For information on 24 June 2015

LanDAC TTSC Paper No. 11/2015

Lantau Development and Advisory Committee Traffic and Transport Subcommittee

Report of Working Group under the Traffic and Transport Subcommittee of Lantau Development and Advisory Committee

(I) IMPROVEMENT TO FRANCHISED BUS SERVICES SERVING THE AIRPORT ISLAND

Since the first Working Group meeting held on 4 December 2014, a number of service improvement measures have been implemented which are summarised as follows:

Splitting bus routes for more direct service

2. Route E34 has been split into Routes E34A (Tin Shui Wai Town Centre—Airport) and E34B (Yuen Long—Airport) for whole day since 6 December 2014. Route S64 has also been split into Routes S64X (Tung Chung (Yat Tung Estate)—Airport (Passenger Terminal Building)) and S64C (Tung Chung (Yat Tung Estate)—Airport (Cargo and Catering Area)) during morning peak hours since 7 February 2015.

Deploying more buses and enhancing frequencies

3. To meet the increasing passenger demand, services of Routes E32 (Kwai Fong Station—AsiaWorld-Expo), E33P (Tuen Mun Siu Hong Station (South)—Airport (Ground Transportation Centre)), E34A, E34B, E34P (Tin Shui Wai Town Centre—Tung Chung (Yat Tung Estate)) and S56 (Tung Chung Station Bus Terminus—Airport (Passenger Terminal Building)) have been enhanced. The Transport Department ("TD") will continue to closely monitor the bus services for the Airport Island and request bus companies to deploy more buses and enhance the frequencies to meet passengers demand when necessary.

Fare concessions for airport staff

- 4. Long Win Bus Company Limited has extended the fare concessions of Routes N30, N30P and N42 for airport staff to 31 May 2016. The TD would continue to encourage the relevant franchised bus companies to provide more fare concessions for airport staff.
- (II) PROPOSAL TO CONDUCT SURVEY TO STUDY THE TRANSPORT DEMAND OF VARIOUS PASSENGER GROUPS (Tung Chung residents, airport visitors, airport staff, participants of local expos and incoming tourists)

Tung Chung residents

5. The TD has been closely monitoring the demand of Tung Chung residents on public transportation and keeping abreast of the population forecast and intake timing of the new Tung Chung residential developments. It is considered that through the current mechanism of formulating annual Bus Route Planning Programme with franchised bus companies, public transport services to the relevant areas can be enhanced in accordance with the anticipated increase in transport demand.

Airport Island staff

6. The Airport Authority ("AA") has conducted comprehensive transport demand survey every two years with respondents including airport visitors and staff working at different areas on the Airport Island (such as the Passenger Terminal Building and the maintenance, cargo and catering areas). Survey results would be referred to the TD and the relevant public transport operators for consideration and follow-up, so as to enhance public transport services. Their last survey was conducted in 2014. The TD suggested that other employers on Airport Island can provide information of their staff who have yet included in the survey, to the AA as supplementary information to the 2014 survey and for their participation of similar regular surveys in future. The AA and the AsiaWorld-Expo both agreed with the TD's proposal.

Participants of Expos

7. The Asia World-Expo would consider conducting their own survey to get the transport demand of participants.

Incoming tourists

8. Since incoming tourists are generally not familiar with the public transport network in Hong Kong, most of them will either join tour groups or take taxis. The Working Group considered that study of the transport demand of incoming tourists to Lantau could be followed up by the Tourism Commission. The convenor agreed to refer the proposal to the Economic and Social Development Subcommittee for consideration.

