<u>Aberdeen Tunnel to implement HKeToll</u> from 5am on December 24

The Transport Department (TD) announced today (December 19) that the HKeToll will be implemented in the Aberdeen Tunnel from 5am on December 24 (Sunday) to replace all manual toll booths and Autotoll lanes. Motorists can drive through the toll plaza and pay tunnel tolls using toll tags without having to stop or queue at toll booths for payments.

To tie in with the implementation of the HKeToll, temporary traffic and transport arrangements will be implemented in phases in the vicinity of the Aberdeen Tunnel starting from 1am on December 24. Both directions of the Aberdeen Tunnel and its slip roads will be closed from 4am to 5am. During the temporary closure of the tunnel, four overnight franchised bus routes, namely Nos. N72, N90, N170 and N171, will be diverted via Nam Fung Road, Deep Water Bay Road, Wong Nai Chung Gap Road and the vicinity of Happy Valley, while three Hong Kong Island overnight green minibus routes, namely Nos. N4A, N4C and N40, will be diverted via Nam Fung Road, Deep Water Bay Road, Wong Nai Chung Gap Road and Stubbs Road. Please refer to Annex 1 and 2 for the abovementioned traffic and transport arrangements.

As of December 18, more than 810 000 vehicle tags had been issued, accounting for over 99 per cent of licensed vehicles in Hong Kong. About 92 per cent of vehicle owners had opened HKeToll accounts. The HKeToll collected tolls of about 510 000 vehicle trips on average per day at the Tsing Sha Control Area, Shing Mun Tunnels, Lion Rock Tunnel, three road harbour crossings and Tate's Cairn Tunnel.

With the progressive implementation of the HKeToll in government tolled tunnels, the TD once again appealed to vehicle owners to complete the three steps for HKeToll service as soon as possible: (1) install a vehicle tag, (2) open an HKeToll account and (3) set up an automatic payment means, so as to fully enjoy the convenience of the HKeToll. Vehicle owners can select the means of receiving electronic notifications according to their personal needs on the HKeToll website and mobile app to manage the electronic information to be received.

In addition, the TD reminds vehicle owners with outstanding tolls that they must make payment within 14 business days after passing through the tunnels. They can log in to the HKeToll website (hketoll.gov.hk) or mobile app to check and pay the outstanding tolls. Motorists should note that late payments will incur a surcharge of \$175, and that the maximum penalty for evading tolls is a fine of \$5,000 (per trip), and the license of the vehicle concerned will not be renewed.

If vehicle owners need assistance, they can browse the HKeToll website, call the 24-hour customer service hotline 3853 7333, or visit the four customer service centres, four service outlets and consultation counters located at designated MTR stations (service will be provided until January

31, 2024). The locations and service hours of the above-mentioned facilities are shown in Annex 3.