

**Minutes of the 1st Special Meeting of
Traffic and Transport Committee
Yau Tsim Mong District Council (2012-2015)**

Date: 19 September 2013 (Thursday)
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Venue: Yau Tsim Mong District Council Conference Room
4/F., Mong Kok Government Offices
30 Luen Wan Street
Mong Kok, Kowloon

Present:

Chairman

Mr IP Ngo-tung, Chris

Vice-chairman

Mr WONG Chung, John

District Council Members

Mr CHUNG Kong-mo, JP	Mr HUNG Chiu-wah, Derek	Ms WONG Shu-ming
Ms KO Po-ling, BBS, MH, JP	Ms KWAN Sau-ling	Mr YEUNG Tsz-hei, Benny, MH
Mr CHAN Siu-tong, MH	Mr LAU Pak-kei	
Mr CHOW Chun-fai, BBS, JP	Mr WONG Kin-san	

Co-opted Members

Mr CHAN Sik-ming	Mr LEUNG Shiu-cheong
Mr CHUI Kin-man	Mr MAN Cheong-ming, Chris
Mr HUI Hon-man	Mr YIM Kin-ping, JP
Mr LAW Siu-hung, Paul	

Representatives of the Government

Mr FUNG Kwok-leung, Andrew	Senior Liaison Officer (1)	Home Affairs Department
Ms YUEN Miu-chun, Christine	Senior Transport Officer/Yau Tsim Mong	Transport Department
Miss KUNG Wai-han, Sally	Engineer/Mongkok & Yaumatei	Transport Department
Mr PANG Tat-wing	District Engineer/Mong Kok	Highways Department
Mr MOK Man-wai	Officer-in-Charge, District Traffic Team (Mong Kok District)	Hong Kong Police Force

In Attendance:

Mr CHAN Wai-tak	Senior Engineer/Kowloon District West	Transport Department
Mr Raymond CHAN	General Manager	Kai Shing Management Services Limited
Mr Ken HO	Senior Property and Facility Manager	Kai Shing Management Services Limited
Ms Julia LAU	Director	Traces Ltd.

Secretary

Miss MAN Shuk-yan, Karen Executive Officer (District Council) 1, Home Affairs Department
Yau Tsim Mong District Office

Absent:

Mr CHAN Wai-keung	District Council Member
Mr CHOI Siu-fung, Benjamin	District Council Member
Mr HAU Wing-cheong, BBS, MH	District Council Member
Mr HUI Tak-leung	District Council Member
Mr WONG Man-sing, Barry, MH	District Council Member
Mr LEUNG Ping-foon	Co-opted Member

Opening Remarks

The Chairman welcomed participants and those who were in attendance to the meeting. He said he had confirmed with the Yau Tsim Mong District Council Secretariat (“the Secretariat”) before the meeting that the attendance rates of the special meetings and regular meetings of the Traffic and Transport Committee (“TTC”) would be calculated separately.

2. The Chairman proposed that Councillors and Members be allowed to speak no more than twice on each item: two minutes for the first time and one minute for the second time. There was no objection.

3. The Chairman reported that Mr HAU Wing-cheong and Mr LEUNG Ping-foon were absent due to other commitments. He also said that the audio record of the meeting would be uploaded to the webpage of the Yau Tsim Mong District Council. In addition, according to the Standing Order, the Chairman could issue warnings to Councillors/Members and members of the public attending or observing the meeting who acted in a disorderly manner and interrupted the proceedings of the meeting. If the warnings were not heeded, the Chairman could order such persons to leave the venue.

