

Subsidising the installation of seats and real-time bus arrival information display panels at covered bus stops by franchised bus companies

Purpose

This paper aims to brief Members on the Government's initiative on subsidising the installation of seats and real-time bus arrival information display panels ("display panels")¹ at covered bus stops by franchised bus companies as well as to provide the list of the bus stops to be installed with such facilities by the bus companies and the related installation timetable in Central and Western District.

Background

2. At present, there are about 3 000 covered bus termini², en-route stops and bus-bus interchanges across the territory, of which only about 200 covered bus stops are installed with seats. To help all franchised bus companies³ expedite the installation of seats for the convenience of passengers, especially the elderly and those in need, the Government will subsidise franchised bus companies for installing seats at covered bus stops without seats.

3. Separately, all franchised bus companies have been gradually rolling out their real-time arrival information systems⁴. Currently, KMB and LWB are providing real-time bus arrival information of about 500 regular bus routes to the passengers through their websites and mobile phone applications, whilst other franchised bus companies will introduce the real-time bus arrival information systems gradually by end 2018 so that passengers can know their waiting time

¹ The Government has earmarked \$88.27 million to subsidise franchised bus companies for installing seats and display panels.

² Bus termini owned by the Government and managed by the Transport Department.

³ Franchised bus companies include Kowloon Motor Bus Company (1933) Limited (KMB), Long Win Bus Company Limited (LWB), Citybus Limited (CTB), New World First Bus Services Limited (NWFB) and New Lantao Bus Company (1973) Limited (NLB).

⁴ Currently, KMB and LWB have developed and applied the real-time bus arrival information systems. Therefore, these two bus companies can arrange installation of display panels immediately. For CTB and NWFB, as their real-time arrival information systems are still under development, it is expected that the real-time enquiry service will cover all their bus routes in 2018. As such, installation of display panels will commence in 2018 to tie in with implementation of the systems. As for NLB, the bus company expects that development of its system will be completed in the first quarter of 2017 and installation of display panels will commence thereafter.

and plan their journeys better. In addition to the use of websites and mobile phone applications, individual franchised bus companies are also providing real-time bus arrival information through display panels installed at some of their covered bus stops with electrical installation. This has generally been well-received by passengers. As the installation of display panels involves considerable capital and recurrent expenditure and may exert pressure on bus fare, the Government will provide subsidy to franchised bus companies for their installation of display panels at covered bus stops with electrical installation on a matching basis⁵.

4. Due to physical and technical constraints, not all covered bus stops are suitable for installation of seats and display panels. After discussing with franchised bus companies and relevant government departments, the Transport Department has formulated the following screening criteria for identifying the bus stops to be installed with seats and display panels:

- (a) Bus stops with shelters (and, for installation of display panels, equipped with electrical installation);
- (b) A minimum 1.5 metre wide passageway is preferably to be maintained on the footpath after the installation of seats to allow passage of the elderly, the disabled and wheelchair users; and
- (c) Bus stops that are mainly used for boarding instead of alighting.

5. For sites that are free from any physical and technical constraint, bus companies will install seats and display panels at their bus stops which meet the above criteria. However, as there are large number of bus stops that need to be installed with such facilities by individual bus company i.e. KMB, installation work will be carried out in phases. In this connection, KMB will rank the priority of the installation work based on the following objective factors:

- (a) First priority: bus stops near hospitals or general out-patient clinics;
- (b) Second priority: bus stops with bus service at a frequency of 20 minutes or more; and
- (c) Other priorities: bus stops with greater number of boarding passengers.

In drawing up the timetable for the bus stops to be installed with such facilities, we will also see whether any sub-areas are lacking in such facilities.

⁵ The Government will provide subsidy for the installation of an additional display panel on a matching basis, which means that for every display panel which a franchised bus company has installed, the Government will provide subsidy for the installation of another display panel.

Installation timetable

6. We plan to take forward the installation work in the 18 districts simultaneously. According to our initial estimation, LWB and NLB should be able to complete the installation of seats and display panels at their suitable bus stops (mainly located in Lantau) in 2017. For CTB and NWFB, the seat installation work can be completed in 2017 (mainly on Hong Kong Island). As for the installation of display panels, the work will commence upon the development of the bus companies' real-time enquiry service covering all bus routes in 2018. Regarding KMB, as there are large number of suitable bus stops in Kowloon and the New Territories, installation of seats and display panels will be undertaken in phases starting from 2017 and the whole project is expected to be completed by 2019⁶.

