

# **Task Force on Harbourfront Developments on Hong Kong Island**

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For discussion  
on 19 October 2016

TFHK/13/2016

## **Temporary On-street Metered Parking for Coaches At Hoi Yu Street, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong**

### **PURPOSE**

This paper summarises the findings of the review the Administration conducted on the effectiveness of the interim and temporary measure of using a vacant Government land at Hoi Yu Street, Quarry Bay for laagering point of coaches (“the measure”) and the recommended way forward.

### **BACKGROUND**

2. The traffic congestion and safety issues arising from travel coaches and their dropping-off and picking-up of visitors along Java Road, North Point attracted a considerable number of complaints from Members of the Eastern District Council (EDC), local residents and different sectors of the community in the past years. It also caused nuisance to and, at its peak, tension in the community.

3. Police enforcement alone could not resolve the issue. Hence, to put in place substantial solutions (including interim ones), the EDC supported the Administration’s proposal of setting up one-hour parking meters at Hoi Yu Street and decided that it was only an interim and temporary measure which would be reviewed in 6 months’ time after commencement of service (29 September 2015). In February 2016, the EDC supported the extension of the measure up to end-October 2016, following a thorough deliberation and review.

### **REVIEW**

4. Since the last review in February 2016, the Hoi Yu Street parking space has recorded an improved and satisfactory usage. According to the Transport Department (TD), usage of the subject parking space was at least 60% between April and July 2016. Besides reflecting support from different stakeholders, the statistics suggest that a shift in the travel trade’s modus operandi, i.e. rather than illegally parking along Java Road, those travel coaches opt to laager at the subject parking space while waiting for the visitors.

5. TD and the Police noted that the traffic condition at Java Road continues to stay smooth in general, even during the evening peak hours (i.e. 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.) on weekdays. Moreover, despite the vehicle flow

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increase due to the new arrangement of 12 bus routes following the commencement of the public transport interchange at North Point Pier on 14 May 2016, TD noted that the traffic remained smooth in Java Road. According to the survey conducted by TD, the average evening peak-hour journey time through the section of Java Road between North Point Road and Tin Chiu Street (approximately 670m long) remains less than 3 minutes. Another survey conducted by TD also confirms that coaches, after dropping off passengers, would move to the subject parking space to laager, establishing a correlation between the measure and the traffic improvement. According to the Police, the same smooth traffic was observed, and the complaint figure regarding traffic congestion at Java Road has remained insignificant since the measure commenced. These support that the measure has successfully served as a laagering point in the community, alleviating traffic congestion at Java Road.

6. The local community highly welcomes the temporary measure and considers it effective in relieving the traffic problems at Java Road caused by travel coaches (see **Annexes 1, 2 and 3**). The local community has expressed a strong wish to have this temporary measure extended as a continuous relief to the traffic problems.

7. The travel trade has also responded positively to the temporary measure as well (see the letter of support from the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong at **Annex 4**).

8. Apart from the above, the area has continued to attract quite a number of Mainland tours on a daily basis (i.e. there were around 44,000 Mainland tours visiting Hong Kong in first 9 months of 2016, according to the information from the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong). The local community has continued to show concern over the traffic problems caused by these travel coaches. The discussion of the Area Committees on the subject is attached at **Annexes 5 and 6**.

### **EASTERN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

9. At the meeting of the Traffic and Transport Committee (TTC) of the EDC on 6 September 2016, the Committee supported the extension of the temporary measure until the 30 permanent coach parking place at the ex-North Point Estate Re-development project is available (see **Annex 7**). Members of the TTC have been informed of the development schedule of the 30 parking spaces, that they would be ready for use at the end of 2017 tentatively.

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

10. The temporary measure of using the vacant Government land at Hoi Yu Street for laagering point of coaches by setting up on-street metered parking continues to be well-received by the community and travel trade and is considered effective. In light of the local community's continuous concern over the traffic condition at Java Road, the Administration will extend the temporary measure until the permanent coach parking place at the ex-North Point Estate site is available (which, according to the latest redevelopment schedule of ex-North Point Estate site, is the end of 2017 tentatively) to alleviate the traffic problems caused by travel coaches.

