

For discussion on
24 June 2015

LanDAC TTSC Paper No. 08/2015

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

**Traffic Restrictions and the Closed Road Permit Arrangements
in South Lantau**

PURPOSE

This paper invites Members' views on the proposed relaxation of the traffic restrictions on closed roads in South Lantau and the issuance of Lantau Closed Road Permits ("LCRPs").

BACKGROUND

2. At its meeting in March 2015, the Traffic and Transport Subcommittee ("TTSC") of the Lantau Development Advisory Committee was briefed by the Transport Department ("TD") on the current arrangements for the issuance of LCRPs and the public transport services as well as other major ancillary facilities in South Lantau. TD also briefed the TTSC on the considerations for relaxation of traffic restrictions, including that the measures should be in tandem with the current planning intention for preserving South Lantau as a conservation area and should be formulated with due regard to the receiving capacities of the tourist ancillary facilities. The scale of relaxation must not cause unacceptable negative impacts on the environment, traffic safety and livelihood of the residents. The TTSC generally agreed that the arrangements for closed roads in South Lantau and the issuance of LCRPs should not be revoked immediately at this stage. The TTSC also supported to relax the closed road arrangements in South Lantau in a gradual and orderly manner with due regard to the existing ancillary facilities. The TD advised that the TTSC would be consulted upon formulation of the detailed proposals.

PROPOSALS TO RELAX THE TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS ON ROADS IN SOUTH LANTAU

3. In consideration of the current road conditions, traffic volume, parking facilities and their utilisation in South Lantau, the TD proposes to implement the following measures to promote tourism development of Lantau and local economy in the near future.

(1) To increase the maximum number of coaches that can enter South Lantau per day from 30 to 50

4. Since the full opening of the improved Tung Chung Road (“TCR”) in February 2009, the TD has allowed a maximum of 30 coaches to access South Lantau via TCR every day. According to the TD’s records, there were 14 days in 2014 that the 30 daily coach quotas were fully utilised. Their distribution is set out below:

Weekdays	0
Saturdays	3
Sundays	11
Public Holidays	0
Total	14

The average number of applications rejected due to full quota on these 14 days was 15 and the highest number of applications rejected was 45 on 16 February 2014. Since coach quota in the two following weeks is available on the TD’s website for public information, some applicants may cancel their plans to South Lantau as the full quota on their target days has been used up. Hence, the above figures may not be able to fully reflect the demand of coaches for accessing South Lantau.

5. The number of coach parking spaces in South Lantau has been increasing in recent years from 33 in 2009 to the present 48 (**Annex 1**). These coach parking spaces are mostly located in popular tourist spots like Tai O and Ngong Ping. In view of public demand for coaches and the increased number of coach parking spaces, the TD proposes increasing the daily coach quota from 30 to 50 to encourage more package tours going to South Lantau for promoting its tourism. As it is unlikely that all the coaches will arrive at the same tourist spot at the same time, the number of coach parking spaces should be able to cope with the increased demand if the daily coach quota is increased to 50.

(2) To permit 50 private cars to enter roads in South Lantau on Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays)

6. At present, residents/persons doing business in South Lantau may apply to the TD for long-term LCRPs for a period of 12 months in the first instance. Holders may apply to the TD for renewal upon expiry. Meanwhile, temporary LCRPs are issued to persons with genuine needs to enter South Lantau one-off. However, applications to enter South Lantau for recreational and leisure purposes are not entertained. The TD has received requests from members of the public (non-South Lantau residents) for the LCRPs to drive their own private cars to enter South Lantau for recreational purpose from time to time. From January 2012 to 2014, a total of about 70 such requests or applications were received. Allowing private cars to enter South Lantau will no doubt encourage members of the public to enter South Lantau for recreational and leisure purposes, and hence help promote the development of local economy and tourism in South Lantau.

