

Latest Information for Road Users



“Latest Information for Road Users” covers four areas and provides road users with the latest information not covered in the Road Users’ Code (May 2000 Edition):

- Newly Amended Traffic Laws (after 2000) Pages 1 to 4
- Safe Driving Pages 5 to 6
- The Language of the Road Pages 7 to 10
- Road Traffic Information Page 11

Newly Amended Traffic Laws

(1) Drink driving and drug driving

Drink driving: The prescribed limit is set at 22 µg of alcohol per 100 ml of breath, or 50 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of blood, or 67 mg of alcohol per 100 ml of urine. Any motor vehicle driver found exceeding the prescribed limit will face prosecution.

Drug driving: It is an offence to drive a motor vehicle with any concentration of illicit drugs, namely, heroin, cocaine, ketamine (“k”), methamphetamine (“ice”), cannabis (“grass”) and MDMA (“ecstasy”), present in the blood or urine.

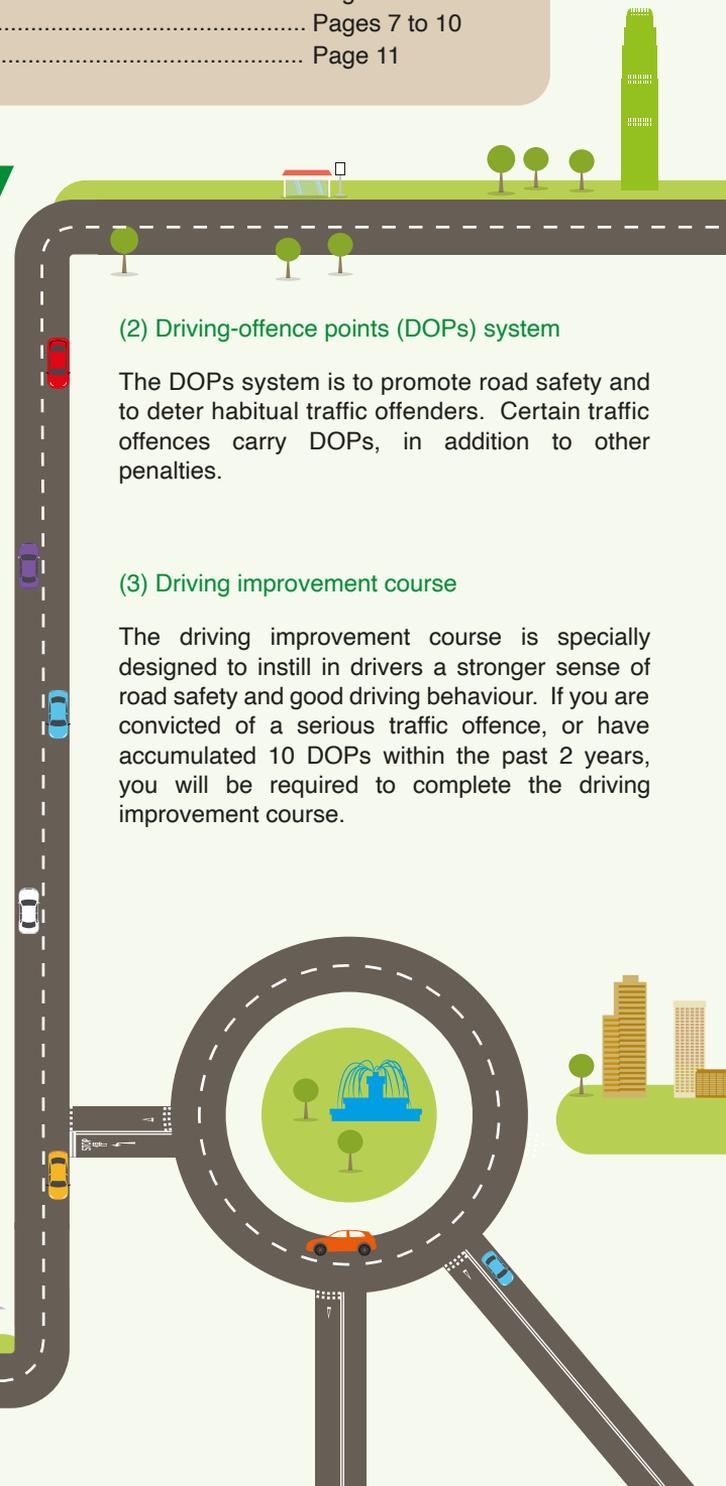
You may be requested by a police officer to undergo preliminary alcohol / drug tests if you are involved in a traffic accident, have committed a traffic offence, or are suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol / drugs. Police officers can also conduct random alcohol screening breath tests. It is an offence if you, without reasonable excuse, refuse or fail to undergo preliminary alcohol / drug tests.

