

TAC Working Group gauges views on regulating NFB operation

The following is issued on behalf of the Transport Advisory Committee Working Group on Review of Regulation of Non-franchised Bus Operation:

The Transport Advisory Committee (TAC) Working Group on Review of Regulation of Non-franchised Bus (NFB) Operation today (June 15) met NFB trade operators again to gauge their views on the proposals under consideration. More than 20 operators attended the meeting.

The Working Group chairman, Mr Leung On-fook, said after the meeting that the meeting was useful and constructive and helped the Working Group fully understand the operational needs and concerns of the trade.

He said, "Through this meeting, we have explained to the trade that the objectives of the Working Group's initial proposals are to better coordinate the growth of NFB services with a view to alleviating the oversupply problem; and to improve the existing regulatory regime and enhance the efficiency of enforcement actions, so that law-abiding NFB operators and regular public transport service providers can operate in a better environment."

During the meeting, the Working Group listened to the trade's concerns on some individual proposals, including measures to handle applications for renewals of Passenger Service Licences by existing NFB operators, regulation on contract hire services, and certain measures to enhance efficiency of enforcement actions by improving the existing regulatory regime.

The Working Group understands the trade's wishes that the proposed measures would maintain room for NFB operation and minimise the impact on existing services. The Working Group will carefully consider their views.

Before submitting recommendation to the TAC, the Working Group will also carefully study comments expressed by other public transport trades and members of other sectors on the proposals under consideration.

The Working Group is considering proposals to:

- (1) co-ordinate the growth of and demand for NFB services,
- (2) strengthen regulatory rules to combat unauthorised services, and
- (3) better use of traffic control measures to provide a better operating environment to regular and legitimate public transport operators.

The Working Group plans to submit its recommendations to TAC in mid this year. TAC will then send its review report to the Administration for consideration.

Ends/Tuesday, June 15, 2004