Item 1: Discussion over Bulk Vehicles Entering and Leaving Grand Century Place, Mong Kok from/for Prince Edward Road West and Their Impact on Road Safety

4. The Chairman said that on 14 September 2013, a man died after being knocked down by a coach entering Prince Edward Road West from Grand Century Place, Mong Kok. In the light of the accident, he convened the special meeting to discuss bulk vehicles entering and leaving Grand Century Place from/for Prince Edward Road West and their impact on road safety. He then welcomed the following representatives to the meeting:

- (a) Mr CHAN Wai-tak, Senior Engineer/Kowloon District West; Ms Christine YUEN, Senior Transport Officer/Yau Tsim Mong and Miss Sally KUNG, Engineer/Mongkok & Yaumatei of the Transport Department (“TD”);
- (b) Representatives of Sun Hung Kai Properties Limited:

- Mr Raymond CHAN, General Manager and Mr Ken HO, Senior Property and Facility Manager of Kai Shing Management Services Limited;
- Ms Julia LAU, Director of Traces Limited;
- (c) Mr MOK Man-wai, Officer-in-Charge District Traffic Team (Mong Kok District) of the Hong Kong Police Force (“HKPF”); and
- (d) Mr PANG Tat-wing, District Engineer/Mong Kok of the Highways Department (“HyD”).

5. Mr WONG Kin-san expressed his deepest condolences to the family of the victim of the traffic accident. He recalled that he had submitted a paper to the TTC meeting in November 2012 for discussion of bulk vehicles entering and leaving Grand Century Place from/for Prince Edward Road West and their impact on road safety. At the time, the consultant of Grand Century Place proposed converting the one-way Luen Wan Street leading to the shopping mall into a two-way road. Members had conducted a site visit with representatives of the TD after the meeting. However, the TD had yet to adopt any improvement measure. He criticised the TD for being lax and bureaucratic and he urged the department to draw up a timetable at the meeting with a view to implementing measures to improve road safety on Prince Edward Road West.

(Mr CHOW Chun-fai, Ms KWAN Sau-ling, Mr Benny YEUNG, Mr HUI Hon-man and Mr Paul LAW joined the meeting at 10:35 a.m.)

6. Ms WONG Shu-ming recalled that a fatal traffic accident happened at the same location of Prince Edward Road West around two years before. At the time, she requested the HyD to install vehicle speed detectors on Prince Edward Road West. However, the HyD indicated that it was difficult to install such speed detectors as there were a lot of underground utilities. Giving due weight to the traffic accident, she urged the TD to convert Luen Wan Street from one-way to two-way traffic as soon as possible and improve the existing traffic arrangement on Prince Edward Road West, such as retrofitting of traffic signals and relocating minibus/taxi stands backwards so as to safeguard pedestrian safety.

7. Mr CHAN Wai-tak responded as follows:

- (i) The HKPF was investigating the traffic accident at Prince Edward Road West on 14 September 2013. The TD would review the traffic arrangement at Prince Edward Road West in accordance with the investigation report of the HKPF and would propose feasible improvement measures.
- (ii) After the accident, the TD had reviewed the traffic arrangement at Prince Edward Road West with representatives of the HKPF and Grand Century Place and proposed interim improvement measures.
- (iii) The TD had written to minibus operators, reminding them not to drop off or pick up passengers at the vehicular ramp of the entrance of the Grand Century Place Car Park on Prince Edward Road West so that passengers could not go from that spot to Mong Kok East MTR Station.

- (iv) The TD planned to install railings at the pavement of Prince Edward Road West near Grand Century Place. Then minibus passengers could alight only at a location farther away and go to Mong Kok East MTR Station through the ramp and escalator of Grand Century Place.
- (v) The TD had widened the yellow box marking area at the entrance of the Grand Century Car Park to prevent vehicles from stopping there so that coaches could enter Prince Edward Road West from Grand Century Place more easily.
- (vi) The TD had held discussions with bus companies. However, they did not support the proposal of allowing coaches to leave from the bus stop at the transport interchange at Luen Wan Street because it would affect the bus operation there. The consultant would continue to study how to designate a passing lane for bulk vehicles at Luen Wan Street and would launch a trail run for coaches.

8. Ms Julia LAU pointed out that the passing lane for coaches at the transport interchange at Luen Wan Street proposed by the consultant was not a bus-only lane. She added that the consultant would discuss with the TD again and amend the proposal.

