

## Cross-Harbour Tunnel at Hunghom

(managed by Hong Kong Tunnels and Highways Management Company Limited - 37% owned)

The company operates the Cross-Harbour Tunnel ("CHT") at Hunghom under a Management, Operations and Maintenance Contract with the Government effective for the period from 1 September 1999 for two years. The Government has exercised its option to extend the contract for further twelve months to 31 August 2002.

The company is entitled to a management fee and other agreed revenue sharing from the Government.

### *Tunnel Usage*

Traffic throughput during 2001 was 43,970,146 vehicle journeys, representing a decrease of 0.18% from 2000.

Throughput of private cars, taxis and motorcycles in 2001 increased by 0.14% compared to last year. Usage by buses increased by 1.73% but usage of goods vehicles decreased by 2.07%. CHT's average toll per vehicle decreased to HK\$16.19 in 2001 from HK\$16.24 last year.

	Traffic Mix	
	2001	2000
Private Cars/Taxis and Motorcycles	69.6%	69.4%
Goods Vehicles	20.6%	21.0%
Buses	9.8%	9.6%
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

### *Accidents*

The overall traffic accident occurrence rate increased by 5.92% during 2001. The company took constant measures to remind the tunnel users of road safety.

	Occurrence Rate per million vehicle trips	
	2001	2000
Fatal Accidents	0	0
Traffic Accidents (Personal Injury)	0.75	0.79
Traffic Accidents (Damage Only)	14.70	13.78
TOTAL:	<u>15.45</u>	<u>14.57</u>

## *Breakdowns*

The number of breakdowns decreased by 0.53% and the average time taken to attend the scene was maintained at three minutes.

	Occurrence Rate per million vehicle trips	
	2001	2000
Total Breakdowns	29.59	29.72
Daily Average Breakdowns	3.57	3.58

## *Escorts*

	Number of Carriages	
	2001	2000
Dangerous Goods	133	18
Abnormal Goods	890	572
TOTAL:	<u>1,023</u>	<u>590</u>

## *Infringements*

The number of infringements and prosecutions per million vehicle trips decreased by 38% and 41% respectively.

Infringements included 44 excessive smoke emissions, which the company referred to the Environmental Protection Department for action.

	Number of Events per million vehicle trips	
	2001	2000
Total Infringements Reported	9.1	14.7
Prosecutions	6.4	10.9

## *Maintenance*

All major tunnel systems operated satisfactorily. Major repair works were carried out by the Highways Department.

Since 1 September 1999, the Government and their designated contractors have taken over the responsibility for carrying out major works relating to the tunnel where the value exceeds HK\$120,000 per item.

## *Staff*

Staff turnover for the year was 7% (2000 - 13.5%) with sixteen members of the staff either retired or resigned.

## **Western Harbour Tunnel (“WHT”) - 37% owned**

The construction of the tunnel was completed in April 1997 at a total cost of HK\$7 billion. Western Harbour Crossing, one of the ten Airport Core Projects, was planned to alleviate cross-harbour traffic congestion. The dual three-lane tunnel has been under-utilised due to lower tolls at the other two cross-harbour tunnels and poor connecting roads leading to and from the WHT. The company’s surplus cash flow from its operation cannot fully meet its debt requirements. The company will continue to work with the Government to improve the overall traffic flow of Hong Kong through better usage of the WHT.

According to the Western Harbour Crossing Ordinance, WHT had been entitled to increase its tolls since 1 January 1999. Other ways to stimulate traffic and revenue, such as toll reductions, were experimented with, but the results were not positive.

The company raised its tolls on 3 December 2000, the first increase since the tunnel opened in 1997. The increase was HK\$5 for all vehicles using the tunnel, except for single-decked buses (increased by HK\$10) and double-decked buses (increased by HK\$15). Since the increase, WHT has been experiencing an increase in toll revenue with a slight drop in traffic.

## *Tunnel Usage*

Throughput for the year was 14,491,313 vehicle journeys, representing a drop of 7.5% from 2000. The daily average throughput stood at approximately 40,000 vehicle journeys with average toll per vehicle reported at HK\$40.85 in 2001. The market share was approximately 16.9% for 2001.

	<b>Traffic Mix</b>	
	<b>2001</b>	<b>2000</b>
Private Cars/Taxis and Motorcycles	<b>72.8%</b>	73.7%
Goods Vehicles	11.7%	11.9%
Buses	15.5%	14.4%
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Daily traffic of private cars, taxis and motorcycles decreased by 8.4% compared to last year. Usage by buses and goods vehicles increased by 0.2% and decreased by 8.9% respectively.

## *Accidents*

The traffic accident occurrence rate during 2001 was reduced by 31% as a result of the traffic safety measures implemented by the tunnel management, such as installation of advisory traffic signs, road markings and display of road safety banners to remind tunnel users of traffic safety.

	Occurrence Rate per million vehicle trips	
	2001	2000
Fatal Accidents	0	0.13
Traffic Accidents (Personal Injury)	0.69	0.57
Traffic Accidents (Damage Only)	4.14	6.32
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TOTAL:	4.83	7.02
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## *Breakdowns*

The number of breakdowns in 2001 increased by 6% and the average time taken to attend the scene was maintained at three minutes.

	Occurrence Rate per million vehicle trips	
	2001	2000
Total Breakdowns	27.10	25.50
Daily Average Breakdowns	1.07	1.09

## *Escorts*

	Number of trips	
	2001	2000
Dangerous Goods	0	0
Abnormal Goods	1,657	1,640
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TOTAL:	1,657	1,640
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## *Infringements*

The number of infringements per million vehicle trips increased by 49% in 2001. The number of prosecutions per million vehicle trips also increased, by 8% , due to stronger enforcement.

	Number of Events per million vehicle trips	
	2001	2000
Total Infringements Reported	448	300
Prosecutions	5.5	5.1

## *Maintenance*

Throughout the year 2001, all major tunnel systems operated in a safe and reliable condition.

Preventive maintenance work was performed on all key operating and technical systems and no defects were revealed in the course of the maintenance.

As an annual exercise, an Independent Consulting Engineer was engaged in December 2001 to conduct a maintenance audit, which showed that all tunnel infrastructure and systems had been maintained in compliance with Maintenance Manual, which is a standard agreed with the Highways Department.

## *Staff*

Staff turnover for the year was 11.3% (2000 - 13.0%) with twenty-five members departed.

## **Autopass - 70% owned and Autotoll - effectively 35% owned**

There were forty-five auto-toll lanes in operations at ten different toll roads and tunnels during 2001. The total number of tags in circulation was 181,741 as at 31 December 2001, representing an increase of 17% from the year before. The overall usage of auto-toll facilities in all ten toll roads and tunnels was 47% with the highest usage at Western Harbour Tunnel at over 60%. The daily transactions handled by Autotoll have reached a level of over 313,000 with toll amounts of approximately HK\$5.2 million.

## **Hong Kong School of Motoring - 70% owned**

In the past year, the three off-street driving training centres at Siu Lek Yuen, Wong Chuk Hang and Yuen Long had recorded a decline of 6% in the number of driving lessons demanded, due to shrinking in overall market spending. Price competition among driving school operators and private instructors continued to be intense during the year and appears likely to persist in the coming year.