



Council Member Motion

For the Governance and Priorities Committee Meeting of November 5, 2015

To: Governance and Priorities Committee **Date:** November 5, 2015
From: Councillors Alto and Loveday
Subject: Increasing Opportunities for Pedicab Entrepreneurs in Victoria

Background:

In 2012, Council considered issues relating to pedicab operations, including the matter of how many pedicab operators the market could support, and by way of an amendment to the *Vehicles for Hire Bylaw*, changed the then laws to allow for a single operator to hold in more than 15 pedicab licenses.

The Council Minute of May 10, 2012 states:

It was moved by Councillor Madoff, seconded by Councillor Coleman, that the following bylaw be adopted: Vehicles for Hire Bylaw, Amendment Bylaw (No. 8) 12-027

To eliminate the restriction against a person holding more than 15 licenses and institute a selection process for allocation of pedicab licenses that become available.

This amendment reflected the changes Council made at the last Council meeting, but did not alter the total number of pedicab licenses that would be available (that total remains at 28), nor did this amendment alter the requirement a lottery process for allocating the license, included within the body of the bylaw.

Council debated the merits of increasing the number of available pedicab licenses, but at that time chose not to make a change in that number.

Since early in 2015, individuals who currently hold licenses and those who seek licenses have appealed to the City to consider increasing the number of available pedicab licenses to allow for additional services and to facilitate specialized pedicab services, such as late night only service.

In addition, concerns have been raised about relying primarily on a straight lottery system to designate appropriate license holders for this alternative transportation service.

As staff undertook extensive work in 2012 to inform Council and prepare the bylaw amendments considered at that time, minimal new work is required to update the bylaw.

Relevance to Strategic Plan

Strategic Objective #5: Create Prosperity through Economic Development

2017 OUTCOMES: Downtown is vibrant and is a draw for residents and visitors alike.

Motion:

1. That staff be directed to undertake the required sector and public engagement necessary to enable public and sectoral input on the proposed change to cap the total number of pedicab licenses at 35, and inform Council of any relevant considerations when bringing final recommendations to Council for consideration.
2. Further, that after Council has considered the final staff report and recommendations, that Victoria City Council direct staff to draft a Request for Proposal (RFP) for pedicab licenses for the 2016 season, that the total number of licenses available be capped at 35, and that the RFP include a standardized qualification process to ensure that license-holders have sufficient experience to ensure a safe and reliable service.
3. Further, that while the RFP is being executed, direct staff to prepare the necessary bylaw amendments to reflect the increased allowable number of available pedicab licenses.

Respectfully submitted,



Councillor Alto



Councillor Loveday