9. Mr MOK Man-wai responded as follows:

- (i) The traffic accident in question happened at around 7:20 a.m. on 14 September 2013. The coach driver concerned was arrested for dangerous driving causing death. The case was still under investigation.
- (ii) The junction of Prince Edward Road West and Luen Wan Street was not a traffic black spot. According to the Police's record, there were a total of four traffic accidents causing injuries between September 2012 and August 2013.
- (iii) The HKPF had conducted a site inspection with representatives of the TD and Grand Century Place on 17 September 2013 to review the current traffic arrangement of bulk vehicles moving between Grand Century Place and Prince Edward Road West.
- (vi) The Mong Kok Police District had deployed a uniformed police officer to station at the entrance of the Grand Century Place Car Park on Prince Edward Road West to ensure road safety.

10. Mr Pang Tat-wing responded that the HyD would work with the TD to aim at an early implementation of the road improvement measures.

11. Mr LEUNG Shiu-cheong pointed out that there were relatively fewer passengers boarding or alighting at the bus stop of Prince Edward Road West near Grand Century Place. He proposed to move the bus stop of route nos 2C, 203 and 104 backwards and to relocate the en route stop of the remaining routes from Prince Edward Road West to Embankment Road. He also suggested that all green minibus routes with en route stops at Prince Edward Road

West should pick up or drop off passengers at the green minibus stop of no. 12 at Prince Edward Road West. Double yellow lines should be painted at the section of Prince Edward Road West between the entrance of the Grand Century Place Car Park and Embankment Road to make it a twenty-four-hour restricted zone. Moreover, he requested Kai Shing Management Services Limited to paint a "SLOW" marking on the vehicular ramp of the entrance of the Grand Century Place Car Park to remind drivers to stay alert to road safety. The management company should also deploy more staff to control traffic.

12. Ms KO Po-ling indicated that many pedestrians would go to Mong Kok East MTR station from Prince Edward Road West through the entrance of the Grand Century Place Car Park. As bulk vehicles frequented the entrance, pedestrians and other vehicles were at risk. She therefore urged the TD, Grand Century Place, HKPF and HyD to cooperate in putting forward targeted traffic improvement measures. Moreover, as the traffic at Prince Edward Road West was very busy, she hoped the department concerned could make use of the space at the transport interchange at Luen Wan Street and let coaches leave Grand Century Place via Luen Wan Street in order to alleviate traffic congestion at Prince Edward Road West.

13. The Chairman added that the District Officer (Yau Tsim Mong) had conducted a site inspection with representatives of the TTC and TD on 7 February 2013 to know more about the proposed passing lane for coaches entering/leaving Grand Century Place via Luen Wan Street. He recalled that the TD representatives had undertaken to report on the progress of the proposal at the TTC meeting in July 2013 as far as possible. He asked the TD to explain why there had not been any progress to date.

14. Mr CHUNG Kong-mo expressed his deepest condolence and sympathy to the deceased's family of the traffic accident. He said that Mr WONG Kin-san had raised the safety concern about bulk vehicles entering Prince Edward Road West from Grand Century Place about one year before and had submitted a paper to the TTC for discussion. He expressed regret that the TD had yet to adopt any improvement measures and hoped the TD could take the views of the District Council ("DC") Member of the constituency concerned seriously. He further said that vehicles entered the Prince Edward Road West Flyover at an excessively high speed and accidents were likely to happen. Moreover, the entrance of the car park at 152A-D Prince Edward Road West was not well-designed and vehicles entering/leaving there might pose danger to pedestrians. He hoped the TD could deal with the above traffic problems together.

15. Mr Derek HUNG said that there was potential hazard at the entrance of the Grand Century Place Car Park near Prince Edward Road West by referring to the Police's record that there were as many as four traffic accidents in one year. He further said that the TD had not followed up the coach passing lane option proposed by Grand Century Place proactively after the site inspection in February 2013, nor did it prepare a design of the revised option for the current special meeting. He was disappointed in the department's performance.

