

(Translation)

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee
7th Term of Wan Chai District Council
Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Date: 23 April 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

Present

Arrival

Departure

Chairperson

Mr LAM Wai-kong, MH

3:00 p.m.

3:57 p.m.

Vice-chairperson

Mr SUN Tao-hung, Stanley, JP

3:00 p.m.

3:57 p.m.

Members

Mr NG Chak-sum, Sam

3:00 p.m.

3:57 p.m.

Mr LEE Man-lung, Joey, MH

3:00 p.m.

3:57 p.m.

Ms LEE Pik-yee, Peggy, MH

3:00 p.m.

3:57 p.m.

Dr CHOW Kam-wai, BBS, MH

3:00 p.m.

3:57 p.m.

Mr LAM Wai-man, Anson

3:00 p.m.

3:57 p.m.

Ms MOK Ruby

3:00 p.m.

3:57 p.m.

Mr MUK Ka-chun

3:00 p.m.

3:57 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

Mr MOK Chan, Charles

Chief Estate Officer/Hong Kong East (District Lands
Offices), Lands Department

Mr LI Wing-yip, Foreaf	District Operations Officer (Wan Chai), Hong Kong Police Force
Mr AU YEUNG Leung	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 CHEUNG Man-chung, Tim	District Engineer/Wan Chai, Highways Department
Miss TANG Ka-yuet, Annie	Engineer/Wan Chai 1, Transport Department
Mr CHAN Quan-wai, Aaron	Engineer/Wan Chai 2, Transport Department
Mr WONG Pak-lim	Engineer/Special Duties, Transport Department
Miss LEUNG Hoi-kei, Christina	Senior Transport Officer/Wan Chai, Transport Department

Representatives of Other Government Departments and Organisations

Mr YEUNG Lau Kong, Ali	Senior Transport Officer/Bus/HK 2, Transport Department
Mr MA Kwan Hang, Ryder	Transport Officer/Bus/HK 3, Transport Department
Mr NG Brian	Manager (Planning), Citybus Limited
Mr KWOK Daniel	Operations Manager (HK Island), Citybus Limited
Ms CHUNG Penny	Corporate Communications Manager, Citybus Limited
Mr TSANG Calvin	Senior Corporate Communications Officer, Citybus Limited
Mr WONG Peter	Planning Officer, Citybus Limited
Mr CHAU Leo	Assistant Manager, Public Affairs, The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited

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 Members and representatives of government departments to the 2nd meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee (“TTC”) of the 7th Wan Chai District Council (“WCDC”).

Item 1: Confirmation of the Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Wan Chai District Council

2. The Chairperson said that the Secretariat had not received any proposed amendments from Members before this meeting, and he continued to ask Members whether there were other amendments.

3. There being no other amendments proposed by Members present, the minutes of the 1st meeting were confirmed with a motion moved by Mr LAM Wai-man, Anson, and seconded by Dr CHOW Kam-wai.

**Item 2: Summary of Temporary Traffic and Transport Arrangements in Wan Chai District
(TTC Paper No. 6/2024)**

4. The Chairperson invited the representatives of the Transport Department (TD) to introduce Paper No. 6/2024.

5. Miss LEUNG Hoi-kei, Christina, Senior Transport Officer/Wan Chai of TD, introduced the paper.

6. Referring to the traffic congestion problem caused by the “Po Leung Kuk 145th Anniversary Charity Walk” mentioned at the last meeting, Members reminded the relevant departments again that it would be advisable to notify the District Council (DC) in advance of the road closure arrangements for similar events in the future and to avoid road closure at affected road sections, such as Caroline Hill Road, during peak hours on Saturdays.

[Post-meeting note: TD provided supplementary information after the meeting. After the event, TD had written to Po Leung Kuk, suggesting that the experience gained from the event should be used to make appropriate reviews and adjustments on items like the number of participants, the date, the route, etc., so as to facilitate the smooth organization of similar events in the future. In addition, the Department suggested to inform and consult the relevant stakeholders in advance, and to consider holding similar events on Sundays next time if available].