## **ANNEXES**

- Annex 1 – Letter from the North Point Kai-fong Welfare Advancement Association
- Annex 2 – Letter from North Point Residents' Association
- Annex 3 – Letter from The Coordination and Promotion of Eastern District
- Annex 4 – Letter from the Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong
- Annex 5 – Extract of Notes of 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of 2014-16 North Point East Area Committee on 22 February 2016
- Annex 6 – Extract of Notes of 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of 2014-16 North Point West Area Committee on 1 March 2016
- Annex 7 – Extract of Summary of TTC Meeting on 6 September 2016

**Eastern District Office  
Home Affairs Department  
October 2016**

**THE NORTH POINT KAI-FONG WELFARE ADVANCEMENT ASSOCIATION**

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29 September 2016

Mr Nicholas Brooke  
Chairman of the Harbourfront Commission  
Secretariat of the Harbourfront Commission  
c/o Development Bureau  
17/F, West Wing, Central Government Offices  
2 Tim Mei Avenue  
Tamar, Hong Kong

Dear Mr Brooke,

**Request for Supporting the Resolution of Eastern District Council:  
Extending the Service Period of the Temporary Coach Parking  
Place at the Vacant Land of Hoi Yu Street  
as a Solution to Severe Road Obstruction Caused by Parking of  
Coaches at Java Road, North Point**

Over recent years, coaches carrying tourists for cruise tours and dinner at neighbouring restaurants have often been parked along the two sides of Java road, North Point, causing severe traffic congestion there. This situation has not only seriously hindered residents from taking other modes of transport (e.g. minibuses, buses, taxis, etc.), but has also endangered the personal safety of the elderly, teenagers and children visiting our Association as well as the residents. In addition, it has led to other road safety problems. Our Association considers it necessary to resolve the said problem as quickly as possible. In this regard, I, on behalf of the Association, wrote to Ms Anne Teng, JP, District Officer (Eastern) on 16 July 2015, demanding “a solution to severe road obstruction caused by parking of coaches at Java Road”. I sent another letter to you on 17 September 2015, requesting support from the Harbourfront Commission for the Eastern District Council’s resolution in setting up a temporary coach parking place at the vacant land at Hoi Yu Street as a solution to severe road obstruction caused by parking of coaches at Java Road, North Point.

We would like to thank the District Officer (Eastern) and Members of the Eastern District Council for their support, as well as you and other members of the Commission for taking the public pulse and approving the provision of a temporary coach parking place at the vacant land near the harbour at Hoi Yu Street since late September 2015, to mitigate the “severe road obstruction caused by parking of coaches at Java Road, North Point”. The commissioning of the temporary coach parking place at Hoi Yu Street has enabled coaches to park there, thereby releasing more space for use by other vehicles at

## **Annex 1**

Java Road. In view of the then situation, we requested the extension of the service period of the said parking place on 6 February 2016. We are grateful for your and other members' understanding for passing such extension. As a matter of fact, our district is privileged to have received support from various government departments for the provision of the temporary coach parking place at the vacant land of Hoi Yu Street. Without this measure, the daily life of the public would have been greatly affected by the severe congestion at Java Road and the related knotty traffic problems.

It is learned that, at the former North Point Estate development project, there will be an area for multiple coaches to park or pick up /drop off tourists. While the area will offer certain relief to the parking problem of coaches, its construction may not be completed anytime soon. Therefore, we write to you in the hope that the Commission will continue to support the extension of the service period of the temporary coach parking place at Hoi Yu Street until the completion of the development project, so as to relieve the prevailing severe traffic congestion caused by parking of coaches at Java Road.

We always appreciate you and other members of the Commission for your dedication to duties, and your unsparing efforts and practical attitude in planning, development and management of the harbourfront for the betterment of Hong Kong in the past years. We write once more to express our gratitude for your support, and hope that the Commission can approve the extension of the service period of the temporary coach parking place at Hoi Yu Street until the completion of the said new buildings, with a view to tackling the serious traffic congestion caused by parking of and obstruction by coaches at Java Road, North Point. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)  
MA Wai-hung  
Chairman

The North Point Kai-fong Welfare Advancement Association

**c.c.**

Ms Anne Teng, JP, District Officer (Eastern)

***North Point Residents' Association***

Flat A, 9/F., Seabright Plaza, 23 Shell Street, North Point, Hong Kong  
Tel: 2234 6262 Fax: 2234 6202

29 September 2016

Mr Nicholas Brooke  
Chairman of the Harbourfront Commission

Dear Mr Brooke,

**Traffic Problems at Java Road**

First of all, we would like to thank the Commission again for listening to public views and supporting the Eastern District Council (EDC) in using the vacant land at Hoi Yu Street as a temporary coach parking place to improve the traffic congestion in North Point. The measure has achieved significant results.

Since the redevelopment project of the former North Point Estate is in full swing and the new coach parking place is not ready yet, we strongly support the Government and EDC in extending the temporary measure of providing temporary coach parking facilities at Hoi Yu Street to solve the traffic problems at Java Road. The measure can help make better use of remaining land and relieve the problems.

Therefore, we write to the Commission again and hope that the Commission will continue to support the Government in using the temporary coach parking place at Hoi Yu Street to alleviate the traffic problems in the area until the commissioning of the new coach parking place.

