

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST  
13 OCT 1994

## \$2m spent after accidents

NEARLY \$2 million has been spent on repairs and maintenance to Light Rail Transit (LRT) vehicles damaged in accidents over the past three years, Secretary for Transport Haider Barma revealed.

The expenses resulted from 59 accidents since 1992, but were not all caused by LRT vehicles, he said.

Part of the expenses had been recovered from insurance or damages claimed from the other parties involved in these accidents, Mr Barma said.

He added there was no evidence the current arrangements, such as signal

### TRANSPORT

junctions, had contributed to the accidents.

In swift riposte to a press report saying the LRT system was "riddled with possible deathtraps", Deputy Secretary for Transport Carrie Yau Tsang Ka-lai said the accusation was "grossly untrue".

She said the rail system was among the safest in the world, accounting for only two per cent of traffic accidents in Hong Kong.

According to Mr Barma, an inter-departmental committee, comprising representatives from the Trans-

port Department and the police, had already begun considering ways of improving safety.

Mr Barma was bombarded by questions about immediate arrangements the Government could take to alleviate serious traffic congestion in the northwest New Territories.

But despite being urged to give a timetable for completion of the western corridor project, Mr Barma said the draft of the broad direction of the project was still being finalised and he could not say if there would be a quick solution to the area's traffic problem.