

**Lantau Development Advisory Committee  
Traffic and Transport Subcommittee**

**Suggestion to Open the SkyPier for Other Purposes**

**PURPOSE**

Among the comments and suggestions received by the Lantau Development Advisory Committee, there are suggestions to open the SkyPier as a cross-boundary ferry pier. This paper elaborates the Government's opinions on the suggested opening of the SkyPier as public cross-boundary pier.

**OPERATION OF THE SKYPIER**

2. Located in the Restricted Area of the Hong Kong International Airport ("HKIA"), the SkyPier is owned and managed by the Airport Authority Hong Kong ("AAHK"). It is constructed primarily for providing convenient and speedy ferry services for air-to-sea/sea-to-air transit passengers travelling between Hong Kong and the Pearl River Delta ("PRD") area.<sup>1</sup> Passengers from the PRD area (including Macao) who take flights at the HKIA can first complete the immigration procedures<sup>2</sup> at their home places and take the ferries to the SkyPier. Upon arrival, they can take the automated people mover and enter the airport control area for boarding, without having to complete the immigration procedures in Hong Kong. As for transit passengers heading for the PRD area upon arrival at the HKIA, they only need to purchase ferry tickets at the transfer area at Terminal 1, have their tickets scanned at the automated

---

<sup>1</sup> The SkyPier provides ferry services connecting 8 ports in the PRD area, namely: Shekou and Fuyong in Shenzhen, Maritime Ferry Terminal and Taipa in Macao, Humen in Dongguan, Nansha in Guangzhou, Zhongshan and Jiuzhou in Zhuhai.

<sup>2</sup> At present, 16 airlines provide check-in services for transit passengers at the ports in the PRD area and Macao. Transit passengers who use other participating airlines will have to go through the check-in procedures at the SkyPier at the HKIA upon arrival.

**(Translated Version)**

people mover gates and confirm their baggage status, before directly taking the automated people mover to the SkyPier for boarding the ferries. During the process, they do not have to complete the immigration procedures at the HKIA and their checked baggage will be directly delivered to the ports of their destinations in the PRD area. At present, some 80 airlines provide check-in services at the SkyPier and there are nearly 90 ferry trips per day. Since the SkyPier is not provided with customs, immigration and quarantine facilities, it is not open for use by non-transit passengers.

3. The AAHK operates the SkyPier in accordance with the Deed of Security signed with the Government and is required to meet the security requirements for transit passengers and baggage. Therefore, upon arrival at the SkyPier and the Restricted Area of the HKIA, transit passengers from the PRD and Macao boundary crossing facilities are required to go through security check before boarding.

### **CROSS-BOUNDARY FERRY TERMINALS MANAGED BY THE GOVERNMENT**

4. There are two government-managed cross-boundary ferry terminals, viz. the Hong Kong-Macao Ferry Terminal and the China Ferry Terminal. Planning and provision of cross-boundary ferry terminals are subject to the overall demand in Hong Kong. As the two ferry terminals still have sufficient capacity to meet the projected cross-boundary demand in the foreseeable future, the Government has no plan to operate a third self-managed cross-boundary ferry terminal. Moreover, road-based traffic between Hong Kong and the western PRD will become more convenient upon the commissioning of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge. It will take an hour to reach Macao and Zhuhai and three hours to major cities in the western PRD from the Hong Kong boundary crossing facilities by land transport. Objectively speaking, there is no need to provide cross-boundary ferry services at the Hong Kong boundary crossing facilities to Macao and the same destinations in the western PRD.

**January 2015**