16. Mr CHUI Kin-man said that there were blind spots when drivers of bulk vehicles entered Prince Edward Road West from the ramp of the Grand Century Place. They might not be able to check the road condition of the pavement on the left while they were occupied with observing the vehicular flow of Prince Edward Road West on the right. As a result, accidents might occur. He supported the TD in installing railings at the section of pavement near the entrance of the Grand Century Place Car Park on Prince Edward Road West lest minibuses stopped there to pick up or drop off passengers.

17. Mr CHAN Siu-tong said that the DC Member of the constituency concerned had repeatedly requested the TD to improve the traffic arrangement at Prince Edward Road West over the years, but the TD only adopted remedial measures after traffic accidents happened. He urged the TD to review its current practice and improve the traffic arrangement at the entrance of the Grand Century Place Car Park on Prince Edward Road West.

18. Ms KWAN Sau-ling said that there were often coaches picking up or dropping off passengers in the middle of the road on Chatham Road and outside the Chinachem Golden Plaza, Tsim Sha Tsui and accidents were likely to happen. She hoped the TD could provide people-based service and alleviate the road safety problem in the district as soon as possible.

19. Mr CHOW Chun-fai recalled that he had held an unofficial meeting with representatives of the TD and the Police three years before to discuss the road safety improvement measures on Prince Edward Road West, but the TD had yet to implement any arrangement ever since. He proposed drawing up an implementation timetable for converting Luen Wan Street from one-way traffic to two-way traffic at the current meeting.

20. The Chairman urged the TD to convert Luen Wan Street from one-way traffic to two-way traffic on a trial basis before November 2013 so that bulk vehicles could leave Grand Century Place via Luen Wan Street. Moreover, he requested the TD to also review the road safety problem of coaches picking up or dropping off passengers in the middle of the road and the entrance of the car park at 152A-D Prince Edward Road West.

21. Mr WONG Kin-san opined that the deployment of Police officers to control traffic at the entrance of the Grand Century Place Car Park on Prince Edward Road West was only a temporary solution to the problem. He requested the TD to state clearly at the present meeting what measures it would propose to improve the road safety on Prince Edward Road West and when the measures could be implemented. He pointed out that a large number of coaches accessed Grand Century Place every day and he was afraid that more serious traffic accidents might happen if the TD did not implement traffic improvement measure in a timely manner.

22. Mr CHAN Wai-tak responded as follows:

- (i) The TD would adopt a two-pronged approach to improve the road safety of Prince Edward Road West while regulating traffic flow.
- (ii) In regard to the enhancement of road safety, the TD would install railings expeditiously at the pavement of the entrance of the Grand Century Place Car Park to extend the no-stopping zone. Moreover, the minibus stop would be relocated backwards to prohibit minibuses from picking up or dropping off passengers at the entrance of the car park.
- (iii) In regard to the regulation of traffic flow, the TD would continue to study with bus companies and the consultant of Grand Century Place how to arrange coaches to leave Grand Century Place via Luen Wan Street without affecting the bus operation at the transport interchange at Luen Wan Street. The TD would co-ordinate with the consultant to launch a trial run before

November 2013 and then amend the passing lane proposal having regard to the trial outcome.

- (iv) The TD would also review the road safety problems of the car park at 152A-D Prince Edward Road West and timely update the TTC on the progress.

23. Mr MOK Man-wai added that the deployment of Police officers to station at the entrance of the Grand Century Place Car Park on Prince Edward Road West was only a temporary measure. The aim was to observe road conditions of the site at various times to provide a basis for the Police and TD to formulate targeted road safety measures.

24. Ms Julia LAU added that during the meeting between representatives of Grand Century Place and the Police in November 2011, the Police had also suggested converting Luen Wan Street from a one-way to a two-way road so that coaches could enter or leave Grand Century Place via Luen Wan Street. She suggested inviting representatives of the bus companies, TD and Grand Century Place to discuss how to refine the proposal after the meeting.

25. Mr MOK Man-wai said that the Police had put forward preliminary improvement suggestions in regard to the road condition at Prince Edward Road West. However, the feasibility of those suggestions was subject to confirmation by the TD.