7. With reference to the screening criteria as mentioned in paragraph 4 above, the bus companies have drawn up the timetables for the installation of seats and display panels under the Government's Subsidy Scheme⁷ and that for Central and Western District is shown in **Annex 1** attached. A list of bus stops already equipped with such facilities is attached at **Annex 2** for Members' information.

8. Members are invited to note the arrangements for subsidising the installation of seats and display panels at covered bus stops by franchised bus companies.

Transport Department
January 2017

⁶ As the design of covered bus termini varies and the space for passenger queuing is limited, bus companies may need to explore the design option and installation method for each bus terminus having regard to the respective physical and technical constraints, and applications to relevant Government Department may be required. The bus companies will carry out the study in 2017 and installation works are expected to commence in 2018 for completion in 2019.

⁷ The franchised bus companies will continue to erect bus shelters at suitable locations and will provide seats and display panels (if electrical installations are provided) at their newly built covered bus stops, and subsidy will not be granted by the Government for provision of such facilities.

Bus Stops with Facility Installation in Central and Western District

Number	Bus Stop Information				Estimated Installation Time	
	Bus Company	Location	Bus Stop Name	Facility		
				Seat		Display Panel
1	CTB	Murray Rd opp Chater Garden	Murray Road	✓		2017
2	CTB	Des Voeux Rd C o/s Chater Garden	Chater Garden, Des Voeux Road Central	✓		2017
3	CTB	Des Voeux Rd W opp Kwan Yick Bldg Phase 1	Hill Road, Des Voeux Road West	✓		2017
4	CTB	Des Voeux Rd W opp Harbour One	Queen's Road West, Des Voeux Road West	✓		2017
5	CTB	Kennedy Town Praya opp Brilliant Court	Sai Cheung Street, Kennedy Town Praya	✓		2017
6	CTB	Kennedy Town Praya opp Kennedy Town Centre	Belcher Bay Park, Kennedy Town Praya	✓		2017
7	CTB	Man Kwong Street o/s Central Ferry Pier No. 7	Central (Star Ferry)	✓		2017
8	CTB	Pok Fu Lam Road o/s HKU West Gate	HKU West Gate, Pok Fu Lam Road	✓		2017
9	CTB	Pok Fu Lam Road opp HKU Jockey Club Student Village 1	Lady Ho Tung Hall, Pok Fu Lam Road	✓		2017
10	CTB	Macau Ferry Bus Terminus near Shun Tak Center	Central (Macau Ferry)	✓		2017
11	CTB	Connaught Rd C o/s Jardine Hse	Jardine House, Connaught Road Central	✓		2017
12	CTB	Chater Rd opp Statue Square	Statue Square, Chater Road	✓		2017

Bus Stops with Facility Installation in Central and Western District

Number	Bus Stop Information					Estimated Installation Time
	Bus Company	Location	Bus Stop Name	Facility		
				Seat	Display Panel	
13	CTB	Garden Rd nr Upper Albert Rd	HK Zoological & Botanical Garden, Garden Road	✓		2017
14	CTB	Garden Rd o/s St John's Cathedral	St. John's Cathedral, Garden Road	✓		2017
15	CTB	Connaught Rd Central o/s Shun Tak Centre	Macau Ferry, Connaught Road Central	✓		2017
16	CTB	Man Kwong St. o/s Pier 5	Central Pier 5	✓		2017
17	CTB	Queensway o/s Bank of China Tower	Bank of China Tower, Queensway	✓		2017
18	CTB	Queensway o/s Pacific Place	Pacific Place, Queensway	✓		2017
19	CTB	Chater Rd opp Statue Square	Statue Square, Chater Road	✓		2017
20	CTB	Robinson Rd nr Garden Rd Junction	Garden Terrace, Robinson Road	✓		2017
21	CTB	Des Voeux Rd C o/s Standard Chartered Bank	HSBC Main Building, Des Voeux Road Central	✓		2017
22	CTB	Connaught Rd C o/s Jardine Hse	Jardine House, Connaught Road Central	✓		2017
23	CTB	Man Kwong St. o/s Central Ferry Pier 5	Central Pier 5	✓		2017
24	CTB	Pok Fu Lam Road opp HKU	Chiu Sheung School Hong Kong, Pok Fu Lam Road	✓		2017
25	CTB	Bonham Road o/s HKU East Gate	HKU East Gate, Bonham Road	✓		2017

