
Consultation with Flex Services and Sask Plates Proposal Proponents

Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager, Community Services Department, dated September 24, 2018, be received as information.

Topic and Purpose

This report addresses a resolution arising from the July 23, 2018 City Council meeting, directing that further consultation with the proponents of the Flex Service and Sask Plates proposal, as well as other taxi industry stakeholders, be undertaken to determine their interest in submitting a joint proposal that would allow the taxi industry to provide an improved level of service during peak demand periods.

Report Highlights

1. An external facilitator conducted a consultation process with representatives of the taxi industry on August 8, 2018. The purpose was to discuss their interest in submitting a joint proposal that would identify an approach to provide an enhanced level of taxi service during peak demand periods.
2. Industry representatives indicated that they will continue to work to develop a joint proposal that will include additional accessible and non-accessible taxi licenses being issued by the City, but that their proposal is contingent on having caps established on the number of vehicles operating under Transportation Network Companies (TNCs). As of September 10, 2018, a joint proposal has not been received.

Strategic Goals

This report supports the Strategic Goals of Continuous Improvement and Moving Around. The City leverages technology and emerging trends and goes beyond conventional approaches to meet the changing needs of the city and expectations of its citizens.

Background

On July 23, 2018, City Council received a report from the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation providing an overview of the resolutions being addressed related to TNCs. This overview included proposals from the Saskatchewan Taxi Cab Association for Flex Service and from the United Steel Workers for Sask Plates. The Administration recommended amending the Taxi Bylaw to incorporate the Flex Service proposal. The recommendation was not adopted by City Council.

When considering the July 23, 2018 report, City Council resolved:

“That the Administration hold further consultations with the stakeholders in regard to Flex Plates, Sask Plates, accessible licenses, and seasonal licenses, with a report to be received by the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation September 2018”.

At their meeting on August 27, 2018, City Council resolved that the Administration’s report be redirected from the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation meeting on September 10, 2018, to the City Council Regular Business meeting on September 24, 2018. This report is submitted in response to these resolutions.

Report

Consultation with Taxi Industry Representatives

An external facilitator was hired to assist in developing a consultation framework and to facilitate further discussion among representatives from the taxi industry, including the proponents of Flex Services and Sask Plates, as well as taxi license and vehicle owners. The intent of the consultation was to determine the industry’s interest in submitting a joint proposal setting out an approach that would enable the industry to provide an improved level of service during peak demand periods, based on the understanding that TNCs will be permitted to operate in Saskatoon in the coming months. A half day meeting with the taxi industry representatives was held on August 8, 2018. Representatives of the City Administration attended to observe the meeting and respond to questions. A summary report from the facilitator is provided in Attachment 1.

Status of a Joint Proposal

Taxi industry representatives attending the August 8th meeting indicated that development of a joint proposal was underway, and included a condition that the number of TNC vehicles permitted to operate be capped. Other considerations identified as being under discussion included:

- a) 16 temporary accessible taxi licenses due to expire at the end of 2018 be extended;
- b) 10 new permanent accessible taxi licenses be added; and
- c) 24 existing seasonal taxi licenses be replaced with 30 new permanent taxi licenses, to be issued under the Sask Plates model.

The taxi industry indicated that they would continue to work together to prepare a comprehensive proposal further outlining their perspective on the need for a cap on TNCs and provide details regarding the additional accessible and seasonal taxi licenses being proposed.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

Consultation with members of the taxi industry, including the proponents of Flex Service and Sask Plates, was conducted on August 8, 2018. As of September 10, 2018, a detailed joint proposal from the taxi industry has not been received.

Communication Plan

A Communication Plan is not required.

Other Considerations/Implications

There are no policy, financial, environmental, privacy, or CPTED implications.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

There is no due date or follow up.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Attachment

1. Consultation Facilitator's Report

Report Approval

Written by: Mark Wilson, Acting Licensing and Permitting Manager, Community Standards

Reviewed by: Jo-Anne Richter, Acting Director of Community Standards

Approved by: Randy Grauer, Manager, Community Services Department

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