(2) Driving-offence points (DOPs) system

The DOPs system is to promote road safety and to deter habitual traffic offenders. Certain traffic offences carry DOPs, in addition to other penalties.

(3) Driving improvement course

The driving improvement course is specially designed to instill in drivers a stronger sense of road safety and good driving behaviour. If you are convicted of a serious traffic offence, or have accumulated 10 DOPs within the past 2 years, you will be required to complete the driving improvement course.



(4) Dangerous driving offences

“Dangerous Driving” and “Dangerous Driving Causing Death” have replaced “Reckless Driving” and “Reckless Driving Causing Death” respectively.

A new offence “Dangerous Driving Causing Grievous Bodily Harm” and heavier penalties for dangerous driving offences including “Dangerous Driving” and “Dangerous Driving Causing Death” have been implemented.

(5) Prohibition on using handheld mobile phone

While driving a motor vehicle, you are **prohibited** from using a mobile phone or any other telecommunication equipment or their accessories by holding it in your hand or between your head and shoulder.



(6) Legal requirements for wearing seat belts

	Drivers	Front Seat Passengers	Rear Seat Passengers
Private Cars	Seat belt must be worn if fitted.	Seat belt must be worn if fitted.	Seat belt must be worn if fitted.
Taxis			
Public Light Buses			
Private Light Buses and Goods Vehicles			Not Applicable
Buses	Seat belt must be worn.	Not Applicable	



(7) Heavier penalty for speeding (introduced since 1 January 2001)

Speeding Offences in Excess of Speed Limit by	Fixed Penalty	DOPs
15 km/h or less	\$320	0
More than 15 km/h but less than or equal to 30 km/h	\$450	3
More than 30 km/h but less than or equal to 45 km/h	\$600	5
More than 45 km/h*	\$1,000	10

*Disqualification of driving licence for a period of not less than 6 months and mandatory completion of driving improvement course.

(8) Hazard warning lights

You must turn on the hazard warning lights if your vehicle is stationary due to a breakdown or an emergency on an expressway or a road with a speed limit greater than 50 km/h. You may also turn on the hazard warning lights when your vehicle is likely to be a hazard to other road users.

(9) Vehicle lamps

When driving in poor visibility or during hours of darkness, you must use headlamps. If riding a motor cycle / tricycle, you must turn on all front lamps, headlamps and rear lamps at all times.



(10) Probationary driving licence

You can only apply for a probationary driving licence for a motor cycle / tricycle, private car or light goods vehicle after passing the required driving tests. A probationary driving period is at least 12 months.

Your application for a full driving licence must be made within 3 years after the completion of probationary driving period.

(11) Commercial vehicle driving licence

To apply for a driving licence of the relevant commercial vehicle class, you must:

- be at least 21 years old;
- have held a valid private car or light goods vehicle full driving licence for at least 3 years (or at least 2 years if the full driving licence was issued after the completion of probationary driving period)*; and
- **not** have been convicted of dangerous driving causing death (or grievous bodily harm), drink driving or drug driving within the preceding 5 years.

*From 1 October 2020, the requirement on the number of years of holding a valid private car or light goods vehicle full driving licence would be changed to at least 1 year (or having obtained a full driving licence after the completion of probationary driving period).



More information on driving and vehicle licences is available at TD's homepage.

(12) Switch off engines of idling vehicles

It is an offence for a driver to allow the engine to operate for more than 3 minutes in aggregate within any continuous 60 minutes while the vehicle is stationary. In general, exemptions are provided to drivers stopping due to traffic conditions or loading / unloading, and also to drivers of certain vehicle classes to meet their operational needs, etc.

