

TAC briefed on measures to enhance safety of reversing goods vehicles and the progress of the Kwun Tong Line Extension

The Transport Advisory Committee (TAC) discussed today (June 29) the Government's proposed measures to enhance the safety of reversing goods vehicles (GVs) and was briefed on the progress of the Kwun Tong Line Extension (KTE).

TAC Chairman, Mr Rimsky Yuen, said that the TAC is pleased to note that the multi-pronged approach adopted by the Government has been effective in reducing the number of traffic accidents involving reversing GVVs.

"Members supported the proposal of the Administration to require all new GVVs to be equipped with reversing video devices (RVDs)," said Mr Yuen.

Members noted that given the current state of technology and availability of RVDs in the market, not all GVVs can be fitted with RVDs with the necessary scope of vision. On the other hand, an RVD designed and installed as an integral part of a new vehicle should be more reliable.

"The RVD should be a useful auxiliary device to assist drivers to reverse more safely. Nevertheless, driving attitude and pedestrian behaviour remain crucial in enhancing road safety. Members therefore supported the Government's sustained efforts to promote responsible driving and usage of roads," Mr Yuen said.

TAC members were also briefed on the progress of the KTE.

The KTE will provide convenient and efficient railway services for people living in Hung Hom and Ho Man Tin. Upon completion of the project, the journey time from Whampoa to Mong Kok, which normally takes about 25 minutes by land transport during peak hours, could be significantly reduced to around five minutes.

"Members noted that construction works for the KTE project have recently commenced. During construction, the MTR Corporation Limited (MTRCL) would put in place temporary traffic arrangements, in consultation with relevant government departments, to ensure a smooth traffic flow and pedestrian safety," Mr Yuen said.

Members learnt that three community liaison groups have been set up by the

MTRCL for the Whampoa, Ho Man Tin and Yau Ma Tei sections respectively to maintain close contact with the community and keep them informed of the progress of the KTE project. In addition, project information would be provided to the residents through various channels such as the project newsletter, a designated website and notice boards to be installed on the hoardings of the KTE construction sites.

TAC members were also briefed on the Administration's efforts to provide barrier-free access facilities at pedestrian crossing facilities, in particular the proposal to expedite the retrofitting of lifts or ramps at public footbridges, elevated walkways and subways.

"Members noted that while most public footbridge, elevated walkway and subway facilities already have lifts or up-to-standard ramps, or alternative at-grade crossings are available in the vicinity, it is important to take forward the retrofitting works at the remaining facilities so as to ensure that barrier-free access facilities are properly provided at the structures concerned, where technically feasible," Mr Yuen said.

"Members welcome the Administration's efforts in expediting the retrofitting of lifts or up-to-standard ramps at public footbridge, elevated walkway and subway facilities, and support the early commencement of the accelerated retrofitting programme," he said.

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