

*Because of more traffic accidents caused by drink driving, drug driving, illegal road racing, speeding, narrow bicycle paths and irresponsible drivers of commercial vehicles, the South China Morning Post (SCMP) is planning to publish a special issue on road safety and would like to hear from young people who will be the next generation of drivers. The paper would like students to write in with suggestions on how Hong Kong's roads could be safer for everyone. Write a letter to the South China Morning Post (SCMP) in which you discuss three aspects of road use you feel need improving most urgently and consider actions to be taken by both the government and road users. Sign your name 'Chris Wong'.*

Dear editor,

### Road safety

Traffic accidents have already become a global issue that many countries are now considering some tactics to address problem. However, the number of casualties caused by traffic accidents is still alarming. In Hong Kong, traffic accidents happen almost twice a week. Luckily, more people are concerned about the problem now. In fact, traffic accidents are likely caused by drink driving, drug driving, illegal road racing, speeding, narrow bicycle paths and irresponsible drivers of commercial vehicles. I think three aspects need to be improved most urgently.

Firstly, I think that drink driving is the most urgent aspect to improve. A research found that almost half of the traffic accidents happening in Hong Kong are caused by drink driving. Usually, it is a social habit to drink wine during some celebrations. However, some of the drivers lack the correct attitude towards drink driving. They may under the impression that it is still okay to drive even when they are drunk and they always overlook the dangers of drink-driving. In reality, after you had drunk, your reaction will be slower and you will get vision problem. Therefore, it is rash to drive the car under this condition. In order to ease the number of drink driving, government can increase random breath tests near clubs. As a result, drivers may be afraid of being tested positive in the breathalyzer and stop drinking when they need to drive the cars.

In addition, the narrow bicycle paths are another area that needs to be improved in a hurry. Recently, many people like to ride bicycles in spare time. Sometimes, they will use the bicycle paths to enjoy their riding period. The tragedy is that some traffic accidents are caused by narrow bicycle paths. Cyclists may not have enough space and need to share the roads with other vehicles. Some of them may get injured because of this reason. Actually, it had already happened before and resulted in fatality of a young man. Therefore, I suggest that government should organize the urban-planning well, especially widen the bicycle paths in the new town. Besides, cyclists should ride in the bicycle paths instead of roads. Otherwise, penalty may be imposed.

Finally, we need to pay attention to the irresponsible drivers of commercial vehicles. Reckless commercial vehicles' drivers frequently cause chaos as they tend to stop abruptly. Sometimes, they may even unload their goods in the middle of traffic at times. What worsen the situation is that they may drive overnight without sleeping and drive at top speed in a bid to complete their delivery schedules. Needless to say, they may change lanes

carelessly without observing the traffic signals when they are in a hurry. In fact, this will definitely endanger other road users and cause a serious hazard. For the drivers of commercial vehicles, government should increase the penalty in order to deter the drivers who dangerously drive.

Apart from these, both comprehensive education about driving attitude and a well-promoted propaganda about road safety are necessary to eliminate the issue and our younger generation should hold a correct belief of road safety through public education.

To sum up, traffic accidents should not happen anymore, we can increase the number of breath tests to warn the drink drivers. Besides, we can widen the bicycle paths. Finally, we can impose penalty to deter the drivers of commercial vehicles. Most importantly, we can also strengthen public education to teach citizens about the road safety.

Yours faithfully,

*Chris Wong*

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