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Immediate Release

Hong Kong Tramways Provides Free Tram Transfer for Passengers traveling between the East and West Sides

(HK, 29/10/2014) Hong Kong Tramways, Limited (HKT) announced that the company will provide free tram transfer for passengers who need to travel between the Eastern and Western sides starting from tomorrow. This is to mitigate impacts of the prolonged blockade of the tram tracks in Causeway Bay on tram passengers, so that passengers will not need to pay twice for a journey they can normally complete with a direct route.

Due to the Yee Woo street blockade in Causeway bay, all tram routes connecting the East and the West have been continuously interrupted since September 29. HKT, as a caring and socially responsible public utility company, not only provides quality tram services but also endeavors to contribute to the entire community, particularly during this turbulent time.

With this free transfer, passengers taking Westbound journey could make enquiry for a free transfer coupon (single trip) to our staff at Victoria Park (42W) to continue their journey for free on the Happy Valley to Kennedy Town route, and likewise, passengers taking Eastbound journey could obtain a coupon from our staff at Foo Ming Street (105) and continue their journey on the Victoria Park to Shau Kei Wan route for free. The coupons are valid only for transfers from East route westbound to West route westbound or from West route Eastbound to East route Eastbound, on the same day only.

HKT is already providing a free shuttle between the Victoria Park emergency crossover and the last station before the blockade. Passengers will have to walk the 500m section between Patterson Street and Foo Ming Street to make their connection. Hong Kong Tramways apologizes for the inconvenience but hopes the passengers will understand we are trying to minimize the impact as far as circumstances allow.

Despite the serious operational challenges, HKT is trying its strenuous effort

to serve the community. This service is provided because of the extraordinary situation; it is on a trial basis and can be adjusted or cancelled without prior notice. We kindly request our passengers to bear with us and our staff as we experiment this new service.

HKT states that due to the blockade of the tram tracks, HKT's monthly patronage in October has dropped by 36% on average compared to last year, or about 2.3 million passengers less. This blockade also means that 50 tramcars in the Eastern side could not return to the main depot in Sai Ying Pun for essential repair and maintenance, causing severe operational challenges that HKT has been making all efforts to address to this day. If the blockade persists, the frequency and the quality of the service that can be provided in the Eastern side will continuously decline. HKT wishes to apologize to its passengers for this.

HKT sincerely hopes that thorough service between the East and the West could be resumed as soon as possible so that the Tram can fully serve its essential mission as the greenest and most affordable transport mode, at the service of the Hong Kong community.

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