7. Roads on South Lantau (including South Lantau Road, Keung Shan Road and Tai O Road, etc) in general have a width of only 6.8 metres for accommodating a two-lane-two-way traffic. To avoid traffic congestion caused by illegal roadside parking, utilisation of private car parking spaces is an important factor in considering private car quota. At present, there are about 350 private car parking spaces in South Lantau (**Annex 2**). According to TD's survey, the parking demand of private cars is relatively low during daytime of weekdays. The survey also indicated that there were some unoccupied private car parking spaces at Pui O, Ngong Ping and Tong Fuk on weekdays, but parking places in Mui Wo and Tai O were still in demand during the days. It is expected that members of the public will stay at these two places when visiting South Lantau for recreational and leisure purposes, hence, the demand of private car parking spaces there will further increase. As these two places have a lot of restaurants, insufficient number of private car parking spaces may lead to illegal parking, in particular during lunch hours, this would bring inconvenience to local residents. As such, the TD considers it appropriate to begin with a small number of private car quota, and hence proposes a quota for non-resident private cars of 50 per day from Mondays to Fridays (except public holidays) for recreational and leisure purposes. At present, most tourists visit Lantau on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays. There are fewer visitors on weekdays and the traffic on the days is smooth.

Therefore, the proposal should not pose unacceptable impact on the traffic and residents in South Lantau.

IMPLEMENTATION

8. The above two proposals may be implemented at the same time or in phases. The TD will allocate such quotas by issuing LCRPs. With the use of a dedicated fax line, the TD has established a quota application system on a first come, first served basis for coaches and it has been working smoothly. For private cars, the TD is now studying the application methods in detail. To facilitate applications from members of the public, the TD will consider adopting online application and uploading onto its website the daily approval status for public information.

9. The TD will consult relevant stakeholders including the Islands District Council, the tourism trade, the transport trades and green groups, etc on the proposals. Views of different parties will be considered and balanced before making any decision. The TD aims to implement the proposals this year. Upon implementation, the TD will closely monitor their impact on the road traffic and the environment; and conduct a review one year afterwards.

ADVICE SOUGHT

10. Members are invited to comment on the above proposals.

Transport Department
June 2015

Existing Parking Spaces for Coaches in South Lantau

Location	Number of parking spaces
Mui Wo	2
Tai O	21
Keung Shan Road	2
Ngong Ping	17
Shek Pik	6
Total	48

Existing Parking Spaces for Private Cars in South Lantau

Location	No. of non-metered parking spaces		No. of metered parking spaces	Total
	For general vehicles	For persons with disabilities		
Mui Wo Ferry Pier Road			8	8
Mui Wo Ferry Pier Road near the former New Territories Heung Yee Kuk Southern District Secondary School	59			59
Ngan Kwong Wan Road (Mui Wo Government Offices Building)	19			19
Ngan Wan Road			4	4
Ngan Shu Street	9			9
Ngan Shek Street	52	1		53
Shan Shek Wan	19			19
Road junction (Pui O) between South Lantau Road and Chi Ma Wan Road	9			9
South Lantau Road near Tung Chung Road	10			10
South Lantau Road in front of Tong Fuk Beach	6			6

(Translated Version)

Location	No. of non-metered parking spaces		No. of metered parking spaces	Total
	For general vehicles	For persons with disabilities		
South Lantau Road near Tong Fuk Beach (2 lay-bys)	12			12
South Lantau Road near Tong Fuk Village	25			25
Ngong Ping Road (new Public Transport Interchange)		1	21	22
Tai O Road near Fire Station	8			8
Tai O Road near Fire Station	10			10
Tai O Road near Nam Chung Road	14			14
Tai O near Bus Terminal	36			36
Tai O Yim Tin	30			30
Total	318	2	33	353

Note: According to surveys conducted in November 2014, the utilisation rate of parking spaces for private cars in South Lantau on weekdays (Mondays to Fridays and non-holidays) is about 75%.