

# Operation Review

## Autotoll

The total number of tags in circulation was 204,031 as at 31 December 2004, representing an increase of 3.3% from the year before. Autotoll's penetration rate on licensed vehicles was about 38% on average. The overall usage of autotoll facilities in all ten toll roads and tunnels was maintained at 49% with the highest usage at Western Harbour Tunnel at over 61%. The daily transactions handled by Autotoll were close to 329,000 with toll amounts of approximately HK\$5.7 million.

## Hong Kong School of Motoring ("HKSM")

Despite a 3% decline in the demand for driving lessons and a substantial reduction in the income from motorcycle training courses, as compared with the previous year, HKSM recorded only a slight decrease in tuition fees income as a result of a higher lesson income unit rate. 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.

### *Third Toll Increase for WHT on 4 July 2004*

With effect from 4 July 2004, toll charges for private cars and light buses have risen by HK\$3 to HK\$40 and HK\$50 respectively, while toll charge for motorcycles has risen by HK\$2 to HK\$22. Toll increases for goods vehicles of different categories are HK\$5 and HK\$10. Single and double decked buses are charged HK\$70 (increased by HK\$10) and HK\$100 (increased by HK\$15) respectively. Toll on taxis remains unchanged at HK\$35.

# Operation Review

## *Tunnel Usage*

Throughput for the year was 14,342,787 vehicle journeys, representing an increase of 5.5% from 2003. The daily average throughput stood at approximately 39,200 vehicle journeys and the market share of WHT increased from 16.3% in 2003 to approximately 16.7% in 2004. In view of WHT's toll increase commencing 4 July 2004, the average net toll increased from HK\$42.55 for the first half of 2004 to HK\$46.30 for the second half of 2004. As a result, the average net toll per vehicle was HK\$44.43 for the whole year.

	Traffic Mix	
	2004	2003
Private Cars/Taxis and Motorcycles	72.3%	71.9%
Goods Vehicles	10.5%	10.9%
Buses	17.2%	17.2%
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

Daily traffic of the private car category (i.e. private cars, taxis and motorcycles) increased by 0.4% when compared to last year while usage by goods vehicles decreased by 0.4%. Buses traffic however maintained at 17.2%.

## *Accidents*

The traffic accident occurrence rate decreased by 20% during 2004 due to enhancement of traffic safety measures implemented by tunnel management to remind tunnel users of traffic safety.

	Occurrence Rate per million vehicle trips	
	2004	2003
Fatal Accidents	0.00	0.00
Traffic Accidents (Personal Injury)	0.42	1.17
Traffic Accidents (Damage Only)	3.70	3.97
TOTAL:	<u>4.12</u>	<u>5.14</u>

# Operation Review

## *Breakdowns*

The occurrence rate of breakdowns in 2004 increased by 27.7% and the average time taken to attend the scene was maintained at less than two minutes.

	2004	2003
Total Breakdowns (occurrence rate per million vehicle trips)	23.00	18.01
Daily Average Breakdowns	0.90	0.67

## *Escorts*

	Number of trips	
	2004	2003
Dangerous Goods & Abnormal Goods	920	1,173

## *Infringements*

The number of infringements per million vehicle trips increased by 11% in 2004. The number of prosecutions per million vehicle trips also increased by 11%, due to stringent enforcement of radar speed checks.

	Number of Events per million vehicle trips	
	2004	2003
Total Infringements Reported	492	444
Prosecutions	26.4	23.8

## *Maintenance*

Throughout the year 2004, 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 November 2004 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 2.3% (2003 – 6%) with five members departed.

# Operation Review

## 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 commencing 1 September, 2002 and extension has been granted by the Government for a further period of twenty-four months to 31 August, 2006. The company is entitled to a management fee income from, and shares other revenue with, the Government.

### *Tunnel Usage*

Traffic throughput during 2004 was 44,531,873 vehicle journeys, representing an increase of 1.88% from 2003.

Throughput of private cars, taxis and motorcycles in 2004 increased by 1.31% compared to last year. Usage by buses increased by 9.11% and usage of goods vehicles increased by 0.23%. CHT’s average toll per vehicle decreased to HK\$15.92 in 2004 from HK\$16.14 last year.

	Traffic Mix	
	2004	2003
Private Cars/Taxis and Motorcycles	68.3%	68.7%
Goods Vehicles	20.8%	21.1%
Buses	10.9%	10.2%
	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>100.0%</u>

### *Accidents*

The overall traffic accident occurrence rate increased by 1.75% during 2004. The company took constant measures to remind tunnel users of road safety.

	Occurrence Rate per million vehicle trips	
	2004	2003
Fatal Accidents	0.00	0.00
Traffic Accidents (Personal Injury)	0.90	0.80
Traffic Accidents (Damage Only)	13.05	12.91
TOTAL:	<u>13.95</u>	<u>13.71</u>

# Operation Review

## *Breakdowns*

The occurrence rate of breakdowns in 2004 increased by 10.58% and the average time taken to attend the scene was maintained at two minutes.

	2004	2003
Total Breakdowns (occurrence rate per million vehicle trips)	27.91	25.24
Daily Average Breakdowns	3.41	3.02

## *Escorts*

	Number of trips	
	2004	2003
Dangerous Goods & Abnormal Goods	926	817

## *Infringements*

The number of infringements and prosecutions per million vehicle trips increased by 45% and 90% respectively mainly due to traffic offences.

Infringements included 36 excessive smoke emissions from vehicles, which the company referred to the Environmental Protection Department for action.

	Number of Events per million vehicle trips	
	2004	2003
Total Infringements Reported	14.4	9.9
Prosecutions	7.8	4.1

## *Maintenance*

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

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

## *Staff*

Staff turnover for the year was 12.3% (2003 – 6.7%) with thirty members of the staff either retired or resigned.