<u>Full commissioning of Central-Wan Chai</u> <u>Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor</u> <u>Link to take place this Sunday</u>

â€<After the completion of works for joining the Central-Wan Chai Bypass and Island Eastern Corridor Link (CWB) to the Rumsey Flyover westbound, the CWB will be fully commissioned at 7am this Sunday (February 24).

Upon the full commissioning of the CWB, motorists travelling from Eastern District to Western District will be able to follow directional signs and get in the middle or fast lane before exiting the CWB tunnel, and then travel via Rumsey Street Flyover direct to Western District or the Western Harbour Crossing (WHC) instead of making a U-turn via the at-grade road of Connaught Road Central.

The Transport Department (TD) said that directional signs and road markings near the CWB entrance on the Island Eastern Corridor (IEC) in North Point, at the entrance at Tsing Fung Street and the exit in Central will be suitably updated to give motorists guidance on the new traffic routes. Sufficient distance has been allowed in the road design as well as on the road lanes to enable motorists to take heed of the directional signs and get in the appropriate lanes.

Meanwhile, the TD earlier arranged for professional drivers (via the trade) to test drive the CWB westbound, as well as showing them the directional signs and road markings to be updated. The TD, the Highways Department and the Police also briefed the Traffic and Transport Committee of the Central and Western District Council about the traffic arrangements to tie in with the full commissioning of the CWB.

After receiving feedback from the professional drivers, the District Council and members of the public, the engineering team has further enhanced the arrangements for the directional signs and road markings, and these works will be completed before the full commissioning of the CWB westbound.

The TD anticipates that upon the full commissioning of the CWB, most of the motorists travelling to Western District and the WHC via the IEC westbound, or from the vicinity of Tin Hau, will make use of the CWB. The traffic conditions of the existing trunk roads including Gloucester Road, Harcourt Road and Connaught Road Central will thus be improved.

A video showing the traffic route from the IEC (North Point section) to Western District via the CWB upon the commissioning of the CWB is now available at the <u>TD's YouTube channel</u>. Members of the public can obtain details of the traffic and transport arrangements of the CWB through TD's mobile application "HKeMobility" or the <u>TD's website</u>, or call 1823 for enquiries.