Bus Stops with Facility Installation in Central and Western District

Number	Bus Stop Information					Estimated Installation Time
	Bus Company	Location	Bus Stop Name	Facility		
				Seat	Display Panel	
26	CTB	Upper Albert Rd o/s Government House	Government House, Upper Albert Road	✓		2017
27	CTB	No. 3 MacDonnell Road outside Belgravia	YWCA, MacDonnell Road	✓		2017
28	CTB	Kennedy Town Praya o/s Kennedy Town Swimming Pool	Collinson Street, Kennedy Town Praya	✓		2017
29	CTB	Pokfield Rd Bus Terminus	Pokfield Road, Pok Fu Lam Road	✓		2017
30	CTB	Peak Rd nr Modreenagh of Plunkett's Rd	Mount Kellett Road, Peak Road	✓		2017
31	CTB	Macau Ferry Bus Terminus	Central (Macau Ferry)	✓		2017
32	CTB	Cotton Tree Drive o/s Peregrine Tower	Lippo Centre, Cotton Tree Drive	✓		2017
33	CTB	Pier Road opp Harbour Government Offices	Harbour Building, Pier Road	✓		2017
34	CTB	Des Voeux Rd C o/s Landmark	The Landmark, Des Voeux Road Central	✓		2017
35	CTB	Cotton Tree Drive o/s Squash Ctr	Hong Kong Park, Cotton Tree Drive	✓		2017
36	CTB	Connaught Rd C o/s City Hall (Relocated 5th August, 1999)	City Hall, Connaught Road Central	✓		2017
37	CTB	Connaught Rd C o/s Statue Square	Statue Square, Connaught Road Central	✓		2017

Bus Stops with Facility Installation in Central and Western District

Number	Bus Stop Information					Estimated Installation Time
	Bus Company	Location	Bus Stop Name	Facility		
				Seat	Display Panel	
38	CTB	Harcourt Road o/s Central Government Office	Central Government Offices, Harcourt Road	✓		2017
39	CTB	Murray Road opp Chater Garden	Murray Road	✓		2017
40	NWFB	Belcher's Bay Reclamation	Belcher Bay	✓		2017
41	NWFB	Queensway - Bank of China Tower	Bank of China Tower, Queensway	✓		2017
42	NWFB	Des Voeux Road West Near Eastern Street	Eastern Street, Des Voeux Road West	✓		2017
43	NWFB	Pokfulam Rd. near Redmond Building	Hill Road, Pok Fu Lam Road	✓		2017
44	NWFB	Peak Road (Mount Kellett Road)	Mount Kellett Road, Peak Road	✓		2017
45	CTB	Murray Rd opp Chater Garden	Murray Road		✓	2018
46	CTB	Des Voeux Rd C o/s Chater Garden	Chater Garden, Des Voeux Road Central		✓	2018
47	CTB	Des Voeux Rd W opp Kwan Yick Bldg Phase 1	Hill Road, Des Voeux Road West		✓	2018
48	CTB	Des Voeux Rd W opp Harbour One	Queen's Road West, Des Voeux Road West		✓	2018
49	CTB	Kennedy Town Praya opp Brilliant Court	Sai Cheung Street, Kennedy Town Praya		✓	2018
50	CTB	Kennedy Town Praya opp Kennedy Town Centre	Belcher Bay Park, Kennedy Town Praya		✓	2018

Bus Stops with Facility Installation in Central and Western District

Number	Bus Stop Information				Estimated Installation Time	
	Bus Company	Location	Bus Stop Name	Facility		
				Seat		Display Panel
51	CTB	Connaught Rd C o/s Jardine Hse	Jardine House, Connaught Road Central		✓	2018
52	CTB	Chater Rd opp Statue Square	Statue Square, Chater Road		✓	2018
53	CTB	Garden Rd nr Upper Albert Rd	HK Zoological & Botanical Garden, Garden Road		✓	2018
54	CTB	Garden Rd o/s St John's Cathedral	St. John's Cathedral, Garden Road		✓	2018
55	CTB	Connaught Rd Central o/s Shun Tak Centre	Macau Ferry, Connaught Road Central		✓	2018
56	CTB	Man Kwong St. o/s Pier 5	Central Pier 5		✓	2018
57	CTB	Queensway o/s Bank of China Tower	Bank of China Tower, Queensway		✓	2018
58	CTB	Queensway o/s Pacific Place	Pacific Place, Queensway		✓	2018
59	CTB	Chater Rd opp Statue Square	Statue Square, Chater Road		✓	2018
60	CTB	Robinson Rd nr Garden Rd Junction	Garden Terrace, Robinson Road		✓	2018
61	CTB	Des Voeux Rd C o/s Standard Chartered Bank	HSBC Main Building, Des Voeux Road Central		✓	2018
62	CTB	Pok Fu Lam Road opp HKU	Chiu Sheung School Hong Kong, Pok Fu Lam Road		✓	2018
63	CTB	Bonham Road o/s HKU East Gate	HKU East Gate, Bonham Road		✓	2018

