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

Lantau Taxi Service

INTRODUCTION

This paper aims to give a brief account of taxi service arrangements and situations in Lantau.

ARRANGEMENTS OF TAXI SERVICES IN LANTAU

2. There are three types of taxis in Hong Kong, namely Lantau, urban and New Territories taxis. These three types of taxis have their own operating areas to ensure those living in remote areas can also have taxi services. According to the present arrangements, all three types of taxis can operate in Lantau. Lantau taxis can provide local taxi service on the whole Lantau, including the Airport. Urban taxis, which are not permitted to enter South Lantau, can operate in other parts of Lantau, including North Lantau and the Airport, to provide local and external services. New Territories taxis can carry passengers between their operating areas in the New Territories, the Airport and the Hong Kong Disneyland, along specified routes only. Details of their respective scales of fares are at **Annex**.

SITUATION OF TAXI SERVICES IN LANTAU

3. Lantau taxis have been in operation since 1982. In the past, economic activities and daily passenger transport demands on Lantau were mainly concentrated on South Lantau. Lantau taxis thus used to serve primarily the residents on South Lantau. Following the developments of North Lantau (such as the Tung Chung New Town and the Airport), the service area of Lantau taxis was extended to North Lantau as well but their key function of

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serving South Lantau remains unchanged. Currently, there are 50 Lantau taxis operating on Lantau. Urban taxis have been serving North Lantau (including the Airport) since 1997. There are about 4 000 Urban taxi trips serving North Lantau and the Airport every day, with about 800 paid trips within North Lantau. As for New Territories taxis, there are about 570 paid trips between their operating areas in the New Territories, the Airport and the Hong Kong Disneyland every day.

4. Every year, the Transport Department (“TD”) conducts surveys on the overall service level of taxis in Lantau in order to better understand the passenger demands for taxis services there and their operating situations. The surveys included on-site observations, as well as collection of views from the taxi trade and passengers. The survey results of 2014 summarily indicate that the average passenger waiting times for Lantau taxis and Urban taxis at the taxi stands outside Tung Chung MTR Station were about a few minutes on weekdays (from 7am to 8pm). However, we also noticed that the passenger waiting time for Lantau taxis was comparatively long during certain peak periods on holidays (especially during festivals) due to influx of visitors generating more passenger trips between Tung Chung and South Lantau, especially during the morning and afternoon peak periods. In light of this, the TD has strengthened the communication with the taxi trade so as to make appropriate arrangements to cater for the passenger demands at different locations and periods. For instance, the Lantau Taxi Association (“the Association”) will remind its member drivers to flexibly deploy their taxis and provide priority service to passengers waiting at the taxi stands during peak periods for enhancing service efficiency. Depending on the passenger demand at the Airport, the Airport Authority will also liaise with the Association where necessary for deployment of Lantau taxis to serve the Airport.

ISSUE OF NEW LANTAU TAXI LICENCES

5. The TD understands that some members of the public would like to have more Lantau taxi licences be issued by the Government. Taking into account the effective operation of the public transport system as well as the road capacity, it has been the Government’s established policy to issue new taxi licences as and when necessary having regard to the considerations including the demand for taxi services, operating conditions of the taxi trade and possible

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impact to traffic due to the increase in number of taxis. We are mindful that future developments in Lantau (such as the commissioning of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge) and the projected growth of local population and number of visitors will give rise to additional transport demands. The TD will thus continue to closely monitor the situations, review the service level of public transport in Lantau at appropriate junctures, and consider service enhancement as needed. Meanwhile, the TD will continue to listen to the comments of various parties, closely monitor the development of taxi trade and the taxi (including Lantau taxis) service level, and consider whether new licences will need to be issued according to the established policy.

Transport Department
January 2015

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Annex

Current fares of the three types of taxis:

<u>Lantau taxis</u>	Fare (HK\$)
First 2 kilometres or any part thereof	\$17
Every subsequent 200 metres or part thereof, or every period of 1 minute waiting time or part thereof	
Until the chargeable amount reaches \$143	\$1.4
After the chargeable amount has reached \$143	\$1.2

<u>Urban taxis</u>	Fare (HK\$)
First 2 kilometres or any part thereof	\$22
Every subsequent 200 metres or part thereof, or every period of 1 minute waiting time or part thereof	
Until the chargeable amount reaches \$78	\$1.6
After the chargeable amount has reached \$78	\$1
<u>Surcharge for Every Hiring Involving the Use of Toll Tunnel, Toll Road or Toll Area</u>	
Cross-Harbour Tunnel	Amount of toll paid by driver + \$10* (Return toll)
Eastern Harbour Crossing	Amount of toll paid by driver + \$15* (Return toll)
Western Harbour Crossing	Amount of toll paid by driver + \$15* (Return toll)
* The return toll is not payable by passenger if: the hiring begins from a cross-harbour taxi stand; or the final destination is not on the opposite side of the harbour.	
Lantau Link	\$30 (per use)
Other toll tunnel, toll road or toll area	Amount of toll paid by driver

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<u>New Territories taxis</u>	Fare (HK\$)
First 2 kilometres or any part thereof	\$18.5
Every subsequent 200 metres or part thereof, or every period of 1 minute waiting time or part thereof	
Until the chargeable amount reaches \$60.5	\$1.4
After the chargeable amount has reached \$60.5	\$1
<u>Surcharge for Every Hiring Involving the Use of Toll Tunnel, Toll Road or Toll Area</u>	
Lantau Link	\$30 (per use)
Other toll tunnel, toll road or toll area	Amount of toll paid by driver

<u>Additional Charges (Applicable to all three types of taxis)</u>	
Every piece of baggage (Except light personal hand baggage carried inside passenger compartment)	\$5
Wheelchairs and crutches carried by disabled passengers	Free
Every animal or bird	\$5
Every hiring arranged through telephone booking	\$5