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\$1 million scheme to solve East Kowloon¹⁷ traffic ills

A NEW traffic system will be introduced at East Kowloon by the end of this year.

Aimed at solving congestion, it is estimated to cost \$1 million and is based on the result of the East Kowloon Traffic Study completed last month.

The short-term study has divided East Kowloon into three zones — the town-centre, the industrial area and the Ngautaukok Road.

It says that one of the main causes for congestion in the region is the large number of hawkers occupying the streets.

At present there are about 4,000 illegal hawkers in the district.

The large number of mini-buses plying in the area is another cause, according to the study.

Under the proposed new traffic plan, the restriction time for mini-buses will be extended and there will be a 24-hour restriction on Ngautaukok Road for mini-buses.

About 20 bus routes will be re-routed and

eight new traffic lights will be installed — five in the town centre and three in the industrial zone.

To meet the need for more parking space for lorries, the study says, an additional area of 360,000 square metres will be allocated for the purpose.

At present, there are about 20,000 parking spaces of which 3,000 are for public vehicles and about 900 are for lorries.

Disclosing the new traffic plan, the Kuntong District Officer, Mr Kevin Mak, said that the government will consider allocating back-lanes in the district for loading and unloading by lorries.

The study will be submitted to the Kuntong District Board for discussion in September.

A second study, which covers the medium and long-term plan and aims at forecasting and assessing the traffic and transport requirements in the area up to 1991, will be completed next year.