about the traffic congestion they had on the day of the Po Leung Kuk 145th Anniversary Charity Walk on 27 January and they could not go to school on time. As the public were not aware of the road closure

arrangements, Members said that the departments concerned and the organiser should inform the residents in advance and avoid road closure during peak hours on Saturdays; and

- (ii) The number of participants of the Charity Walk had increased from the approved 100 to 500. Members asked whether the event caused traffic problems because the number of participants had exceeded the expected number. Members suggested that the police should control the number of participants for similar events in future and carefully consider the impact of road closure arrangements on the residents.

5. Miss TANG Ka-yuet, Annie, Engineer/Wan Chai 1 of TD responded as follows:

- (i) To cope with the event, TD released information on road closure, traffic diversion measures and public transport arrangements on 25 January 2024 through the TD's website and HKeMobility after discussion with the organiser and the police. Moreover, TD published the above information in Ming Pao Daily News and The Standard on 26 January; and
- (ii) TD noted Members' opinions and would reflect them to the organiser.

6. Mr LI Wing-yip, Foreaf, District Operations Officer (Wan Chai) of the Hong Kong Police Force ("HKPF") responded as follows:

- (i) As the number of participants in the event exceeded estimation and the road section through which the event took place was relatively narrow, it had taken a longer time than expected to facilitate the smooth passage of the crowd taking into consideration public safety and order. The police had immediately discussed with the organiser and taken appropriate measures, including allowing more vehicles to move on as far as possible to reduce traffic congestion; and
- (ii) The police had reflected the above problem to the organiser and would maintain close communication with other event organisers in the future to ensure that similar situations would not happen again.

7. Members noted the above paper.

Item 2: Major Small-scale Traffic Improvement Works Completed, Underway or being Planned in Wan Chai District by Transport Department/ Highways Department in the Past Two Months and their Schedules
(TTC Paper No. 2/2024)

8. The Chairperson asked the representative of TD to introduce the paper No. 2/2024.
9. Miss TANG Ka-yuet, Annie, Engineer/Wan Chai 1 of TD introduced the paper and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the latest situation of parking spaces in Wan Chai District.
10. Members had the following opinions/questions:
 - (i) Abandoned vehicles had existed in Wan Chai for a long time. If the public found abandoned motorcycles, Members asked whether they could report to the Wan Chai District Office (“WCDO”) through DC Members.
 - (ii) Some motorcycle parking spaces were spacious so there were multiple motorcycles parked in a parking space. Members asked whether it was an offence to park more than one motorcycle in a parking space; and
 - (iii) The construction works of pavement widening and raised platform at the junction of Tonnochy Road and Jaffe Road had been completed. Members asked what would happen to the original private car parking spaces at that location.
11. Mr AU YEUNG Leung, officer-in-charge, District Traffic Team (Wan Chai) of HKPF responded as follows:
 - (i) The police had maintained and updated a list of abandoned motorcycles in the district. There were 14 abandoned motorcycles in the district and joint operations would be arranged with WCDO to remove the abandoned vehicles;
 - (ii) Regarding multiple motorcycles parking in one parking space, there was no offence as long as the motorcycles were parked within the delineated area. Prosecution could only be instituted if the motorcycle was parked outside the boundary of the parking space; and
 - (iii) The police would investigate vehicles suspected of continuously occupying

parking spaces by way of marking. If it was confirmed that the vehicles concerned had been parked at the same location for more than 24 hours, the police would take enforcement action.

12. Ms LEE Ho-yan, Grace, Engineer/Wan Chai 3 of TD responded that the pavement widening works on Jaffe Road affected the motorcycle parking spaces and metered parking spaces originally on the road. During the design stage, TD had planned to relocate the affected parking spaces to other sections including other locations of Jaffe Road, and Lockhart Road. During the construction period, TD would also arrange temporary reprovisioning of the affected parking spaces accordingly to ensure that the total number of parking spaces would remain unchanged as far as possible.

13. Mr CHEUNG Ho-yat, Steven, Assistant District Officer (Wan Chai), responded that WCDO had put in place a mechanism to deal with abandoned motorcycles in the district and planned to conduct a joint removal operation with TD, Highways Department (“HyD”), Lands Department and the police in the first quarter of this year. DC members were welcome to report cases of abandoned motorcycle to WCDO at any time.

14. Members noted the above paper.

**Item 3: Summary of Traffic and Transport Works in Wan Chai District
(TTC Paper No. 3/2024)**

15. The Chairperson asked the representative of HyD to introduce the paper No. 3/2024.

16. Mr CHEUNG Man-chung, Tim, District Engineer/Wan Chai of HyD introduced the paper.

17. Members noted the above paper.

Item 4: Any Other Business

18. The Chairperson asked whether Members would raise any other business.

19. Members had the following opinions/questions:

- (i) There were members of the public who complained about traffic congestion near the Stubbs Road Lookout, especially during the peak season at the Chinese New Year. Members suggested that the police should consider temporary

