

December 11, 2019

To: Her Worship Mayor Lisa Helps and Council
City of Victoria

From: Dale Conway, Founder & CEO
Current Taxi Ltd.

Dear Mayor Helps and Council,

Please accept this letter as a formal request on behalf of Current Taxi Ltd, for changes to the City of Victoria's VEHICLES FOR HIRE BYLAW NO. 03-060. As Victoria's newest taxi provider, we are concerned that this bylaw does not recognize Taxi Soft Meters.

In November 2016, the Passenger Transportation Board (PTB), approved the use of Soft Meters in British Columbia stating "replacing traditional taximeters with soft meters enables taxi companies to embrace technological advances associated with new cloud dispatch systems. Such advances can include improvements in customer service and accessibility". Knowing the benefits that soft meters offer over traditional taxi meters, Current Taxi applied to the PTB to operate Soft meters in all of our cars. Approval for this request was received on March 2, 2017 and can be found attached as Appendix (A). A copy of Current Taxi's Passenger Transportation Licence can also be found attached as Appendix (B), detailing our authority to operate with soft meters.

Current Taxi chooses to use soft meters because they are the future of the transportation industry. This system allows us to gather and measure invaluable information and data which increases our ability to create positive impact for the planet, for the public and for the needs of our business. In addition, in June 2019 we were approached by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure requesting our assistance using the data collected through our soft meters, information that cannot be obtained through traditional taxi meters. The Ministry is well aware of the advantages that soft meters provide as compared to traditional taxi meters, and in using our data they have been able to update requirements in the Passenger Transportation Act. These changes now require that licensees of passenger directed vehicle authorizations or Transportation Network Services (TNS) must provide to the Registrar any data, including personal information that the Registrar or Board may require. A letter received from the Passenger Transportation Branch detailing these requirements can be found attached as Appendix (C).

In recognition of Current Taxi's support, Steven Haywood, Registrar Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure has provided Current Taxi a letter explaining the Ministry's appreciation for this data and can be found attached as Appendix (D).



201-2402 Hwy 97 N
Kelowna, BC
V1X 4J1
currenttaxi.ca

Understanding that City of Victoria bylaw 03-060 does not recognize soft meters, we approached the City of Victoria bylaw and Victoria Police on Oct. 28, 2019 requesting approval to operate with our provincially approved soft meters before committing to our Dec. 1 launch date. On that day, the use of soft meters was approved, and Current Taxi was issued its first taxi licence to operate. Unfortunately, when we went back to City bylaw on Nov. 28 to licence 5 more of our vehicles, we were informed that our applications were denied because our soft meters do not comply with existing bylaw. This came as quite a shock to us considering that just four weeks earlier we had been given the approval for the exact same meters.

Your Worship and Council, we are extremely concerned that if this bylaw is not updated, Current Taxi may be forced to cease operations in Victoria. We therefore respectfully request that immediate change be made to bylaw 03-060 to approve the use of controlled and approved taxi soft meters, in accordance with PTB regulation. Doing so will not only benefit Current Taxi, but all Passenger Directed Vehicle licensees and Transportation Network Services operating in the City of Victoria.

Respectfully,

Dale Conway
Founder & CEO
Current Taxi Ltd.

March 2, 2017

Dale Conway (PTL # 72289)
Current Taxi
3225 Oriole Drive
West Kelowna, BC V4T 1A4

Email: dale@currenttaxi.ca

Re: Taxi Soft Meter Declaration | Acknowledgement

Dear Dale Conway:

Thank you for your Taxi Soft Meter Declaration of Compliance dated February 2, 2017 and commitment letter received February 2, 2017, to add a working fare announcer within 6 months.

We remind you that you must maintain compliance with the Passenger Transportation Board's [Taxi Soft Meter](#) rule. Requirements include:

- A. Fare calculations and methods must meet standards and tolerances
- B. Changes to the rates is restricted to your authorized representative
- C. Passengers receive a printed or electronic receipt (with trip details) after their trip
- D. A fare announcer is working by **August 2, 2017**

Prior to **August 2, 2017**, we ask you to confirm that a fare announcer is working in your taxi soft meter.

Non-compliance may result in fines or other sanctions by the Registrar of Passenger Transportation. I am sharing a copy of your declaration and commitment letter with Kristin Vanderkuip, Registrar and Director, Passenger Transportation Branch.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 250-953-3777.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Broocke', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Jan Broocke
Director

Copy: Kristin Vanderkuip, Registrar and Director, PT Branch **(with attachments)**



SPECIAL AUTHORIZATION

PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION BRANCH MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

LICENCE

Passenger Transportation Licence

Licence Holder: **CURRENT TAXI LTD.**
WEST KELOWNA, BC

Licence Number: **72332**
NSC Number: **202506350**

Trade Name(s): **CURRENT TAXI**

Licence Expires: **May 08, 2020**

NOTICE TO LICENCE HOLDER

1. A copy of this licence document or evidence of authority to operate the motor vehicle under the licence must be carried on the vehicle and be available at all times for inspection.
2. The licence cancels all previous licences.

