Passengers Aged 60-64 Required to Use Personalized Octopus to Enjoy Discounts on Citybus Hong Kong Island and Shenzhen West Express Routes

(21 July 2012 – Hong Kong) Following the Government’s announcement on its Public Transport Fare Concession Scheme for the Elderly aged 65 or above and Eligible Persons with Disabilities (“the new Scheme”) to be deployed to four franchised bus operators on 5 August (Sunday), Citybus announced today they will continue the existing fare discount packages to passengers aged 60-64 and relevant arrangements after implementation of the new Scheme.

Due to the corresponding technical changes in relation to the new Scheme, passengers paying by an Elder Octopus will be automatically charged $2 of bus fare as being regarded as the beneficiaries under the new Scheme upon implementation. As such, starting from 5 August (Sunday), if Citybus passengers aged 60-64 wish to continue to enjoy the existing fare discounts particularly offered by Citybus, they shall no longer use a Standard Elder Octopus on Citybus route. Details of the new arrangements on the two current fare discount schemes are as follows:

1. Octopus Holiday Concession Scheme for Aged 60-64 Citizens

Upon implementation of the new Scheme, Citybus passengers aged 60-64 will continue to enjoy the Sundays and Public Holidays $2 Concession on Citybus Hong Kong Island Routes as well as Shenzhen West Express Routes (Except Harbour Crossing Routes and Racecourse Routes) on the condition that they pay with a Personalized Octopus. This is to avoid the concerned fare discounts particularly offered by Citybus will be calculated as the government funded concessions under the new Scheme. As such, Citybus reminds passengers aged 60-64 who have not yet possessed a Personalized Octopus to apply for one as soon as possible.

In order to allow sufficient time for passengers aged 60-64 to apply for a Personalized Octopus, a grace period will be provided on 5 August, 12 August and 19 August, the first three Sundays upon implementation of the new Scheme, in which the passengers of this age group could temporarily enjoy the $2 concession by cash. Application procedure of a Personalized Octopus is no less than ten working days.

2. Half Fare Discount on Weekdays for Aged 60-64 Citizens

Meanwhile, passengers aged 60-64 who wish to enjoy half fare discounts on the same Citybus routes mentioned above on Mondays to Saturdays, shall either pay by cash or a Personalized Octopus. Once again, Standard Elder Octopus will not be allowed, otherwise, it would be considered as abuse of the new Scheme.

Passengers can apply for a Personalized Octopus from Octopus Cards Limited at designated MTR / Light Rail Customer Service Centre or New World First Ferry Octopus Service Centre. The Personalized Octopus application form can be downloaded at http://www.octopus.com.hk/get-your-octopus/choose-your-octopus/on-loan-octopus/personalised-octopus/en/index.html.
For further enquiries, please call the Citybus Customer Service Hotline at 2873 0818 during service hours; or visit the Citybus website at www.citybus.com.hk.

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