(13) Reversing video devices on goods vehicles

All goods vehicles (excluding tractors and trailers) first registered on or after 1 October 2014 must be fitted with a reversing video device.

(14) Vehicles prohibited from using expressways

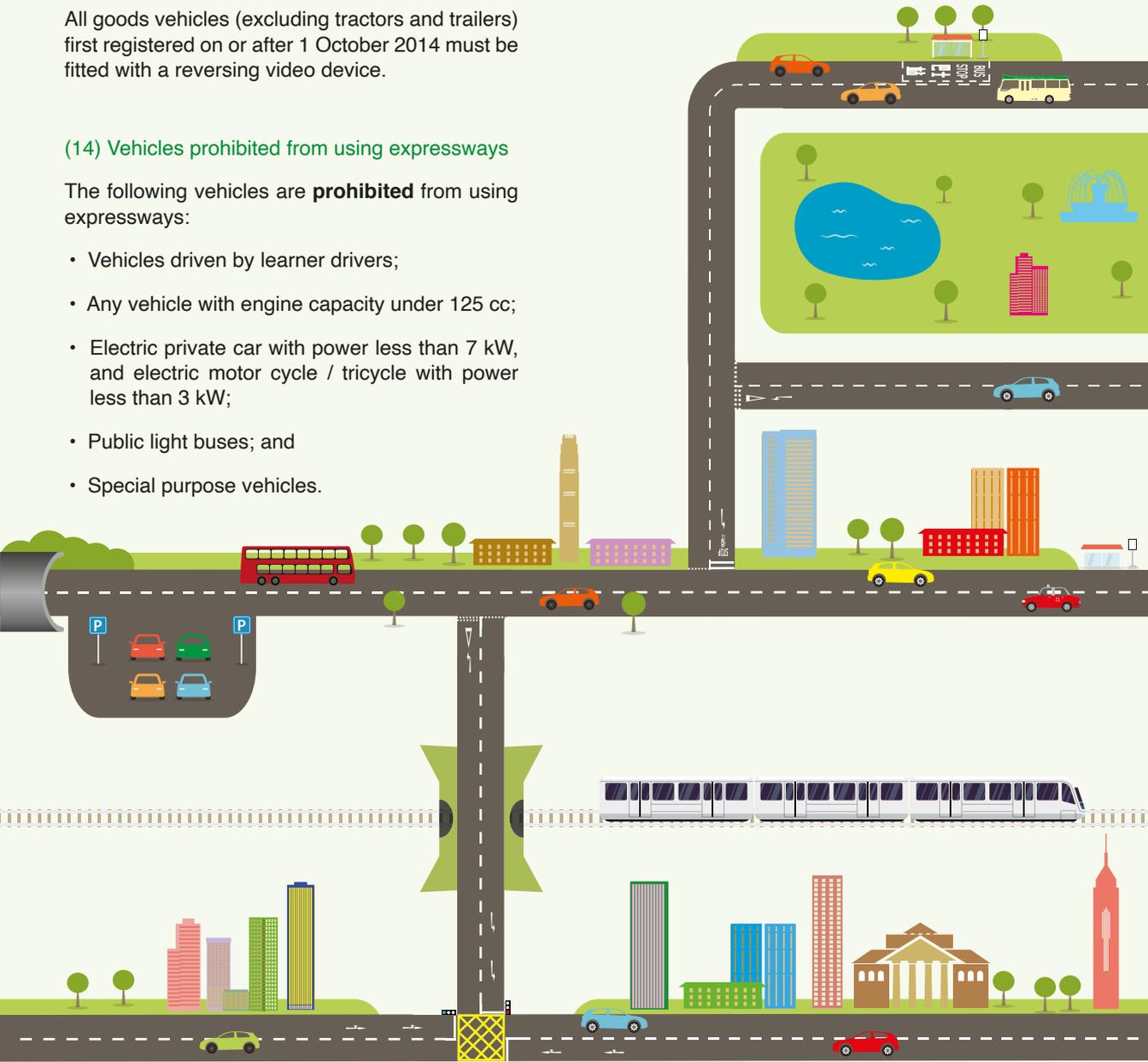
The following vehicles are **prohibited** from using expressways:

- Vehicles driven by learner drivers;
- Any vehicle with engine capacity under 125 cc;
- Electric private car with power less than 7 kW, and electric motor cycle / tricycle with power less than 3 kW;
- Public light buses; and
- Special purpose vehicles.