7. The Chairperson invited the relevant departments to take note of Members' comments. There being no further questions from Members, the Chairperson announced that discussion on this agenda item was completed and invited Members to take note of the above paper.

Item 3: 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. 7/2024)

8. The Chairperson invited the representatives of TD to introduce Paper No. 7/2024.

9. Mr CHAN Quan-wai, Aaron, Engineer/Wan Chai 2 of TD, introduced the paper.

10. There being no questions from Members, the Chairperson invited Members to note the above paper.

Item 4: Summary of Traffic and Transport Works in Wan Chai District
(TTC Paper No. 8/2024)

11. The Chairperson invited the representative of the Highways Department (HyD) to introduce Paper No. 8/2024.

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

13. There being no questions from Members, the Chairperson invited Members to note the above paper.

Item 5: Work Plan of the Transport Department 2024-2025
(TTC Paper No. 9/2024)

14. The Chairperson invited the representatives of TD to introduce Paper No. 9/2024.

15. Ms LEUNG Hoi-kei, Christina, Senior Transport Officer/Wan Chai of TD, introduced the paper.

16. There being no questions from Members, the Chairperson invited Members to note the above paper.

Item 6: Bus Route Planning Programme 2024-2025 for Wan Chai District
(TTC Paper No. 10/2024)

17. The Chairperson invited the representative of the TD to introduce Paper No. 10/2024.
18. Mr YEUNG Lau-kong, Ali, Senior Transport Officer/Bus (Hong Kong) 2 of TD, introduced the paper.
19. Members commented as follows:
 - (i) Shortening the route of Citybus Route 1 from running between Happy Valley and Felix Villas to running between Happy Valley and Central (Macau Ferry) would cause inconvenience to residents of Happy Valley who traveled to and from the Western District. It was suggested that the route could be shortened to run till The Belcher's or Kennedy Town (Belcher's Bay) Bus Terminus instead; and
 - (ii) It was suggested to change the frequency of KMB/Citybus Route N307 departing from Sheung Wan from 12:30 midnight and 1:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. and 2:00 a.m. respectively, so as to facilitate more Tai Po residents to return home from the urban areas in the small hours of the morning without the need to take Route N373 to Fanling to change to other modes of transport.
20. Mr YEUNG Lau-kong, Ali, Senior Transport Officer/Bus (Hong Kong) 2 of TD, took note of Members' comments on the alignment of Route 1.
21. Mr NG Brian, Manager (Planning) of Citybus Limited, responded as follows:
 - (i) The majority of Happy Valley residents took Route 1 to go to commercial districts like Wan Chai, Admiralty, Central, and Sheung Wan, while there were relatively fewer passengers going to the Western District. By shortening Route 1, such that it would no longer pass through the busier sections of Des Voeux Road West, the stability of service could be enhanced. Passengers affected by the rationalization of Route 1 could make use of the interchange discount and took other buses to the Western District at the same fare. At Members' request, Citybus would examine with TD whether there was room for further enhancement of the route; and
 - (ii) Citybus would discuss with TD and KMB on how to adjust the departure time of Route N307 to meet the needs of more members of the public.
22. Mr CHAU Leo, Assistant Manager (Public Affairs) of The Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited, responded that discussions would be held with TD and Citybus on

how to adjust the departure time of Route N307 to meet the needs of more members of the public.