(III) INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PARKING SPACES FOR TOURIST SPOTS IN SOUTH LANTAU

- 9. At the fourth meeting of Traffic and Transport Subcommittee of the Lantau Development and Advisory Committee this year, the Subcommittee suggested looking for suitable sites for provision of additional car parking spaces and examining the possibility of converting farmlands into car parks.
- 10. The TD has followed up the issues and identified several proposed sites in Mui Wo and Tai O for provision of parking spaces. The site locations are set out at **Annexes 1** and **2**.
- 11. CP1 is situated in Mui Wo near Ngan Shu Street and is currently managed by the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ("FEHD") for their parking of working vehicles. The TD has contacted FEHD and requested them to consider vacating a portion of the site for public parking. The FEHD pointed out that the site was just sufficient for parking of their own vehicles and therefore could not be vacated any part for public parking purpose.
- 12. For sites "CP2" to "CP6", the TD is currently liaising with the relevant departments with a view to provide additional parking spaces for the public.
- 13. Regarding the proposal to provide parking spaces along South Lantau

Road, the TD has worked with the Lands Department ("LandsD") to identify four possible sites near Cheung Sha, Shui Hau and Tong Fuk. The TD is now examining the feasibility of connecting these sites to South Lantau Road and the number of parking spaces to be made available. The Working Group will be informed of any further progress.

14. Farmlands in South Lantau are generally privately-owned. Depending on individual circumstances, owners who wish to change their land use to fee-paying car parks are required to submit application to the Town Planning Board and the LandsD. The concerned government departments will follow up according to the established procedures.

(IV) OVERNIGHT FRANCHISED BUS SERVICES

- 15. At present, there are a total of 34 franchised bus routes [including 11 Airbus routes ("A" routes), 9 North Lantau external routes ("E" routes), 10 overnight routes ("N" routes) and 4 North Lantau shuttle routes ("S" routes)] serving the Airport Island.
- 16. The TD, relevant franchised bus companies and the AA have been closely monitoring the demand of overnight franchised bus services by visitors and airport staff. Since there are fewer public transport services for the Airport at the mid-night and early morning than daytime, Airport Island staff have requested the franchised bus companies to introduce overnight express bus services for their home return or going to work. Visitors and citizens who arrive in or come back to Hong Kong at mid-night and early morning can also make use of such overnight express bus services.
- 17. The relevant franchised bus companies have proposed to introduce four overnight express bus routes ("NA" routes) during summer holidays this year on a trial basis. These routes will operate from the Airport to districts where transport demands are more concentrated, and include:
 - (1) Mong Kok/ Tai Kok Tsui
 - (2) Sham Shui Po/ Wong Tai Sin/ Kwun Tong/ Tseung Kwan O
 - (3) Tuen Mun
 - (4) Yuen Long/Tin Shui Wai

The proposed routes will depart from the bus terminus at the Airport (Ground

Transportation Centre) and will not detour on the Airport Island.

18. It is proposed to launch a three-month trial for the overnight express bus

services starting from July this year. The bus companies and the TD will

collect data and review the performance of these bus routes during the trial

period. The TD is now collecting local views on the proposed service through

the relevant District Offices.

(V) EMPLOYEES' SERVICE (ES) PROVIDED BY EMPLOYERS ON

THE AIRPORT ISLAND

19. In general, ES is more direct with fewer pick up/ drop off points. Its

operating hours are tailor-made for the staff going on and off duty. ES could

meet the transport needs of the staff and, hence, is generally well received.

20. At present, there are about 180 ES routes accessing different parts of the

Airport Island, Tung Chung Town Centre and major destinations on Hong Kong

Island, Kowloon and the New Territories. Hong Kong Aircraft Engineering

Company Limited, Cathay Pacific Services Limited, LSG Lufthansa Service

Hong Kong Limited, other airlines , the AA, DHL Central Asia Hub and Hong

Kong Airport Services Limited all have provided ES to their staff.

21. If the AA or other employers on the Airport Island would like to apply for

more ES routes, the TD is willing to provide assistance.

22. The AA has recently informed the TD of their intention to apply for an

overnight ES connecting the major areas (i.e. maintenance, cargo and catering areas) on the Airport Island for convenience of the airport staff to interchange

areas) on the Airport Island for convenience of the airport staff to interchange

with other overnight franchised bus services at the Passenger Terminal Building.

The TD is currently liaising with the AA to provide assistance.

Transport Department

June 2015

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