(Translation)

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee 7th Term of Wan Chai District Council Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Date: 5 November 2024 (Tuesday)

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Venue: District Council Conference Room, Wan Chai District Office, 21/F

Southorn Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Hong Kong

Present	<u>Arrival</u>	Departure
Chairperson		
Mr LAM Wai-kong, MH	2:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
Vice-chairperson		
Mr SUN Tao-hung, Stanley, JP	2:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
<u>Members</u>		
Mr NG Chak-sum, Sam	2:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
Mr LEE Man-lung, Joey, MH	2:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
Ms LEE Pik-yee, Peggy, MH	2:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
Dr CHOW Kam-wai, BBS, MH	2:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
Mr LAM Wai-man, Anson	2:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
Ms MOK Ruby	2:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
Mr MUK Ka-chun	2:30 p.m.	3:00 p.m.
Co-opted member		
Mr WONG Chau-hing	2:30 p.m.	3:00 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 CHENG Siu-ping, Jessica	Principal Estate Officer/Hong Kong East	
	(District Lands Offices), Lands Department	

Mr LI Wing-yip, Foreaf District Operations Officer (Wan Chai),

Hong Kong Police Force

Officer-in-charge, District Traffic Team (Wan Mr AU YEUNG Leung

Chai), Hong Kong Police Force

Officer-in-charge, District Traffic Team Mr HO Wing-wah

(Eastern), Hong Kong Police Force

Mr DENG Shinuo, Snow District Engineer/Wan Chai, Highways

Department

Mr CHAN Quan-wai, Aaron Engineer/Wan Chai 2, Transport Department Mr WONG Chun-man, Edmond Engineer/Wan Chai 3, Transport Department Engineer/Special Duties, Transport Department Mr WONG Pak-lim Miss LEUNG Hoi-kei, Christina

Senior Transport Officer/Wan Chai, Transport

Department

Representatives of Other Government Departments

Ms WANG Ze-yu Engineer 5-2/Works Division, Highways

Department

Vice Chairman, Mannings (Asia) Consultants Mr CHEUNG Martin

Limited

Deputy Project Manager, Mannings (Asia) Mr NGAN Philip

Consultants Limited

Mr TANG Sam Deputy Project Manager, Mannings (Asia)

Consultants Limited

Mr NG Jimmy Project Engineer, Mannings (Asia) Consultants

Limited

Opening Remarks

The Chairperson welcomed all Members and representatives of government departments to the 5th meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee ("TTC") of the 7th Wan Chai District Council ("WCDC"), and welcomed Ms DENG Shinuo, Snow, District Engineer/Wan Chai of the Highways Department (HyD), to her first committee meeting.

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

The Chairperson said that the Secretariat had not received any proposed 2.

amendments from Members before the meeting.

3. The minutes of the 4th meeting were confirmed with a motion moved by Mr MUK Ka-chun, and seconded by Mr NG Chak-sum, Sam.

Item 2: Summary of Temporary Traffic and Transport Arrangements in Wan Chai District (TTC Paper No. 18/2024)

- 4. <u>The Chairperson</u> asked the representative of the Transport Department (TD) to introduce Paper No. 18/2024.
- 5. <u>Miss LEUNG Hoi-kei, Christina</u>, Senior Transport Officer/Wan Chai of TD, introduced the paper.
- 6. There being no questions from Members, <u>the Chairperson</u> invited Members to note 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 Three Months and
 their Schedules
 (TTC Paper No. 19/2024)
- 7. <u>The Chairperson</u> asked the representatives of TD and HyD to introduce Paper No. 19/2024.
- 8. <u>Mr WONG Chun-man, Edmond</u>, Engineer/Wan Chai 3 of TD, and <u>Ms DENG</u> <u>Shinuo, Snow</u>, District Engineer/Wan Chai of HyD, introduced the paper.
- 9. There being no questions from Members, <u>the Chairperson</u> invited Members to note the above paper.

