

Arrangements for 15th National Games road cycling test event (with video)

The 2024 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Road Cycling Race and the 15th National Games road cycling test event will be held on November 24. A press conference hosted by the Head of the National Games Coordination Office (Hong Kong) (NGCO), Mr Yeung Tak-keung, was held jointly with representatives of relevant government departments and the Cycling Association of Hong Kong, China today (November 20) to announce details of the test event and the relevant arrangements, including temporary traffic control measures, clearance arrangements at the boundary control point (BCP), and emergency response and rescue arrangements.

A men's individual road cycling race will be arranged for the test event and is scheduled to start at 9am on November 24, and is expected to conclude at 2.30pm. The event will feature 23 teams from Mainland China, Hong Kong and Macao, with a total of 71 athletes competing. The race spans across Zhuhai, Hong Kong and Macao, covering a total distance of 230 kilometres, which comprises a 160.7km section in Zhuhai, a 55.8km section in Hong Kong and a 13.5km section in Macao. Setting off from the Zhuhai Museum, the race will pass through Macao, then enter Hong Kong via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB), travel along the North Lantau Highway, pass through the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort and turn back to the North Lantau Highway and the HZMB, enter Hengqin before racing to finish at the Zhuhai Museum. It is estimated that the race convoy will spend about one and a half hours in the Hong Kong section of the race.

A public viewing zone will be set up on the footpath of Fantasy Road located outside the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort, which can accommodate a few hundreds of spectators. Implementation of crowd management measures will be made by the Police depending on conditions in the areas. Members of the public are advised to take heed of instructions of the Police and the staff on site. As temporary traffic control measures will be implemented on the race route at the North Lantau Highway, members of the public should take the MTR to the Disneyland Resort station as far as possible to reach the viewing zone. In addition, Zhuhai is arranging for live webcast of the event, and Hong Kong also plans to arrange for live webcast by Radio Television Hong Kong.

To facilitate the holding of the race, temporarily control measures will be implemented on the HZMB Hong Kong Port, the HZMB and some roads on that day. Relevant arrangements are set out below:

(1) Temporary control measures for HZMB and suspension of departure clearance services at the BCP

On the event day, temporary control measures will be implemented on the HZMB eastbound from Zhuhai/Macao towards Hong Kong from 9am to 12.30pm, and

on the HZMB westbound from Hong Kong towards Zhuhai/Macao from 7.30am to 12.30pm. During the temporary control period, all vehicles are prohibited from using the HZMB. Special arrangements will be implemented on the departure clearance services. Travellers or vehicles wishing to leave Hong Kong for Zhuhai or Macao before the implementation of the temporary control measures are required to arrive at the Departure Hall of Passenger Clearance Building or Outbound Vehicle Clearance Plaza of the HZMB Hong Kong Port before 6.30am on the event day in order to undergo departure and clearance procedures. The Departure Hall of Passenger Clearance Building and Outbound Vehicle Clearance Plaza of the HZMB Hong Kong Port will be closed at 6.30am.

The departure and clearance services at the HZMB Hong Kong Port will resume after 12.30pm. It is expected that traffic will be busy. Travellers and drivers who plan to use the bridge on that day are advised to plan their trips in advance. Drivers of cross-boundary private cars and goods vehicles should also consider the use of other land BCPs in accordance with the terms and conditions of the vehicle's Closed Road Permit.

(2) Transport arrangements

Cross-boundary public transport services travelling on the HZMB between Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macao, including the HZMB shuttle bus (Gold Bus) and cross-boundary coaches services, will be suspended during the implementation of the temporary control on the HZMB Main Bridge and the HZMB Hong Kong Port on that day. In addition, during the temporary control period, public transport services to and from the HZMB Hong Kong Port will implement temporary services adjustment, including airport bus A routes and shuttle bus B routes. The en-route stop at the HZMB Passenger Clearance Building for bus A routes will be suspended during certain periods. The bus companies will issue notices to inform affected passengers.

The Transport Department (TD) will notify affected operators of cross-boundary and local public transport services, while the Marine Department will liaise with cross-boundary ferry operators, to work out manpower and frequency arrangements.

During the temporary control period, travellers should consider the use of land BCPs between Hong Kong and Shenzhen for their travel between Hong Kong and Zhuhai. They should also consider taking cross-boundary ferry services between Hong Kong and Macao.

Booking for the time slot between 6am and noon for Northbound Travel for Hong Kong Vehicles has been suspended.

Regarding passenger bus services of SkyPier Terminal Transfer Coach of Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA), the service from Macao Port to HKIA will be suspended after the 7.30am departure and will resume at 2pm. The first departure from HKIA to Macao Port and Zhuhai Port, and that from Zhuhai Port to HKIA will depart at 2pm.

(3) Temporary traffic arrangements

1. Temporary road traffic control measures

Temporary traffic control measures will be implemented on the North Lantau Highway and roads near the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort between 10.20am and 11.50am on the day of the race (exact time will depend on the actual progress of the race).

Temporary traffic control measures will be implemented in the vicinity of the race route on the North Lantau Highway. The travel time to and from the airport via the North Lantau Highway is expected to increase by about 30 minutes. Members of the public who plan to travel to and from the airport should plan their trips in advance and allow sufficient travelling time. They are advised to use railway services, including the Airport Express, the Tung Chung line and the Disneyland Resort line, and avoid driving to the relevant area. Drivers who need to drive to the airport may consider using the Tuen Mun-Chek Lap Kok Tunnel.

Temporary traffic control measures will be implemented on the race route near the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort during the race. Travelling time to and from the park, hotels and the Inspiration Lake Recreation Centre via Penny's Bay Highway, Sunny Bay Road, Magic Road and Fantasy Road may be increased by about 30 minutes due to the traffic control measures. Members of the public who plan to travel to the vicinity of the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort should consider using railway services as far as possible.

In addition, as this road section connects to the North Lantau Highway, members of the public and travellers who need to travel between the Hong Kong Disneyland Resort and HKIA may also be affected by the temporary traffic control measures on the North Lantau Highway, and the travelling time required may be increased.

2. Temporary road closure

Shun Long Road (both bounds) will be closed starting from 6.30am and expected to reopen at about 2pm after the related road section returns to normal. During the above road closure period, the TD will implement traffic diversion such that the original traffic of Shun Long Road (both bounds) will be diverted via Chek Lap Kok Island. The journey time is expected to increase by about 10 minutes. The bus companies will issue notices to inform passengers of the details of service adjustment.

(4) Emergency response and rescue arrangements

The Fire Services Department (FSD) has formulated relevant contingency plans and will deploy fire services and ambulance resources at strategic locations inside and outside the closed-loop race convoy during the race to ensure that the most expeditious and effective measures can be executed to deal with emergencies.

In addition, the medical team of the Hospital Authority will also be on board the FSD ambulances in the convoy to ensure that medical personnel with

ambulance equipment can respond quickly to emergencies in the race convoy.

In addition, as the North Lantau Highway is one of the main roads for access to and from the airport and the urban area of Tung Chung, the Police will reserve emergency vehicular lanes for the passage of emergency vehicles to maintain normal operation of emergency services during the race.

A spokesman for the NGCO said that the relevant BCP and transport arrangements are crucial to the preparation for the test event, the smooth running of the race and the safety of athletes and staff members. The spokesperson thanked members of the public and travellers for their understanding of the inconvenience caused, as well as the concerted efforts of various organisations and departments in implementing the relevant arrangements.