

TAC briefed on walkability in Hong Kong and discusses franchised bus operations

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

The Transport Advisory Committee (TAC) was briefed today (January 26) on the progress of walkability enhancement measures in selected pilot areas and the highlights of the overall walkability strategy for Hong Kong, and discussed franchised bus operations.

The Government has proposed a number of walkability enhancement measures for fostering a pedestrian-friendly environment. These measures, including setting up low speed limit zones and wayfinding signage, decluttering non-essential traffic signs and railings, levelling run-in/out points and installing raised crossings on bus routes, were tested out in the past three years. In addition, the Government has finalised the overall walkability strategy for Hong Kong, with a view to developing Hong Kong into a walkable city of world-class quality.

The TAC Chairman, Professor Stephen Cheung, said, "Members support the Government in taking forward the walkability enhancement measures for territory-wide application. Members also welcome the formulation of the overall walkability strategy for Hong Kong, and support the Government to select suitable new development areas and built-up areas for implementing the comprehensive pedestrian planning framework."

The Government strives to enhance the efficiency and quality of franchised bus services. Due to the substantial reduction in patronage and revenues of the franchised buses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the necessary social distancing measures, the operators are facing a challenging operating environment. The TAC has also reviewed the fare increase applications of individual franchised bus operators.

Professor Cheung added, "In accordance with the established practice, the TAC will submit its advice to the Government for consideration by the Chief Executive in Council."