Item 4: Summary of Traffic and Transport Works in Wan Chai District (TTC Paper No. 20/2024)

10. The Chairperson asked the representative of HyD to introduce Paper No. 20/2024.

- 11. Ms DENG Shinuo, Snow, District Engineer/Wan Chai of HyD, introduced the paper.
- 12. There being no questions from Members, <u>the Chairperson</u> invited Members to note the above paper

Item 5: Provision of Walkway Covers Connecting to Tung Wah Eastern Hospital (TTC Paper No. 21/2024)

13. <u>The Chairperson</u> welcomed the following persons to the meeting:

Highways Department

Engineer 5-2/ Works Division Ms WANG Ze-yu

Mannings (Asia) Consultants Limited

Vice Chairman Mr CHEUNG Martin
Deputy Project Manager Mr NGAN Philip
Deputy Project Manager Mr TANG Sam
Project Engineer Mr NG Jimmy

- 14. Mr NGAN Philip, Deputy Project Manager of Mannings (Asia) Consultants Limited, introduced the preliminary design proposal for the provision of walkway covers connecting to Tung Wah Eastern Hospital.
- 15. Members' opinions and questions were consolidated as follows:
 - (i) The proposal was welcomed and supported.
 - (ii) Members asked about the specific construction time for this project.
 - (iii) The District Council had previously proposed building a cover over the pavement outside Tung Wah Eastern Hospital, but government departments at the time pointed out that the underground pipes were in a complicated condition and it would be difficult to build a cover. In this connection, the consultant was asked whether it had conducted any investigation to see if the underground pipes would affect the feasibility of the project; and

(iv) Pedestrians going to Tung Wah Eastern Hospital had to pass through the car park outside the hospital before reaching the main entrance of the hospital, resulting in vehicle-pedestrian conflicts. In this connection, HyD was asked whether there was any plan to open up a pedestrian-only access connecting the sitting-out area outside the hospital to the bus stop. It was requested that if the Department had such a plan, it should inform the Committee of the progress of the project in a timely manner.

16. Mr NGAN Philip, Deputy Project Manager of Mannings (Asia) Consultants Limited, responded as follows:

- (i) The tendering process for the project was expected to begin in early 2025, with construction starting in the second quarter. The earliest planned completion date was the fourth quarter of 2026; and
- (ii) Underground pipe plans and investigation data provided by relevant government departments and agencies would be gathered and studied, while the feasibility of diverting the underground pipes along the Tung Wah Eastern Hospital road section would be explored to accommodate the construction of the walkway cover. In addition, large-scale water pipes and drainage facilities were located underground along the road section near the Hong Kong Stadium. The construction of walkway covers for this road section would avoid the relevant underground facilities.

17. Ms Wang Ze-yu, Engineer 5-2/Works Division of HyD, responded as follows:

- (i) TD had discussed with the relevant departments earlier that the construction of cover was technically more difficult outside the Hong Kong Stadium as there were large-scale underground stormwater drainage facilities under the stadium. At this stage, HyD would continue to discuss with the relevant departments on how to construct covers for the pedestrian walkway as far as possible without altering the underground stormwater drainage facilities outside the Hong Kong Stadium, so as to meet the demand of the pedestrians going to and from the hospital; and
- (ii) The road outside the main entrance of the hospital which resulted in vehicle-pedestrian conflicts was under the management of the hospital. The

proposed project of building a cover over the existing pedestrian walkway outside the hospital could provide shade and shelter from the rain for pedestrians going to and from the hospital and the nearby bus stop, and also guide the pedestrians to take a safe walking route to and from the hospital.

18. There being no further questions from Members, the Chairperson announced that discussion on the agenda was concluded and invited Members to note the above paper. The representatives of HyD and Mannings (Asia) Consultants Limited were asked to leave the meeting first.

Item 6: Any Other Business

- 19. Members' opinions and questions were consolidated as follows:
 - (i) HyD was asked about the works progress of the lift and pedestrian access system connecting Lau Sin Street and Tin Hau Temple Road, and was requested to provide the relevant consultancy report.
 - (ii) Some professional drivers had reflected that there were many traffic lights in Wan Chai District, and the traffic light change times were relatively long, with some traffic lights taking as long as two minutes to change. For example, there were three traffic lights on the way from Fleming Road to the Convention and Exhibition Centre, and the journey would take three to five minutes. Not only does it extend the travel time, it also affected the income of professional drivers;
 - (iii) The pedestrian crossing traffic lights at the junction of Fleming Road Flyover and Lockhart Road did not allow sufficient time for pedestrians to cross the road, which particularly affected the elderly. TD was asked to consider installing a smart device dedicated to the elderly at the crossing that could extend the flashing time of green light for pedestrians, so that the elderly could use their Octopus cards to activate the smart device at the pedestrian crossing to extend the flashing time of "Green Man Light";
 - (iv) TD had previously consulted the public on adding double yellow lines to Wong Nai Chung Road. However, taxi drivers often stopped by there to use the public toilet around, while the parking meters there were often full. The police had also recently stepped up enforcement against illegal

