

TAC briefed on public transport operators' efforts in combatting COVID-19

The following is issued on behalf of the Transport Advisory Committee:

The Transport Advisory Committee (TAC) was briefed today (April 28) on public transport operators' efforts in combatting COVID-19.

With a view to safeguarding passengers' and drivers' health, the Transport Department (TD) has been working with public transport operators in implementing various infection preventive measures since the outbreak of COVID-19 in January 2020.

The TAC Chairman, Professor Stephen Cheung, said, "Members welcome that public transport operators have been stepping up cleansing and disinfection efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19. Members are also pleased to learn that public transport operators are adopting new technologies in disinfecting the vehicle compartments."

In addition, Members were briefed on the business continuity plans of public transport operators in response to the pandemic, including the necessary service adjustments in view of the significant drop in patronage during the pandemic.

Professor Cheung said, "The resilience of public transport operators is of utmost importance in keeping Hong Kong moving. While the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a significant patronage drop and public transport operators are implementing service adjustments to maintain their financial viability, Members note that the TD pays due regard to occupancy rates, passenger waiting times and public acceptability when it processes service adjustment proposals. Members also note that the TD is closely monitoring the passenger demand and will work with the operators to enhance public transport services in a timely manner should the demand pick up."