

# Operation Review

## Autotoll

The total number of tags in circulation was 197,484 as at 31 December 2003, representing an increase of 1.7 % from the year before. Autotoll's penetration rate on licensed vehicles was about 38% on average. The overall usage of autotoll facilities in all eleven toll roads and tunnels was maintained at 49% with the highest usage at Western Harbour Tunnel at over 62%. The daily transactions handled by Autotoll were close to 325,000 with toll amounts of approximately HK\$5.5 million.

## Hong Kong School of Motoring

In the past year, the number of driving lessons demanded has declined by about 2% as compared with the previous year. On the other hand, the income from motorcycle training courses has increased slightly. Again, due to a low sales response, the Driving Improvement Centre operated under a three-year contract awarded by the Transport Department recorded another year of loss since its commencement of business in September 2002.

## Western Harbour Tunnel ("WHT")

The construction of the Western Harbour Tunnel was completed in April 1997 at a total cost of HK\$7 billion. The dual three-lane tunnel has been under-utilised due to lower tolls at the other cross-harbour tunnels and poor connecting roads leading to and from the WHT. The company will continue to work with the Government to improve the overall traffic flow of Hong Kong through better usage of the WHT.

### *Second Toll Increase for WHT on 16 February 2003*

With effect from 16 February 2003, toll charges for private cars and light buses have risen by HK\$2 to HK\$37 and HK\$47 respectively, while single and double decked buses are charged HK\$60 (increased by HK\$10) and HK\$85 (increased by HK\$15) respectively. Tolls on all other categories of vehicles, that is, taxis, goods vehicles and motorcycles, however, remain unchanged.

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## *Tunnel Usage*

Throughput for the year was 13,600,352 vehicle journeys, representing a decrease of 6.9% from 2002. The daily average throughput stood at approximately 37,300 vehicle journeys with average toll per vehicle reported at HK\$41.93 in 2003. As the reduction in total cross harbour traffic due to the negative impact of SARS, WHT's market share decreased from 17.2% in 2002 to approximately 16.3% in 2003.

	Traffic Mix	
	2003	2002
Private Cars/Taxis and Motorcycles	71.9%	72.3%
Goods Vehicles	10.9%	11.5%
Buses	17.2%	16.2%
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Daily traffic of the private car category (i.e. private cars, taxis and motorcycles) and goods vehicles decreased by 0.4% and 0.6% respectively compared to last year. Usage by buses however increased by 1.0%.

## *Accidents*

The traffic accident occurrence rate decreased by 17.5% during 2003 due to enhancement of traffic safety measures implemented by tunnel management to remind tunnel users of traffic safety.

	Occurrence Rate per million vehicle trips	
	2003	2002
Fatal Accidents	0.00	0.00
Traffic Accidents (Personal Injury)	1.17	1.03
Traffic Accidents (Damage Only)	3.97	5.20
TOTAL:	<u>5.14</u>	<u>6.23</u>

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## *Breakdowns*

The occurrence rate of breakdowns in 2003 decreased by 6.1% and the average time taken to attend the scene was maintained at two minutes.

	2003	2002
Total Breakdowns (occurrence rate per million vehicle trips)	18.01	19.17
Daily Average Breakdowns	0.67	0.76

## *Escorts*

	Number of trips	
	2003	2002
Dangerous Goods & Abnormal Goods	1,173	1,691

## *Infringements*

The number of infringements per million vehicle trips decreased by 31% in 2003. The number of prosecutions per million vehicle trips increased by 34%, due to stronger enforcement of radar speed checks.

	Number of Events per million vehicle trips	
	2003	2002
Total Infringements Reported	444	639
Prosecutions	23.8	17.7

## *Maintenance*

Throughout the year 2003, all major tunnel systems operated in a safe and reliable condition.

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

As an annual exercise, an Independent Consulting Engineer was engaged in December 2003 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 6% (2002 - 8.4%) with thirteen members departed.

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## Cross-Harbour Tunnel at Hunghom

(managed by Hong Kong Tunnels and Highways Management Company Limited (“HKTHMCL”))

HKTHMCL operates the Cross-Harbour Tunnel (“CHT”) at Hunghom under a Management, Operations and Maintenance (“MOM”) Contract with the Government for a period of two years up to 31 August 2004 with an option for the Government to extend for further periods of up to twenty-four months upon expiry. The company is entitled to a management fee income from, and shares other revenue with, the Government.

### *Tunnel Usage*

Traffic throughput during 2003 was 43,712,002 vehicle journeys, representing a decrease of 0.21% from 2002.

Throughput of private cars, taxis and motorcycles in 2003 reduced by 0.24% compared to last year. Usage by buses increased by 0.06% and usage of goods vehicles decreased by 0.55%. CHT's average toll per vehicle decreased to \$16.14 in 2003 from \$16.16 last year.

	Traffic Mix	
	2003	2002
Private Cars/Taxis and Motorcycles	68.7%	68.7%
Goods Vehicles	21.1%	21.1%
Buses	10.2%	10.2%
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

### *Accidents*

The overall traffic accident occurrence rate reduced by 4% during 2003. The company took constant measures to remind tunnel users of road safety.

	Occurrence Rate per million vehicle trips	
	2003	2002
Fatal Accidents	0.00	0.02
Traffic Accidents (Personal Injury)	0.80	0.87
Traffic Accidents (Damage Only)	12.91	13.33
TOTAL:	<u>13.71</u>	<u>14.22</u>

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## *Breakdowns*

The occurrence rate of breakdowns decreased by 15% and the average time taken to attend the scene was maintained at two minutes.

	2003	2002
Total Breakdowns (occurrence rate per million vehicle trips)	25.24	29.54
Daily Average Breakdowns	3.02	3.55

## *Escorts*

	Number of trips	
	2003	2002
Dangerous Goods & Abnormal Goods	817	1,004

## *Infringements*

The number of infringements and prosecutions per million vehicle trips decreased by 35% and 52% respectively mainly due to traffic offences.

Infringements included 20 excessive smoke emissions, which the company referred to the Environmental Protection Department for action.

	Number of Events per million vehicle trips	
	2003	2002
Total Infringements Reported	9.9	15.3
Prosecutions	4.1	8.5

## *Maintenance*

All major tunnel systems operated satisfactorily. Major repair works were carried out by the Highways Department or Electrical and Mechanical Services Department.

During the contract period, the cost of replacement and maintenance of tunnel equipment which exceeds a value of HK\$120,000 is to be borne by the Government.

## *Staff*

Staff turnover for the year was 6.7% (2002 - 6.3%) with sixteen members of the staff either retired or resigned.