The Licence is a special authorization issued pursuant to the *Passenger Transportation Act*, and in the case of an extra-provincial undertaking pursuant to the *Motor Vehicle Act, 1987 (Canada)*, and is authorized to provide the passenger transportation services within the meaning of a special authorization, under the *Passenger Transportation Act* under the terms and conditions as specified below.

Special Authorization	Passenger Directed Vehicle Authorization (PDVA)
Definitions	"Board" means the Passenger Transportation Board "Registrar" means the Registrar, Passenger Transportation
Terms & Conditions of Licence	
A. Legislative Requirements	
Vehicle Identifier	Each motor vehicle operated under this authorization must display, at the times and in the form and manner required by the Registrar, a vehicle identifier that is (a) issued to the licensee by the Registrar, or (b) authorized by the Registrar to be issued by the licensee.

PAGE 2

Data Requirements	The licensee must provide to the registrar any information, including personal information and data, that the Registrar or Board may require, and as may be set in any applicable supplemental terms and conditions and orders of the Registrar or Board, within time periods that the Registrar or Board may require, which may include, without limitation, information and data set out in section 28(5)(a) to (c) of the <i>Passenger Transportation Act</i> .
B. Passenger Directed Vehicles	
Maximum Fleet Size:	32 vehicles, all must be powered solely by electricity, of which a maximum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 may be operated under Service 1 (Central Okanagan) • 15 may be operated under Service 2 (Greater Victoria)
Vehicle Capacity (T):	The vehicle accommodates a driver and not less than 2 and not more than 7 passengers.
Services	
Service 1	<i>The following terms and conditions apply to Service 1</i>
Originating Area:	Transportation of passengers may only originate from any point in the Regional District of Central Okanagan.
Destination Area:	Transportation of passengers may terminate at any point in British Columbia.
Return Trips:	The same passengers may only be returned from where their trip terminates in the destination area to any point in the originating area if the return trip is arranged by the time the originating trip terminates.
Service 2	<i>The following terms and conditions apply to Service 2</i>
Originating Area:	Transportation of passengers may only originate from points on the Saanich Peninsula and any other point on Vancouver Island that is east of Jordan River (including Jordan River) and south of the intersection of Highway 1 and the southern turnoff to Shawnigan Lake (i.e. Highway 1 and Shawnigan Lake Road).
Destination Area:	Transportation of passengers may terminate at any point in British Columbia.
Return Trips:	The same passengers may only be returned from where their trip terminates in the destination area to any point in the originating area if the return trip is arranged by the time the originating trip terminates.

PAGE 3

D. Other Requirements	
Hailing in Originating Area	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A trip may be arranged by taxis by: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) booking the motor vehicle in advance; (b) hailing the motor vehicle from the street; (c) hailing the motor vehicle through a dispatcher; or (d) hailing the motor vehicle through an app that does not process payment for the fare. 2. Passengers must <u>not</u> be hailed through a Transportation Network Service app that connects drivers with passengers who hail and pay for the services through the use of an online platform.
Meters	Motor vehicles must be equipped with a meter that calculates fares on a time and distance basis.
Top Lights & Taxi Identification	Vehicles must be identifiable as a taxi by (a) being equipped with a top light, or (b) displaying the word "taxi" on both sides of the vehicle with a plainly-readable font (upper case and/or lower case), colour that plainly contrasts with the background, and text at least 14 inches high.
Taxi Cameras & Meters	Licensees must install taxi camera equipment and taxi meters, including taxi soft meters, in compliance with applicable rules, standards and orders of the Passenger Transportation Board.
Taxi Bill of Rights	<p>A Taxi Bill of Rights may only be displayed in vehicles when the licensee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) has received written approval of the Board to operate a taxi bill of rights program; and (b) is in compliance with applicable Taxi Bill of Rights rules, supplemental terms and conditions, standards and orders of the Board.
Transfer of a licence	This special authorization licence may not be assigned or transferred except with the approval of the Board pursuant to section 30 of the <i>Passenger Transportation Act</i> .
<i>Liquor Control and Licensing Act</i> <i>Cannabis Control and Licensing Act</i>	The licensee must ensure passenger directed vehicles under their licence are operated at all times in compliance with the <i>Liquor Control and Licensing Act</i> and the <i>Cannabis Control and Licensing Act</i> .

**RE: Data Requirements for Taxi Licensees****December 5, 2019**

Since legislation was passed in November 2018, regulations have been deposited that modernize the taxi industry and allow for transportation network services (TNS), or ride hail, to operate in British Columbia. These regulations came into force on September 16, 2019. One of the changes to the *Passenger Transportation Act (PTA)* requires the Passenger Transportation Board to include data submission requirements within the terms and conditions of a licence.