parking. It was hence suggested that TD should consider removing the double yellow lines on that section of Wong Nai Chung Road that was not part of the trunk road, so that taxi drivers could attend to their biological needs;

- (v) Some Happy Valley residents had reported that it was becoming increasingly common for vehicles displaying "Parking Certificate for Drivers Who Carry People with Mobility Disabilities" to park overtime in accessible parking spaces, which was suspected of being an abuse. Unlike holders of the "Disabled Person's Parking Permit" who could park their vehicles in accessible parking spaces for a period not exceeding 24 hours, TD might review whether the time limit for holders of the "Parking Certificate for Drivers Who Carry People with Mobility Disabilities" to park in accessible parking spaces should be reduced; and
- (vi) Some members of the public had reported that the adjustment of the route of Citybus Route 1 had caused inconvenience to residents commuting between Happy Valley and Mount Davis. TD was asked about their data collection method for the occupancy rate of Citybus Route 1.
- 20. Ms DENG Shinuo, Snow, District Engineer/Wan Chai of HyD, responded that the Department would continue to conduct investigation and research and preliminary design for the lift and pedestrian access system connecting Lau Sin Street and Tin Hau Temple Road, and would actively handle related technical issues to ensure its feasibility of construction. The Department would adjust the implementation process as appropriate in accordance with established procedures and taking into account the latest developments, including policy developments and the government's financial situation. Besides, after the meeting, Members' enquiries about the project-related information would be conveyed to the relevant engineering team, and supplementary information would be submitted to the Members in a timely manner.
- 21. The responses of Mr CHAN Quan-wai, Aaron, Engineer/Wan Chai 2 of TD and Mr WONG Chun-man, Edmond, Engineer/Wan Chai 3 of TD, were consolidated as follows:
 - (i) The traffic flow on Fleming Road was quite high, so a relatively longer traffic light cycle time was required, and the time for green light was

allocated to pedestrians lights and vehicular lights in each direction according to actual traffic conditions. TD would adjust the time for green light according to traffic conditions, so as to balance the needs of all parties between pedestrians and vehicles.

(ii) A certain number of parking spaces with parking meters were available near the public toilet on Wong Nai Chung Road. The "no stopping" zone was designated in response to and to solve the problem of traffic congestion caused by vehicles often parking at the entrance to the car park, as reflected to TD by members of the public. Nevertheless, TD would continue to review the traffic situation there and adjust the corresponding optimisation measures to balance traffic safety and drivers' needs to park their vehicles; and

[**Post-meeting note**: TD supplemented the information after the meeting, stating that the relevant item was a proposal to designate a single yellow line (no-stopping zone from 7 am to midnight, except for picking up or setting down passengers).]

- (iii) The Department noted and would examine in due course the installation of smart devices on Fleming Road to extend the flashing time of green lights for pedestrians for the elderly and disabled, and review the traffic management measures there.
- 22. <u>Miss LEUNG Hoi-kei, Christina</u>, Senior Transport Officer/Wan Chai of TD, responded as follows:
 - (i) The suggestion of reducing the time limit for drivers carrying "Parking Certificate for Drivers Who Carry People with Mobility Disabilities" to park in accessible parking spaces had been noted and would be referred to the relevant section of TD for appropriate follow-up. In the event of any illegal parking, the police would take enforcement action against the illegally parked vehicle; and
 - (ii) Members' views on the route of Citybus Route 1 were noted.

Item 7: <u>Date of Next Meeting</u>

- 23. <u>The Chairperson</u> announced that the next meeting would be held on 3 December 2024 (Tuesday) at 3:00 p.m.
- 24. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Wan Chai District Council Secretariat November 2024