- measures, such as appealing to tour buses to change to other parking areas or make detours to wait for pick-ups to ease the congestion problem and attract more tourists to visit the area without affecting the residents' livelihood;
- (ii) Members suggested that the police should step up enforcement in the vicinity of Fuk Kwan Avenue and Lee Kwan Avenue before and after the school hours of the True Light Middle School of Hong Kong to tackle the problem of school transport vehicles parking on the pavements;
 - (iii) Members suggested that TD should consider building multi-storey automated car parks in Wan Chai District to tackle the problem of insufficient parking spaces. As there was no standard way of showing parking spaces, many motorists needed to check whether there were parking spaces on the spot. Similar car park models had already been put on a trial basis in other districts. The Hing Fat Street car park was often full and the problem was more serious during large-scale events. TD could consider putting on a trial basis a new model of automated parking spaces in this car park to accommodate more private cars;
 - (iv) There had been a significant rise in delivery business in recent months. It led to an increase in the number of delivery bicycles, posing a danger to pedestrians and other vehicles;
 - (v) The situation of lost trips on bus route No. 1 in Happy Valley was serious and caused troubles to the public. For example, the mobile application of the bus company had shown that the bus would arrive at the bus stop at 2:15 p.m. However, the display panel at the bus stop suddenly showed that the frequency of 2:15 p.m. had been cancelled at 2:14 p.m. and skipped to the next frequency, causing misunderstanding and inconvenience to passengers; and
 - (vi) Since the tram company had renewed the tramway and pavement at the Happy Valley tram terminus, the public reported that the step between the alighting area and the pavement was too great and some elderly people fell down as a result. Members hoped that TD would show concern and improve the situation.

20. Mr LI Wing-yip, Foreaf, District Operations Officer (Wan Chai) of HKPF responded as follows:

- (i) Regarding the traffic situation at the Stubbs Road Lookout, in anticipation of an

increase in the number of Mainland tours during the Chinese New Year, the police would maintain close contacts with the Travel Industry Authority and step up traffic mitigation measures;

- (ii) The police had been concerned about the problem of illegal parking of vehicles caused by parents picking up and dropping off students in Fuk Kwan Avenue and Lee Kwan Avenue outside the True Light Middle School of Hong Kong. Apart from law enforcement, the police would strengthen co-operation with the school and work with it to disseminate the message of complying with road traffic ordinance among the parents and students; and
- (iii) Delivery motorcycles or bicycles could pose a danger to motorists and other road users. The police would continue paying close attention and take necessary enforcement actions.

21. Miss TANG Ka-yuet, Annie, Engineer/Wan Chai 1 of TD responded as follows:

- (i) Before long holidays or peak travelling periods, TD and the police would remind the industry to avoid visiting the Stubbs Road Lookout at the same time during peak periods as far as possible to divert the traffic flow;
- (ii) TD would hold discussions with the teaching-related organisations in some busier districts about traffic management measures before and after school hours, such as co-ordinating the starting and ending class hours of nearby schools, encouraging students to take school buses, etc., in order to alleviate the traffic pressure in the neighbourhood.
- (iii) TD had promoted the application of Automated Parking Systems (“APS”). However, as the installation of APS involved more stringent requirements on electrical and mechanical works and fire services facilities, etc. and the requirements on transfer storage and waiting areas were more complicated, the construction, operation and repair and maintenance costs concerned were higher as compared with those of conventional car parks. Therefore, whether it was suitable to introduce APS to individual public car parks could not be generalised. The department would also require the use of APS to be considered at the planning stage in the future development projects providing public car parks;

22. Miss LEUNG Hoi-kei, Christina, Senior Transport Officer/Wan Chai of TD responded as

follows:

- (i) Franchised bus companies were required to provide appropriate bus services according to the schedule of service approved by TD. TD had closely monitored the stability and level of bus services through such channels as auditing the operating statements of franchised bus companies and conducting regular field surveys. To effectively monitor the service level of Citybus Route No. 1, the department had recently conducted a field survey in mid-January 2024 at the Happy Valley Terminus. The results of the survey showed that the actual frequency operated by the route in Happy Valley between 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. was one less than the required frequency. However, as buses of the route needed to pass through many roads on Hong Kong Island, including Wong Nai Chung Road, Hennessy Road, Des Voeux Road Central, Des Voeux Road West and Victoria Road, etc., the journey time of the route was more easily affected by road traffic conditions. The department would continue paying close attention to the service level of the route, and follow up with the bus company according to the mechanism in case of serious frequency deviation or service level failing to meet the requirements; and
 - (ii) Regarding the situation at the Happy Valley tram terminus, the department would further study with HyD on the enhancement plan concerned. Meanwhile, the tramway company had also requested its motormen to remind, where practicable, passengers in need to alight with care and pay attention to the step difference when they arrived at the terminus concerned.
23. Members continued to say that some lost trips of buses were due to sick leave of employees or other circumstances. Members suggested that the bus company should notify the public in advance so that they could plan their travel in advance.
24. Miss LEUNG Hoi-kei, Christina, Senior Transport Officer/Wan Chai of TD responded that the department would request the bus company to provide advance notification of information on frequency change where practicable and update the information on the mobile application as soon as possible to reduce the impact on the public.
25. The Chairperson welcomed Members' opinions and suggestions on the transport in the district and encouraged them to submit their agenda as early as possible to facilitate the Committee's communication and co-operation with the departments concerned.
26. The Chairperson announced that this agenda was concluded.

Item 5: Date of Next Meeting

27. The Chairperson announced that the next meeting would be held on 23 April 2024 (Tuesday) at 3:00 p.m.

28. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Wan Chai District Council Secretariat

February 2024