(15) Safety measures for public light bus (PLB)

PLB driver must **not** drive faster than the speed limit on the road or 80 km/h (whichever is the lower), and must display a driver identity plate. PLB must also be fitted with an approved speed limiter and, if the PLB is first registered on or after 1 December 2014, an approved Electronic Data Recording Device.

Applicants for a PLB driving licence must complete a pre-service course for PLB drivers.



(1) Avoiding fatigue driving

- Do **not** drive if you are tired.
- Do **not** drink alcohol or take drugs.
- Plan your trip well ahead particularly for a long journey.
- If you feel tired while driving, lower the windows to let fresh air in or lower the temperature of the air-conditioning to keep you awake.
- Try to find a suitable parking space to stop and take a rest, but **never** stop on an expressway or a road with fast moving traffic.

(2) Using driver assistance system

You must be well familiar with the functions, operations and restrictions of a driver assistance system, if fitted, before use. Even when using it, you still have to observe the traffic conditions and keep your hands on the steering wheel.

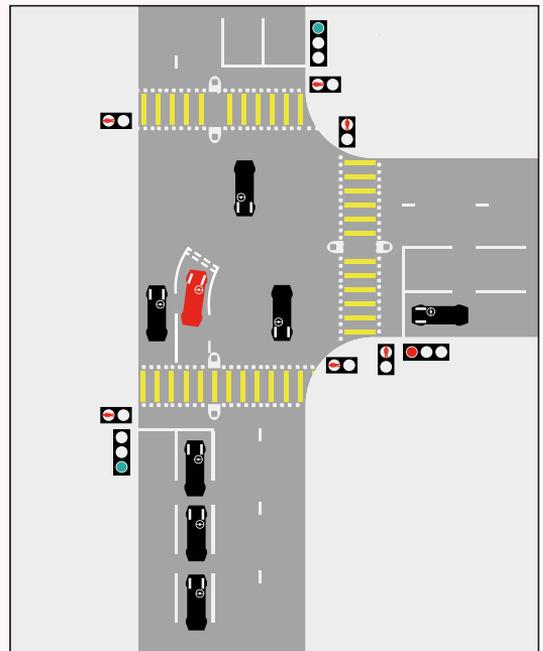
(3) Using reversing video device

You must **not** reverse your vehicle unless it can be done safely. You can use a reversing video device, if fitted, to help you monitor the situation behind the vehicle. You may turn on the hazard warning lights when parking or reversing.

(4) Using the right-turn pockets at signalised junctions

When turning right at a signalised junction with a right-turn pocket, you have to give way to oncoming traffic. When the traffic light is green, you may proceed and wait within the right-turn pocket. If the situation is safe, you can turn right.

Some signalised junctions with right-turn pockets may have green right-turn arrow signals. When the green right-turn arrow signal is on, it indicates that oncoming traffic has been stopped by red traffic light. You can then turn right if it is safe to do so.



(5) Using roundabouts

The rules of using conventional roundabouts and spiral roundabouts are similar.

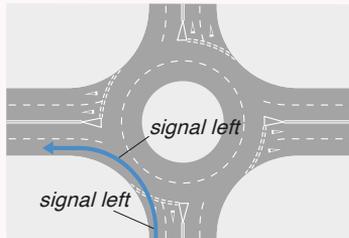
- When approaching a roundabout, reduce speed and decide as early as possible which exit you will take and get into the correct lane.
- When on a roundabout, look out for and show consideration to other vehicles, especially those intending to leave. Before leaving the roundabout, signal left. You should take note of the road markings on the spiral roundabouts that guide vehicles to leave.
- When leaving a roundabout, pay attention to any vehicle that may enter or cross your path from behind on your left even if the road markings are in your favour.

