Licensing and Regulating Taxis, Limousines, and Ride-Hailing Services

Purpose

Ride-hailing services available in CRD in 2020

This report informs Council about:
• BC framework for ride-hailing services,
• Existing authority to license ride-hailing services,
• Plans to review, harmonize and develop regulations for ride-hailing services

Report presents options for licensing and regulating taxis, limousines, and ride-hailing services.
Ride-Hailing Services in BC

- BC *Passenger Transportation Act* came into force on September 16th, 2019
  - Enables ride-hailing services
  - Sets licensing and operating conditions for taxis, limousines, and ride-hailing services (PDVs)
  - Establishes the Passenger Transportation Board (Board) and Registrar of Passenger Transportation (Registrar)

BC Licensing Framework

- **Passenger Transportation Board**
  - Licenses ride-hailing companies

- **Ride-hailing companies**
  - Permits drivers to operate under their license
  - Verifies that drivers satisfy provincial licensing and operating requirements

- **Municipalities**
  - May set licensing and operating conditions for ride-hailing services by bylaw
PDV Driver Requirements

Key BC licensing requirements:
- Have a commercial driver’s licence (Class 4).
- Complete a driving record check
- Complete a criminal record check
- Ensure vehicle is no older than 10 years and 1 month

Must comply with relevant municipal bylaws

Municipal Bylaws for PDVs

City can regulate PDVs through general business licensing and regulating authorities.

Municipalities may
- Issue business licences
- Set business licensing condition
- Regulate by bylaw

Municipality must not
- Prohibit ride-hailing services
- Regulate ride-hailing fleet size
- Issue new municipal chauffeur permits
City Licences and Fees

City Bylaws for taxis and limousines
- *Business Licence Bylaw* - $100 licence for companies
- *Business Licence Bylaw* - $140 licence for owner or operator of a vehicle

*Vehicles for Hire Bylaw* sets out licensing and operating conditions for taxis and sight-seeing vehicles.

No unique rules for ride-hailing services.

Issues

Level playing field

Maintaining current licensing and operating standards

Alignment with the Province

Effective, safe, and sustainable integration of new ride-hailing services into the City’s mobility strategies, networks, and services
Next Steps – Three Phases

1) License ride-hailing services under existing authority, and suspend taxi licensing conditions

2) Review suspended licensing and operating conditions to harmonize City bylaws with provincial licensing and operating requirements

3) Develop regulatory framework to ensure that new ride-hailing services are effectively, safely, and sustainably integrated into the City’s mobility strategies, networks, and services.

Options

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 1</th>
<th>Option 2</th>
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<td>• Use current authority to license ride-hailing</td>
<td>• Same as Option 1 except that it retains current taxi licensing and operating conditions.</td>
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<td>• Suspend taxi licensing and operating conditions, except parking and standing rules</td>
<td>• Permit soft meters under City regulations</td>
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<td>• Report back with implications of repealing licensing and operating conditions</td>
<td>• Review taxi licensing and operating conditions as part of harmonization</td>
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<td>• Harmonize City bylaws with provincial requirements</td>
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<td>• Undertake regulatory work for ride-hailing services during development of Sustainable Mobility Strategy</td>
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Recommendation

Option 1

- Immediately begins to level playing field
- Defers responsibility to the Province for setting requirements and monitoring/enforcing compliance
- Adapts to provincial licensing framework
- Envisions ride-hailing services as part of the City’s Sustainable Mobility Strategy