

TF Dept  
S. R. W. P.

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## All on the move at Transport

The Transport Department will undergo a two-phase re-structuring from tomorrow in a bid to strengthen its traffic management capabilities, it was announced yesterday.

In the first phase, the major part of the present traffic and transport division of the Public Works Department's highways office will come under the control of the Commissioner for Transport.

Highway engineers, staff of the traffic engineering divisions, the traffic and transport survey division, the traffic control and surveillance division and the road safety division will then be seconded to the Transport Department.

In addition, a new transport planning and research branch will be set up within the department, incorporat-

ing the department's original planning division and the traffic and transport survey division.

The PWD highways office will continue to handle all aspects of highway design, construction and maintenance.

Later in the year, when the second phase of the new arrangements is enforced, three regional offices, each headed by an assistant commissioner for transport, will be set up to cover Hongkong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories.

The Commissioner for Transport, Mr Alan Armstrong-Wright, said the new arrangements will bring under one umbrella responsibilities for all aspects of traffic management.

This closer control will

help streamline procedures and shorten lines of communications, he added.

On the regionalisation drive, Mr Armstrong-Wright said it will enable the department to be more responsive to the needs of district administration.

Members of various district boards had earlier reportedly demanded that more senior transport officials, up to the level of assistant commissioner, should attend meetings to explain official policies.

The regional chief, under the re-organisation, will be authorised to deal with day-to-day problems without reference to headquarters and the need for inter-departmental consultation will be greatly reduced, Mr Armstrong-Wright said.