Turning left

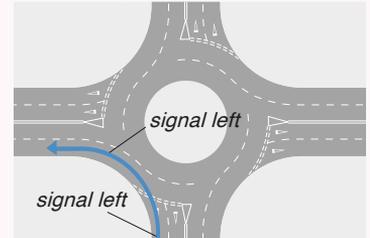
Approach in the left lane and signal left.

Keep travelling along the outer lane of the roundabout and continue to signal left to leave.

Conventional Roundabout



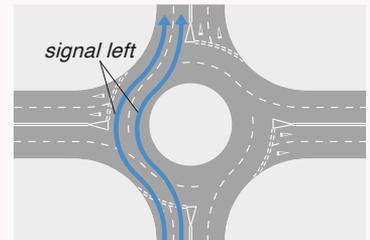
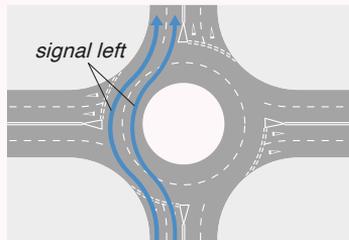
Spiral Roundabout



Going straight ahead

Approach in either the left or right lane (left or middle lane for 3-lane roundabout). Do **not** signal. Keep to that lane on the roundabout.

After passing the exit immediately before your exit, signal left to leave.

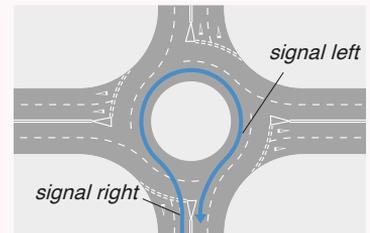
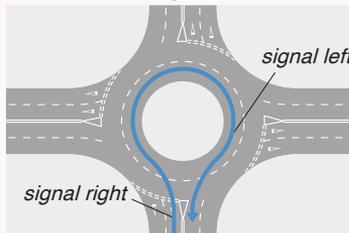
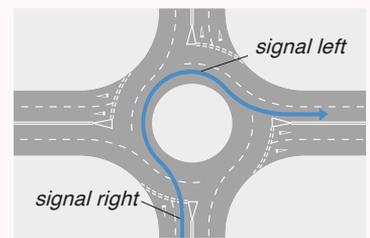
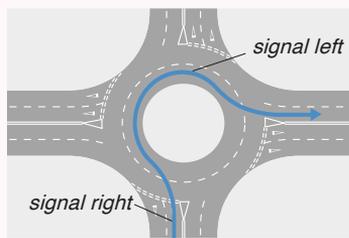


Turning right / U-turning

Approach in the right lane (right or middle lane for 3-lane roundabout) and signal right.

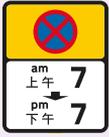
Keep travelling along the inner lane of the roundabout (inner or middle lane for 3-lane roundabout).

Continue signalling right until you have passed the exit immediately before your exit, then signal left to leave (inner lane users of 3-lane roundabout may change to the middle lane first when signalling left).



The Language of the Road

(1) Traffic signs giving orders



No stopping during time shown



No stopping for public light buses during time shown



No stopping for goods vehicles during time shown



No stopping for buses at 24 hours



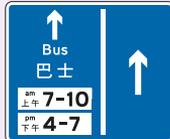
End of no-stopping restriction



Repeater sign of no-stopping at 24 hours



Left lane designated as bus lane for franchised buses only during time shown



Left lane designated as bus lane for franchised buses and other buses during time shown



Time plate for public light bus stand and public light bus parking at other times



Time plate for taxi stand and taxi parking at other times



Autotoll booth



Autotoll traffic lane

(2) Traffic signs giving warning



Cyclists ahead



Pedestrian accident blackspot ahead



Red light / speed camera ahead



Red light camera control zone



Left bend sign with 'reduce speed now' (right if symbol reversed)



Sharp deviation of route to right (left if symbol reversed)

(3) Road markings giving warning and information



Keep clear



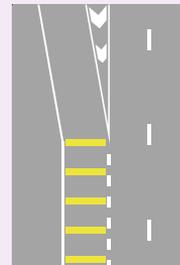
Start of the speed limit as shown



Taxi pick up and drop off only



Autotoll lane guide mark



Transverse yellow bar marking - Reduce speed in approaching exit to slip road / roundabout / toll plaza

(4) Traffic signs giving information



On busy roads, signs may be placed on gantries above the roads.



