

Aberdeen bus-only lane 'a nuisance'

Christina Wong

The Southern District Board yesterday called on the Government to shelve its bus-only lane proposal in Aberdeen, saying the lane might be a nuisance instead of a solution.

Yesterday, a Transport Department engineer, Yeung Min, told board members that a 70-metre bus-only lane on Aberdeen Road heading for Ap Lei Chau Bridge could

shorten the travelling time for buses, the main mode of transport in the district.

However, after the recent controversy surrounding the bus-only lane on Tuen Mun Highway, the suggestion was strongly opposed by board members.

Most said there was no congestion problem and the lane might represent a danger to drivers.

A board member, Wong Che-ngai, said he was puzzled

by the Government's proposal.

"There must be some reason for setting up such a lane," he said.

"Maybe there are problems or potential problems, but I cannot see any congestion along this part of the road, nor any jam along the road before the bridge.

"I see no reason why such a policy should be implemented."

Yeung replied that he also saw "no serious problem of

traffic congestion", but reiterated that the Government's stance was to streamline the operation of buses.

Another board member, Chu Chun-yin, a frequent user of the road, said he could see no advantages, but only dangers for drivers.

"If those buses that are not heading for Ap Lei Chau are forced into the lane, while other vehicles which are going in that direction have to stay in the outer lanes, it will

cause a great nuisance," he said.

"Some in the inner lane will try to find a way out while those in the outer lane will try to find some point to cut in."

Chu said the bus-only lane would be unfair to drivers of other vehicles.

Mar Yuet-har from the board demanded that the Government divert its attention to other areas about which people were more concerned.

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