According to section 28 (5) of the *PTA*,

The Board must establish as a term or condition that the licensee of a passenger directed vehicle authorization or transportation network services authorization must provide to the Registrar any data, including personal information, that the Registrar or Board may require that is in respect to, and without limitation to:

- (a) the motor vehicles, and the drivers of those motor vehicles, operated under the authorization,*
- (b) the availability of the motor vehicles, at given points in time, for hailing by methods permitted under the authorization, and*
- (c) trips taken by passengers transported in accessible passenger directed vehicles, or trips taken by passengers transported in non-accessible passenger directed vehicles, or both, including:*
 - (i) trip rates,*
 - (ii) wait times,*
 - (iii) pick-up times and locations, and*
 - (iv) drop-off times and locations.*

Taxi licensees are required to provide data from September 16, 2019 onwards and are strongly encouraged to work with their software providers to ensure the required information is captured and the data transfer can occur without incident or delay. Please see the below table which outlines timelines including enrolment and initial data submission deadlines for your operating area. If your operating area is not listed below you are still required to maintain data from September 16, 2019 and may be asked to provide to the Ministry at a future date.

Licensees with an operating area that includes the following urban centres:	Enrol in the Vehicle Safety BC Online Portal	Contact Ministry Project Staff to test data submissions by:	Data Submission Deadline
Metro Vancouver	December 12 -20, 2019	December 16, 2019	January 15, 2020
Capital Regional District (CRD), Nanaimo, Abbotsford	January 6 -20, 2020	January 15, 2020	February 14, 2020
Prince George, Kelowna and West Kelowna, Kamloops	February 3 -20, 2020	February 14, 2020	March 16, 2020

**Ministry of
Transportation &
Infrastructure**

Passenger Transportation Branch

Mailing Address:
Suite 200 – 1500 Woolridge Street
Coquitlam, B.C. V5K 0B8
Telephone: 604. 527-2198
Fax: 604. 527-2205

Location:
Suite 200 – 1500 Woolridge Street
Coquitlam, B.C. V5K 0B8
www.th.gov.bc.ca/rpt/



Please visit the [Data Requirements](#) webpage on the Passenger Transportation Branch website for more information including detailed data submission guides and technical specifications, and enrolment instructions for the Vehicle Safety BC Online Portal. You can expect the latest information to be available on the website and we encourage you to subscribe to the webpage for updates.

We expect that further dialogue about technical specifications will be required and ministry staff are available to meet with taxi licensees to discuss data requirements. Please contact Ministry staff to test data submissions by emailing Stephanie Forbes at Stephanie.Forbes@gov.bc.ca and Komal Moorthy at Komal.Moorthy@gov.bc.ca.

Regards,

Passenger Transportation Branch
Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure



Dear Dale Conway,

December 9, 2019

Current Taxi's proactive approach in offering passenger transportation that reduces greenhouse emissions is beneficial for B.C., and the company's fleet of electric vehicles is in line with the provincial government's commitment to [clean transportation policies and programs](#). We acknowledge and appreciate Current Taxi's corporate stewardship.

I understand Current Taxi utilizes soft meters within its vehicles, a technology that became permissible within the industry in November 2016 by the Passenger Transportation Board (PTB). A taxi soft meter is a smartphone or tablet (with a touchscreen) that a taxi operator uses as a taximeter. Soft meters may use technologies such as GPS or on-board diagnostics to calculate distance rates. Soft meters must meet standards established by the PTB. In addition, municipal governments may have bylaws with taximeter requirements relating to approval, placement in the vehicle, testing, inspection, sealing, and posting rates.

Soft meters provide benefits that traditional taximeters are unable to provide such as data collection capabilities through use of cloud dispatch systems and enhanced support for accessibility. Soft meters support accessibility as they include a "fare announcer" function that assists persons with vision impairments and those travelling in the back of wheelchair-accessible vehicles who may not be able to see the meter.

The data collection capabilities of soft meters allow for collection of the trip fee, the start time and end time of trip, and the pick-up and drop-off locations. This data is now required along with additional requirements as per the changes to the *Passenger Transportation Act* introduced by the provincial government which came into effect on September 16, 2019. Licensees with a passenger directed vehicle authorization are required to submit trip data to the province, which is securely stored in a data warehouse. Several companies supported the development of the data warehouse and willingly provided test data during its development. I want to thank Current Taxi for being one of these companies.

For additional information on the new provincial data requirements, visit the Passenger Transportation Branch webpage entitled [Passenger Transportation Data Requirements](#). For information provided by the PTB on soft meters, visit the [Board's website](#).

Sincerely,

Steven Haywood
Registrar