Symbols for the three cross-harbour tunnels are marked with E, C and W to indicate the directions to the Eastern Harbour Crossing, Cross-Harbour Tunnel and Western Harbour Crossing respectively. The arrows below the respective destinations point to the lanes for these destinations.



Chainage marker to give position along strategic route



Direction sign showing exit number along strategic route



Direction sign showing destination and its associated exit number along strategic route



Route number along strategic route



Direction sign for local destination (black on white background)



Direction sign to expressway. Destination, route number and expressway logo are shown



Continuation of expressway with route number



Direction to nearby hospital with accident and emergency services



Direction to hillside escalators



Direction to Mass Transit Railway station



Carriageway narrows on right



Carriageway narrows on right (on expressway)



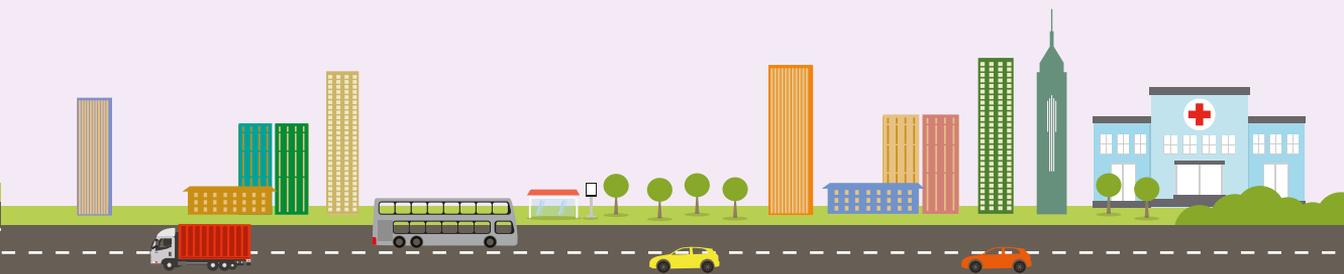
Urban taxi pick-up and drop-off point



New Territories taxi pick-up and drop-off point



Lantau taxi pick-up and drop-off point





(5) Strategic routes

Hong Kong strategic routes, including most trunk roads and expressways, have route numbers and exit numbers. Route number shields and exit numbers are included on direction signs to guide drivers.



(6) Smart devices for extending flashing green lights

TD has installed Smart Devices at 9 "Green man" crossings since 2018. The elderly or persons with disabilities can tap their elderly Octopus Cards or Personalised Octopus Cards with "Persons with Disabilities Status" on the devices. The subsequent flashing green time for pedestrians will be extended.



(7) Bus-friendly traffic measures trial scheme

In 2019, TD commenced a trial scheme to set up “Give way to bus” traffic signs and road markings at 4 bus stops in Sha Tin, Kwai Fong, Kowloon City and Central to encourage drivers to give way to buses when approaching a bus stop. Some buses have also been affixed with “Give way to bus” stickers at their rears.



TD also commenced a pilot trial to install energy absorbing bollards (EABs) at the bus stop on Abredeen Praya Road near Tin Wan Praya Road in 2019. When EAB is impacted by a vehicle, it will absorb energy from the vehicle and reduce its speed, thereby reducing the threat of errant vehicles to drivers, passengers and pedestrians.



Road Traffic Information

(1) Journey time indication system

The estimated time is shown in following three colours for different traffic conditions:

- red - congested traffic;
- amber - slow traffic; and
- green - smooth traffic.



(2) Speed map panel system

Speed map panels installed at critical diversion points in the New Territories show real-time traffic conditions to facilitate drivers to choose the most appropriate routes.



(3) "HKeMobility" mobile application

In July 2018, the TD launched the all-in-one mobile application, "HKeMobility", to promote "Smart Mobility". It provides information routes of different transportation modes, journey times and fares, as well as disseminates real-time traffic news to facilitate users to plan for the most appropriate transport arrangements.

It also shows the real-time arrival information provided by public transport operators.