Bus Stops with Facility Installation in Central and Western District

Number	Bus Stop Information					Estimated Installation Time
	Bus Company	Location	Bus Stop Name	Facility		
				Seat	Display Panel	
64	CTB	No. 3 MacDonnell Road outside Belgravia	YWCA, MacDonnell Road		✓	2018
65	CTB	Kennedy Town Praya o/s Kennedy Town Swimming Pool	Collinson Street, Kennedy Town Praya		✓	2018
66	CTB	Pokfield Rd Bus Terminus	Pokfield Road, Pok Fu Lam Road		✓	2018
67	CTB	Macau Ferry Bus Terminus	Central (Macau Ferry)		✓	2018
68	CTB	Cotton Tree Drive o/s Peregrine Tower	Lippo Centre, Cotton Tree Drive		✓	2018
69	CTB	Pier Road opp Harbour Government Offices	Harbour Building, Pier Road		✓	2018
70	CTB	Des Voeux Rd C o/s Landmark	The Landmark, Des Voeux Road Central		✓	2018
71	CTB	Cotton Tree Drive o/s Squash Ctr	Hong Kong Park, Cotton Tree Drive		✓	2018
72	CTB	Connaught Rd C o/s City Hall	City Hall, Connaught Road Central		✓	2018
73	CTB	Connaught Rd C o/s Statue Square	Statue Square, Connaught Road Central		✓	2018
74	CTB	Harcourt Road o/s Central Government Office	Central Government Offices, Harcourt Road		✓	2018

Bus Stops with Facility Installation in Central and Western District

Number	Bus Stop Information					Estimated Installation Time
	Bus Company	Location	Bus Stop Name	Facility		
				Seat	Display Panel	
75	CTB	93 Queensway outside Admiralty Garden / Queensway Plaza	Admiralty Station, Queensway		✓	2018
76	CTB	Queen's Road Central opposite HSBC Main Building	HSBC Main Building, Queen's Road Central		✓	2018
77	CTB	Caine Road outside Caine Road Garden	Seymour Road, Caine Road		✓	2018
78	CTB	38 Queensway outside High Court	High Court, Queensway		✓	2018
79	CTB	Peak Road before Mount Kellett Road	Mount Kellett Road, Peak Road		✓	2018
80	CTB	Tamar Street outside Lippo Centre	Admiralty (Tamar Street)		✓	2018
81	CTB	95 Queensway inside United Centre	Admiralty Station		✓	2018
82	CTB	Drake Street outside Lippo Centre	Admiralty (West)		✓	2018
83	CTB	Man Yiu Street opposite Central Pier 6	Central Ferry Piers		✓	2018
84	CTB	Sai Ning Street opposite China Merchants Godown	Kennedy Town		✓	2018
85	NWFB	Des Voeux Road West Near Eastern Street	Eastern Street, Des Voeux Road West		✓	2018

Bus Stops with Facility Installation in Central and Western District

Number	Bus Stop Information				Estimated Installation Time	
	Bus Company	Location	Bus Stop Name	Facility		
				Seat		Display Panel
86	NWFB	Pokfulam Rd. near Redmond Building	Hill Road, Pok Fu Lam Road		✓	2018
87	NWFB	60 Robinson Road before Seymour Road	Seymour Road, Robinson Road		✓	2018
88	NWFB	2- 8 Caine Road outside Caritas Centre	Caritas Centre, Caine Road		✓	2018
89	NWFB	Pok Fu Lam Road opposite Pok Fu Lam Road Playground	Mount Davis Road, Pok Fu Lam Road		✓	2018
90	NWFB	2 Lyttelton Road outside St. Stephen's Girls' College	St. Stephen's Girls' College, Lyttelton Road		✓	2018
91	NWFB	Pok Fu Lam Road Playground, Pok Fu Lam Road	Pok Fu Lam Road Playground, Pok Fu Lam Road		✓	2018
92	NWFB	Peak Road after Guildford Road	Guildford Road, Peak Road		✓	2018

Notes: - CTB/NWFB are developing their real-time bus arrival information system and it is expected to be launched in 2018. The installation of display panels would commence subsequently.

- The viability of installation of seats and display panels would depend on the physical and technical constraints at each stop.

Bus Stops Installed with Facilities in Central and Western District

Number	Bus Stop Information				
	Bus Company	Location	Bus Stop Name	Facility	
				Seats	Display Panel
1	CTB	Connaught Road Central inside Exchange Square	Central (Exchange Square)		✓
2	CTB	118 Peak Road inside Peak Galleria	The Peak		✓
3	CTB	Man Kwong Street outside Central Pier 6	Central Ferry Piers		✓