26. Mr CHUI Kin-man proposed that the existing bus stops on Prince Edward Road West be relocated to Fa Yuen Street to alleviate congestion there.

27. Mr YIM Kin-ping opined that the traffic improvement measures proposed by the TD were inadequate. Moreover, he was worried that if coaches were diverted to Luen Wan Street, the traffic capacity of the transport interchange would be overloaded. He thus suggested that the TD first conduct a traffic impact assessment in this regard. He added that he had repeatedly reported to the TD and Police that there were coaches parking along the roadside of Salisbury Road, thereby passengers had to get on buses in the middle of the road. As the problem was yet to be solved, he urged the TD to follow up the issue proactively.

28. The Vice-chairman, taking the works at Anchor Street and outside the Mongkok Kai-Fong Association Limited as examples, pointed out that there had been a number of delays relating to road improvement works undertaken by the TD in the Yau Tsim Mong District. He requested that the TD to implement long-term and targeted improvement measures and to draw up the implementation timetable to improve the road safety of Prince Edward Road West in order to prevent the traffic accident from recurring.

29. The Chairman asked the Secretariat to set out all road improvement suggestions that the current-term TTC had required the TD to take follow-up actions to date for Members to choose from. The Secretariat would then prepare a checklist on road improvement suggestions for the TD to report on the progress one by one at the TTC meeting on 21 November 2013.

(Post-meeting note: The Secretariat had sought Members' views by circulation of papers in order to prepare the list of road improvement suggestions to be reported by the TD. After consideration, the Chairman decided that the TD

would report on the progress of the items (see Annex 1) selected by Members at the 12th TTC meeting on 16 January 2014.)

30. Mr CHOW Chun-fai wanted to know if bus companies were accorded the exclusive right to use the bus lanes at the transport interchange at Luen Wan Street.

31. The Chairman said that to his knowledge, bus companies and the TD had agreed on the right to use the bus stop area. He then proposed Members to conduct a site visit in early October with representatives of the TD, Grand Century Place and bus companies so as to better understand the details of the trial run of diverting coaches to leave Grand Century Place via Luen Wan Street. He also urged the TD to pilot the conversion of Luen Wan Street from one-way traffic to two-way traffic before November and report its outcome at the next TTC meeting.

32. There being no further comments, the Chairman closed the discussion on this item.

(Post-meeting note: TTC Members had conducted a site visit at Luen Wan Street and Prince Edward Road West with representatives of the TD, Grand Century Place, Kowloon Motor Bus and Yau Tsim Mong District Office on 4 October 2013.)

Item 2: Any Other Business

33. The Chairman said that the Secretariat had not received other items for discussion.

34. There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

Yau Tsim Mong District Council Secretariat
October 2013

委員選出要求運輸署跟進的道路改善建議

交通運輸委員會討論文件 標題	交通運輸委員會討論文件編號	交通運輸委員會討論日期
1. 要求改善西隧九龍出口及三號幹線往佐敦道的指示	9/2012	2012 年 3 月 15 日
2. 有關尖沙咀區部份泊車位問題	15/2012	2012 年 3 月 15 日
3. 強烈要求妥善規劃西九文化區未來交通配套	23/2012	2012 年 5 月 24 日
4. 關注櫻樹街、晏架街交界交通擠塞問題	32/2012	2012 年 5 月 24 日
5. 旺角太子道西 152A-D 號地段用途	58/2012	2012 年 11 月 29 日
6. 跟進櫻桃區多項交通改善工程的進度	6/2013	2013 年 1 月 17 日
7. 要求部門採取措施配合油麻地「御金國峰」入伙後的交通需求	21/2013	2013 年 3 月 21 日

另外，委員崔健文先生提出新的道路改善建議如下：

「由於914號巴士由佐敦道左轉入廣東道再左轉甘肅街往西隧往香港，建議由佐敦道左轉入廣東道的廣東道左及右兩邊設雙黃線，但不要太長，讓914號巴士更容易通過。」