

## HONG KONG RETAIL MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

### Submission on Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (Co-location) Bill

8 March 2018

The Hong Kong Retail Management Association (“HKRMA”) is in support of the proposed co-location arrangement at the West Kowloon Station of the Hong Kong Section (“HKS”) of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link (“XRL”), with elaborations in the following paragraphs:

#### **Improving Hong Kong’s Connectivity**

1. HKRMA is pleased that the HKS of XRL will commission services in the third quarter of 2018, as it will connect Hong Kong to the expanding national high-speed rail network and greatly shorten travelling time from Hong Kong to major Mainland cities by rail, thereby providing convenient access to various destinations across the country.
2. With the proposed co-location arrangement, passengers will be able to complete both Hong Kong and Mainland customs procedures at the West Kowloon Station, which is instrumental in fully utilizing the benefits of traveling by XRL.
3. It will be an integral move for Hong Kong to further capture the enormous opportunities in China’s rapid economic and social transformation. More importantly, it will help prevent Hong Kong from being marginalized by other Mainland cities in the long run.

#### **Creating Impetus to Economic Growth**

4. HKRMA is positive that the commission of the HKS of XRL with the co-location arrangement will bring substantial tangible benefits to a wide spectrum of sectors such as retail, tourism, logistics, catering, hotel, convention and exhibition and more, which in turn will create multiplier effects on the economy.
5. With the enhanced transportation network and hassle-free customs procedure, Hong Kong

can facilitate a much greater flow of people, goods, and information, which are essential elements to sustain our growth and to capture the huge economic and social benefits in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

### **Synergizing with Other Infrastructure & Tourist Facilities**

6. The Government should set up peripheral facilities for the HKS of XRL and its synergy with other infrastructure setups without further delay, including the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.
7. At the same time, the Government should enhance Hong Kong's tourist reception capacity and improve services at diverse touch-points with tourists.

### **Conclusion**

8. HKRMA is in support of the commission of the HKS of XRL with a co-location arrangement that can maximize the convenience and time-saving benefits of travelling by XRL.
9. Concurrently, the Government should also step up its efforts in explaining its proposed co-location arrangement to the public and to make sure the timely commissioning of HKS of XRL in the third quarter of 2018.

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### **About Hong Kong Retail Management Association**

The Hong Kong Retail Management Association (HKRMA) was founded in 1983 by a group of visionary retailers with a long-term mission to promote Hong Kong's retail industry and to present a unified voice on issues that affect all retailers. Established for 35 years, the Association has been playing a vital role in representing the trade, and raising the status and professionalism of retailing through awards, education and training.

Today, HKRMA is the leading retail association in Hong Kong with membership covering more than 8,000 retail outlets and employing over half of the local retail workforce. HKRMA is one of the founding members of the Federation of Asia-Pacific Retailers Associations (FAPRA) and is the only representing organization from Hong Kong. FAPRA members cover 17 Asian Pacific countries and regions.