

For information on
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**Lantau Development Advisory Committee
Traffic and Transport Subcommittee**

**Implementation of the Relaxation Measures in respect of Access of Tour
Coaches and Private Cars to the Closed Roads in South Lantau**

PURPOSE

This paper aims to inform Members of the implementation of the relaxation measures in respect of access of tour coaches and private cars to the closed roads in South Lantau.

BACKGROUND

2. In January 2015, the Chief Executive announced in his Policy Address that, among others, review of the arrangements for closed roads and issuance of closed road permits for Lantau would be rolled out in full swing in 2015 to support its short term economic and community development. Having regard to the current road conditions, traffic flow, parking facilities and their utilisation in South Lantau, in June this year, the Transport Department (“TD”) proposed increasing the maximum number of tour coaches that will be permitted to enter South Lantau per day from 30 to 50, and permitting 50 private cars to enter roads in South Lantau from Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays) for recreational and leisure purposes. At its meeting held on 24 June, the Traffic and Transport Subcommittee (“TTSC”) supported the above proposals and requested the Government to improve the road conditions and increase the parking facilities in South Lantau as soon as possible, streamline the permit application procedures and enhance publicity upon implementation of the measures.

3. The TD subsequently consulted the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Islands District Council, the four Rural Committees in Lantau, public

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transport operators, tourism sectors and green groups on the proposed relaxation measures. In conclusion, both supporting and opposing views were received during the consultation period. Opponents were mainly concerned about the impact on the natural rural environment of South Lantau. They opined that the road design in South Lantau was below standard and could not cope with substantial traffic flow. They were also worried that additional vehicles from outside would worsen the parking problem in South Lantau, and the drivers from outside who were unfamiliar with the road conditions in Lantau would be prone to traffic accidents.

MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED

4. The TD has considered the views collected. Regarding the roads in South Lantau, although major roads including Tung Chung Road, South Lantau Road and Keung Shan Road were built along hillside with steep gradients and sharp bends at some of the road sections, they are safe for use by vehicles. In fact, the TD has been making efforts to improve the road conditions in South Lantau. Apart from the provision of additional suitable traffic signs and road markings (such as ‘ramp ahead’, ‘sharp bend’, etc.) at relevant road sections to alert motorists, the TD has been actively working with relevant works department in recent years to carry out a number of road widening and road bend improvement works along South Lantau Road and Keung Shan Road. Among them, 12 road bend improvement works have been completed and the remaining works are now in full swing. The TD will continue to closely monitor the utilisation of the roads in South Lantau and adopt appropriate measures where necessary to ensure a safer and smoother driving.

5. Regarding traffic flow, the capacity of Tung Chung Road is 10,000 vehicles per day and those of South Lantau Road and Keung Shan Road are both 8,000 vehicles per day. According to the survey conducted by the TD, the current average daily traffic is about 4,700 vehicles on Tung Chung Road, and 3,200 on South Lantau Road. The average daily traffic is 2,560 vehicles on the section of Keung Shan Road between South Lantau Road and Sham Wat Road, and only 1,110 vehicles on the section between Sham Wat Road and Tai O Road. In view of the above, those road sections still have substantial spare capacity to accommodate the additional traffic generated from the proposed measures.

6. Regarding parking facilities, there are a total of 48 parking spaces for

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tour coaches and 436 public parking spaces for private cars in South Lantau, scattered in major tourist spots and residential clusters. According to recent site surveys conducted by the TD, unless the additional vehicles brought by the proposed measures park at the same location at the same time, there would be adequate parking spaces for tour coaches and private cars in South Lantau to accommodate the additional parking demand brought by the proposed measures. In light of residents' concerns, the TD is now actively liaising with the Lands Department in turning vacant government sites at suitable locations (including Mui Wo, Yim Tin Pok in Tai O, Shui Hau and Tong Fuk) into short-term tenancy car parks to increase the provision of public parking spaces for private cars.

7. The TD considers that the proposed relaxation measures in respect of access of tour coaches and private cars to the closed roads in South Lantau are mild and will have minimal impact on the natural environment and traffic. After considering the concerns over the proposal by different stakeholders, the TD decides to implement the relaxation measures in phases as follows:

- (a) The maximum number of tour coaches permitted to enter South Lantau per day will be increased from 30 to 40. Raising the cap on the number of tour coaches to 40 will take effect from 25 December. The existing application procedures will remain unchanged.
- (b) The quotas for private cars permitted to enter South Lantau from Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays) for recreational and leisure purposes will be 25. The TD will allocate five of the 25 private car quotas to electric private cars to promote environmental protection. The private cars will be permitted to enter South Lantau between 8 am and 7 pm. The TD will publish guidelines to the motorists permitted to enter South Lantau to enable them to get familiar with the road conditions. The TD is installing a computer system to facilitate the public to submit online applications. The new system is expected to be rolled out in February 2016 the earliest. Details of the application will be announced later.

8. Upon implementation of the above measures, the TD will closely monitor the traffic conditions as well as the provision and utilisation of parking spaces in South Lantau. A review on the implementation timetable of the second phase of the relaxation measures will be conducted in due course.

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9. Members are invited to note the above arrangements.

Transport Department
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