

Letter to the Panel of Traffic and Transport and Housing Bureau

Ref. : Fare Adjustment Proposal from Hong Kong Tramways Limited (HKTL)

I am writing on behalf of Tram Friends®, the sole registered Tram Fans Association of Hong Kong, addressing our comments on tram fare adjustment proposal from M/S HKTL equitably and openly.

Tram Friends® was established and registered as a Non-Profitable Organization since March 2006. It has, till today, over hundred members and we aim at promoting trams and providing a discussion platform for news related to Hong Kong trams.

We have noticed the tram fare adjustment proposal since August 2010 and started discussing the matter throughout thereafter. We generally support on the proposal with the reasons and comments as below :-:

1. Tram has a vital historical meaning to Hong Kong and being well-known for its eco-friendliness and high efficiency. In order to have sustainable growth of tram, HKTL has to NOT only achieve breakeven its operational cost, but also needs to have a reasonable increment on fare as to cover the budget on investment and service improvement.
2. HKTL did not adjust its fare since 1998; HK\$0.5/ ride as an increment of fare is definitely reasonable. According to the Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department, the GDP per capital in Hong Kong in 1998 was HK\$197,559; while it was HK\$233,060 in 2009. Each people in Hong Kong has an average increment of HK\$35,501 as salary annually. It is not so fair to justify HKTL having a 25% increment, namely HK\$0.5/ ride, because of its small base, HK\$2/ ride; while people are having HK\$35,501 increment in yearly salary and continuous inflation of products between 1998 and 2009.
3. Tram service is expanding all over the world because of its environmental friendliness. As a metropolitan, Hong Kong Government has to provide support and sponsor on expanding tram network and improving tram service, but NOT ONLY constructing tram stop on the existing tram track once a year.

To conclude, we love trams and we are proud to have the unique tram system still surviving in the present World. Kindly note we are NOT the fans of Hong Kong Tramways Limited. Whenever HKTL has improper policies, we criticize them and offer our views / suggestion. However, on the other hand, when there are policies which could bring improvements on trams, we always support them. A comparatively reasonable fare increment, HK\$0.5/ ride, in return with an investment on tram business and improvement on tram service, we believe there is NO way to turn it down. We hope the proposal could meet with your approval as soon as possible.

Respectfully Yours,

Eric Lee

The Chairman of Tram Friends®

