

TAC discusses Eastern Harbour Crossing's toll increase application and regulation of motorcycles

The Transport Advisory Committee (TAC) today (March 28) discussed the toll increase application from the New Hong Kong Tunnel Company Limited (NHKTC), the franchisee of the Eastern Harbour Crossing.

TAC Chairman Mr Rimsky Yuen said that the TAC, in deliberating the toll increase application from NHKTC, had considered and balanced various factors including public acceptability and affordability, traffic implications, the company's financial position and whether it was obtaining reasonable but not excessive remuneration.

"Taking into account all the relevant factors, the TAC will submit its recommendations to the Government for consideration by the Chief Executive in Council," he said.

TAC Members were also briefed on the Administration's reviews on the regulation of storage boxes fitted on motorcycles. Members noted that based on accident statistics and available academic research, there is not sufficient evidence that installation of storage box to a motorcycle is a major safety issue.

"We note that there are no international standards or regulations on motorcycle storage boxes and that the Transport Department plans to issue guidelines on motorcycle storage box to motorcycle owners to provide guidance on good practices within the next few months. The TAC agrees that there is a need to raise the safety awareness of food delivery operators and motorcyclists, and hopes that the Government will continue to monitor the situation and step up promotion and education on this front," Mr Yuen said.

The TAC was also briefed on the current approach and future development of highway repair and maintenance by the Highways Department (HyD), and efforts made by the department to integrate environmental considerations into its repair and maintenance works.

Members noted that repair and maintenance works performed by the HyD are essential in ensuring that the road network is kept in good condition at all times.

"Members commended the HyD for its efforts in seeking continuous improvement in this regard, not only improving the efficiency of various aspects of its work, but also incorporating green elements where possible to benefit the environment," Mr Yuen said.

Ends/Monday, March 28, 2011

Issued at HKT 17:51