

**Public Omnibus Operators Association Ltd.**  
**公共巴士同業聯會有限公司**

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1 September 2005

HEC Sub-Committee on WDII Review  
c/- Civil Engineering Development Department  
13/F., North Point Government Offices  
Java Road, North Point  
HONG KONG

Dear Sirs,

Expert Panel Forum on  
Sustainable Transport Planning and  
Central-Wan Chai Bypass

Please refer to the captioned Forum to be held on 3 September 2005.  
We wish to submit our opinion in writing as follows:

The Public Omnibus Operators Association Limited ("POOA") is a confederation of non-franchised public bus ("NFB") operators in Hong Kong. The current total number of registered NFB is over 7,200, providing different types of bus services to clients in Hong Kong and over 60% of NFB operators in Hong Kong are members of POOA.

The proposed Central – Wan Chai Bypass ("the Bypass") and the Island Eastern Corridor Link ("the Link") has, according to Highways Department's description, a single objective, and that is to alleviate the traffic congestion along the existing Gloucester Road to Connaught Road Central corridor.

As bus operators, we would consider traffic congestion disadvantageous to our business, the passengers and the environment as a whole. Any measures that could economically alleviate traffic congestion should be appreciated.

In our opinion, the proposed project objective could, in principle, satisfy the above.

We are also given to understand that there may be objection to the construction of the Bypass and the Link as the project, once commenced, could bring about further narrowing of the Hong Kong Harbour.


This notion would leave us to ponder if there could be other measures that could alleviate the traffic congestion situation in this area without further bothering the coastline of Hong Kong Harbour.

We therefore suggest that Consultant to the project and other experts be further conferred on other viable options; and that the proposed construction would commence only when these options have been exhaustedly evaluated and found to be unfeasible.

We submit the above as written opinion from POOA on the proposed Bypass and Link.

Yours faithfully,  
For and on behalf of  
PUBLIC OMNIBUS OPERATORS  
ASSOCIATION LIMITED



  
Chairman