For any enquiries, please call the undersigned at 9726 0992.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

LI Lee

Chairperson

North Point Residents' Association

**C.C.**

Ms Anne Teng, JP, District Officer (Eastern)

***THE COORDINATION AND PROMOTION  
OF EASTERN DISTRICT***

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29 September 2016

Mr Nicholas Brooke  
Chairman of the Harbourfront Commission

Dear Mr Brooke,

**Traffic Congestion and Pedestrian Safety**

We wrote to the Commission on 17 September 2015 and 16 February 2016 to express our concern over the traffic congestion caused by the overwhelming number of coaches carrying tourists to North Point Ferry Pier for boat trips and catering service.

We would like to extend our deep gratitude to the Commission for supporting the Government in setting up a temporary coach parking place at Hoi Yu Street to alleviate the congestion and the serious problem of illegal parking caused by coaches parked for picking up tourists in the area.

The new hotels and private buildings in the vicinity of North Point Ferry Pier are still under construction with frequent flow of heavy goods vehicles into and out of the area, and the new coach parking at North Point Ferry Pier has yet to come into service. To continue improving the traffic in the area, we hope that you could, taking the local needs into consideration, facilitate the Government's traffic relief measure and continue to support the Government's provision of the temporary coach parking place at Quarry Bay to meet the parking needs of coaches.

Yours sincerely,

The Coordination and Promotion of Eastern District

**C.C.**

District Officer (Eastern)

**TRAVEL INDUSTRY COUNCIL  
OF HONG KONG**  
Incorporated with limited liability

File No.: ED1875/02092016/FY

Fax Document  
(Fax No.: 21100841)

2 September 2016

Mr Nicholas Brooke  
Chairman of the Harbourfront Commission

Dear Mr Brooke,

**Temporary Coach Parking Place at Hoi Yu Street, Quarry Bay**

The Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong notes that the Harbourfront Commission will discuss the above issue soon. We write to the Commission to express our support for the Government's measure to continue the provision of the temporary coach parking place at Hoi Yu Street, Quarry Bay. We believe that the measure will mitigate the traffic problem faced by coaches in North Point.

We would be grateful if the Commission could notify us of any decisions made. Upon notification, we will inform our member travel agencies of the arrangement.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed)  
Joseph TUNG  
Executive Director  
Travel Industry Council of Hong Kong



**Meeting Notes of  
The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of 2014 – 2016 North Point East Area Committee  
(Extract)**

Date: 22 February 2016 (Monday)

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room, 1/F, Causeway Bay Community Centre

**IV. Follow-up Matters**

**(6) Traffic Problem at Java Road**

37. A Member pointed out that, owing to the traffic congestion problem at Java Road caused by parking of coaches, the service period of the temporary metered coach parking place at Hoi Yu Street would be extended for seven months. He hoped that the temporary parking place at Hoi Yu Street would continue to be open to coaches for use until the new coach parking places at the North Point Ferry Pier was commissioned; and that the Police would continue to carry out patrols at Java Road during peak hours, with a view to maintaining smooth traffic flow.

**Meeting Notes of  
The 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of 2014 – 2016 North Point West Area Committee  
(Extract)**

Date: 1 March 2016 (Tuesday)

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Venue: Conference Room, 1/F, Causeway Bay Community Centre

**V. Follow-up Matters**

**(3) Problems caused by Tourists in North Point Area**

27. Members continued to express concern over the issue of traffic congestion at Electric Road and Java Road, and pointed out that the problem had not yet been fully alleviated. The representative of the Police responded that the Police would continue to follow up with the issue.

**Meeting Summary of  
Traffic and Transport Committee (TTC)  
under Eastern District Council  
(Extract)**

Date: 6 September 2016 (Tuesday)

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Venue: Eastern District Council Conference Room, 11/F, Eastern Law  
Courts Building

**Request to Improve Illegal Parking of Coach Buses in North Point –  
Reviewing the Effectiveness of Temporary Coach Parking Place at  
Hoi Yu Street, Quarry Bay**

(TTC Paper No. 23/16)

A number of Members indicated that the said temporary measure could mitigate the traffic problem at Java Road effectively, and they hoped that the 30 coach parking spaces under the redevelopment project of the North Point Estate could be completed as early as possible, thereby tackling the traffic problem at Java Road in the long run. After discussion on the effectiveness of the said temporary measure and the long-term use of the site at Hoi Yu Street, Members generally supported in principle an extension of the said temporary measure until the full commissioning of the 30 coach parking spaces under the redevelopment project of the North Point Estate. The Committee agreed to further follow up the agenda item.