Item 7: Any Other Business

23. Members were concerned about the traffic congestion at the Stubbs Road Lookout (the Lookout) and raised the following views and questions:

- (i) Every day, a large number of tour group vehicles carry tourists to the Lookout, causing serious traffic congestion at the road section. Although the Police had deployed officers to direct traffic at the scene, the problem persisted. Residents in the vicinity complained about the serious traffic congestion that took place on 20 April 2024, which had lengthened the journey from Stubbs Road to Queen's Road East;
- (ii) Whether the Travel Industry Authority (TIA) and the relevant law enforcement departments could issue guidelines to travel agents and tour group vehicle operators, requiring drivers to drive their vehicles away after the passengers alighted from the vehicles, and wait for a certain period of time (about 10 to 15 minutes) before returning to the Lookout to pick up the passengers, so as to maintain a smooth traffic flow on the roads;
- (iii) Some drivers of tour group vehicles would drive slowly along Stubbs Road to wait for parking spaces to be vacated by the Lookout, aggravating the traffic congestion along Stubbs Road. Members enquired about the means to tackle the problem and suggested that the Police should consider video-recording enforcement at locations near the Lookout on a trial basis;
- (iv) Whether reference could be made to the booking system for certain specific scenic spots in Mainland and applied to the Lookout to ease the flow of people at the Lookout and solve the problem of traffic congestion; and
- (v) Requested the TIA to send staff to attend the next meeting to discuss with the Committee and relevant departments on how to solve the traffic congestion problem at the Lookout.

24. In addition, Members made other comments and raised questions on the traffic and transport issues in Wan Chai:

- (i) The Development, Planning & Transport Committee of the last DC once suggested that TD should open up the Pak Sha Road Pedestrian Precinct for vehicular traffic. TD undertook at that time to review the suggestion and report to DCs regularly. Members requested TD to report the latest progress at the next meeting;

[Post-meeting note: TD provided a written response in this regard on 20 May 2024].

- (ii) Enquired about the progress of the Highways Department's lift and pedestrian access system connecting Lau Sin Street and Tin Hau Temple Road;
- (iii) Suggested the Police to conduct video-recording enforcement on a trial basis at the road section near the Regal Hongkong Hotel;
- (iv) Frequent illegal parking of minibuses and private cars at the exit of the carpark at Leighton Hill of Wong Nai Chung Road between 7:00 am and 8:00 am had rendered drivers unable to see oncoming vehicles and vehicles approaching from behind when they exited the carpark, which would easily lead to traffic accidents. Members suggested that the Police should step up inspection and prosecution, and that wide-angle mirrors should be installed at the location;

[Post-meeting note: TD provided supplementary information after the meeting that, regarding the suggestion of installing wide-angle mirrors at Wong Nai Chung Road, the Department understood that the problem was caused by road users parking upstream of the entrance/exit of the carpark and obstructing the sightline of the drivers. TD had earlier commissioned the relevant works department to designate double yellow lines at the location. As the images displayed by wide-angle mirrors, in particular the position, distance and speed of vehicles, were often very different from the actual situation, drivers might, relying on the images of wide-angle mirrors, mistakenly believe that it was safe, thus causing danger. Moreover, drivers' vision would be affected by the glare of the headlamps of their cars or other vehicles reflected by the wide-angle mirrors, resulting in a temporary loss of vision, increasing the chance of accidents. Therefore, TD considered that the underlying causes should be addressed through enhanced enforcement by the Police and recommended against the installation of wide-angle mirrors at this location].

- (v) Traffic congestion in the vicinity of Braemar Hill Nursery School had been particularly serious in the morning, and it was hoped that the relevant departments could pay attention to the problem; and
- (vi) Some parents of the Primary Section of True Light Middle School complained that lorries were often parked overnight on Li Kwan Avenue near the main entrance of the school, forcing school buses to get around the lorries before they could park for the students to get off them. It was hoped that the Police would pay attention to the problem in order to ensure the safety of the students.

