## <u>Public transport service arrangements</u> <u>for Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge Hong</u> <u>Kong Port during Labour Day holidays</u>

A spokesman for the Transport Department (TD) announced today (April 29) that as many cross-boundary passengers are expected to travel via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge (HZMB) during the Labour Day holidays, the TD has collaborated with relevant operators to strengthen the local and cross-boundary public transport services of the HZMB Hong Kong Port (HKP) by implementing the following measures in order to meet the festive transport demands.

The HZMB shuttle bus operator will deploy about 190 buses to strengthen the shuttle bus service. Depending on the passenger flow at the ports of the three places, the operator will appropriately deploy the vehicles to cater for the passenger demand during peak periods. Moreover, the provision of prebooking service for group visitors will continue so as to encourage tour groups to take the shuttle bus service by pre-booking of tickets or chartering a bus. This can help better manage the passenger flow at different time periods of the day and avoid having too many group visitors arriving at and departing from the HKP at the same time. The waiting and queuing facilities for shuttle bus passengers at the HKP, such as separation of waiting areas and erection of directional signs, have also been further enhanced to efficiently divert the group and individual passenger flow heading to Zhuhai and Macao, and the operator will maintain the boarding and alighting order by providing sufficient staff.

For cross-boundary coach services, an additional ad-hoc quota of 200 has been issued to the existing Guangdong/Hong Kong and Hong Kong/Macao crossboundary coach operators from today to May 4, increasing the daily trips from 400 to 600 to meet the passenger demand during the holidays. The operators of cross-boundary coach services will also deploy adequate staff at the HKP and major stops in the city proper to keep the queueing and boarding of passengers in order.

For local public transport services, the TD and bus operators will closely monitor the service level of the eight A routes and two B routes of franchised bus services with high patronage at the HKP. Additional departures will operate during the peak periods to cope with the peak demand. For the A routes, bus operators will arrange 12 spare buses at the HKP to operate special departures to the city proper. For the B routes, bus operators will deploy five additional buses to strengthen the services of route nos. B5 and B6. In the meantime, bus operators will arrange for staff at the HKP to maintain the boarding and alighting order. Moreover, the en-route bus stop for New Lantao Bus route no. B6 on Tat Tung Road in Tung Chung (HKP bound) has been relocated to Tung Chung Temporary Bus Terminus since April 27 (Saturday), so as to enhance the passenger waiting environment and minimise the impact on the district.

In order to encourage local coaches to make use of the coach pick-up facilities at the HKP and match the travelling pattern of visitors, the TD has increased timeslots for the morning session for application for picking-up coach passengers at the HKP. The TD has also provided holding areas near the coach pick-up area so that the coaches can wait temporarily at the holding areas before entering the pick-up area, with a view to meeting their operational needs.

The TD will closely monitor the operations of local and cross-boundary transport services at the HKP during the Labour Day holidays and will liaise with the operators to implement appropriate measures to cater for passenger demand when necessary.

Apart from the HZMB HKP, it is expected that the number of crossboundary passengers at other land boundary control points (such as Lo Wu, Lok Ma Chau and Shenzhen Bay Port) will also increase. The spokesman appeals to travellers to plan their journeys in advance and avoid crossing the boundary at peak periods. When facing busy traffic at the control points, the waiting time for public transport services may be longer than usual and passengers should obey the orders and follow the instructions of the Police and staff of the relevant public transport operators on site.