25. Mr LEE Wing-yip, Police Operations Officer (Wan Chai District) of the Hong Kong Police Force, responded as follows:

- (i) The Police had been maintaining liaison and working closely with the TIC, and had been closely monitoring the traffic situation of Stubbs Road. There had been a substantial increase in the number of Mainland inbound tour groups around the Lunar New Year. From 1 February 2024 to 20 April 2024, the number of Mainland inbound tour groups ranged from 50 to 350 per day. The Peak was one of the designated attractions for these tours. Due to the curvature of the roads and the limited number of lanes in the vicinity of the Peak, Stubbs Road had been the only road section that could accommodate vehicles of large tour groups going to the Peak, resulting in a very high volume of traffic there;
- (ii) Due to the limited parking spaces there, the Police and the TIC had been conducting regular traffic control visits to the location since the beginning of this year, and had increased the frequency of such visits to two days a week in the last two weeks. Traffic wardens would also visit the location on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays to direct traffic;
- (iii) To address the traffic congestion problem at the Lookout, the best way at the moment was to allow tour group vehicles to leave immediately after a short stop at the Lookout, instead of requiring drivers to go elsewhere first and then return. This could avoid aggravating the congested situation on the road and reduce the seriousness of such.
- (iv) The Police would try their best to tackle the traffic congestion problem at the Lookout. Apart from law enforcement, it was hoped that there would be other improvement options to solve the traffic problem, including widening of roads and

provision of escalators near the attraction to guide visitors to other places for boarding, so as to avoid the concentration of vehicles at the same location for alighting. The Police suggested that Members should consider exploring with other relevant government departments and organizations on how the congestion problem could be improved in other ways;

- (v) The Police noted the conduct issues of drivers of tour group vehicles, some of whom, knowing that the parking spaces were full, proceeded to the Lookout at a slow speed, causing traffic congestion. This situation also tended to trigger overtaking behavior of private cars, resulting in traffic accidents;
- (vi) The Traffic Hong Kong Island Region was in charge of the Police's work relating to the use of technologies in law enforcement, and the department would review the need for video enforcement in specific areas in the light of the actual situation. The Committee would be informed of the situation when it was understood in conjunction with the Traffic Hong Kong Island Region; and

[Post-meeting note: The Police provided a written response to this on 20 May 2024].

- (vii) Regarding the traffic problems at Leighton Hill, Braemar Hill Nursery School and the Primary Section of True Light Middle School, the Police would step up patrol and enforcement at the locations concerned to ensure the safety of road users.

[Post-meeting note: The Police provided supplementary information after the meeting that they had stepped up patrols at Braemar Hill Nursery School after the meeting and found that the traffic congestion problem was related to the large number of private cars picking up and dropping off students from Braemar Hill Nursery School. Apart from stepping up patrols and enforcement actions, parents were advised through the school authorities to use school buses or public transport to pick up and drop off their children. In addition, the Police conducted 27 traffic enforcement operations at the above site after the meeting, during which six fixed-penalty notices were issued to offending vehicles].

26. Mr CHEUNG Man-chung, Tim, District Engineer/Wan Chai of HyD, responded that HyD was currently working on the detailed design of the lift and pedestrian access system connecting Lau Sin Street and Tin Hau Temple Road, and would maintain communication with the relevant stakeholders with a view to further optimizing the plan and minimizing the impact on the stakeholders. HyD was still reviewing the implementation plan of the project

and did not have a definite timetable for the project for the time being.

[Post-meeting note: HyD provided supplementary information after the meeting that it had reported on the progress of the lift and pedestrian access system project at the District Facilities and Works Committee (DFWC) meeting held on 14 May 2024 and provided a written reply on 20 May 2024].

27. The Chairperson invited HyD to report at the next meeting on the progress of the lift and pedestrian access system works; and to invite relevant organizations and departments to attend the next meeting to discuss the traffic congestion problem at the Stubbs Road Lookout.

[Post-meeting note: Members' views on the traffic congestion at Stubbs Road were conveyed to TIA, TD and the Police on 3 May 2024 with a request for a written reply and attendance at the next TTC meeting. TIA provided a written reply in this regard on 17 May 2024, while TD and the Police also provided written replies in this regard on 20 May 2024].

28. The Chairperson announced the closure of the agenda.

Item 8: Date of Next Meeting

29. The Chairperson announced that the next meeting would be held on 4 June 2024 (Tuesday) at 3:00 pm.

30. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 pm.

Wan Chai District Council Secretariat
May 2024