



TAXI LIMOUSINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of MEETING
COMMENCING 2016, September 8 AT 12:03 PM
Clarion Hotel and Conference Centre Calgary
2120 16th Avenue Northeast

PLATE UTILIZATION (THE SUBCOMMITTEE)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Spencer Villiam – Calgary Hotel Association, Subcommittee Chair
Lauri Brunner – Advisory Committee on Accessibility, Subcommittee Vice Chair
Kurt Enders – Taxi Broker
Gordon Lowe – General Public
Cheryl McLaughlin – General Public

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lisa van Hemert – Community Member
Robert McGregor – Taxi Driver
Tongjie Zhang – General Public- TLAC Chair (*ex-officio*)

CITY SUPPORT STAFF PRESENT:

Marcia Andreychuk – TLAC Business Analyst (note taker)
Jodi Hughes – Issue Strategist
Carissa Vescio – Business Strategist

ASCERTAIN QUORUM

The Chair ascertained that quorum was present.

CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA

CONFIRM AGENDA, Moved by Gord Lowe that the Agenda for today's meeting be confirmed. **CARRIED**

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

CONFIRM MINUTES, Moved by Lauri Brunner that the Minutes of the 2016, April 27 meeting of the Plate Utilization Subcommittee be confirmed. **CARRIED**

DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

The following persons declared a pecuniary interest:

Kurt Enders, Taxi Broker

CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chair thanked everyone for attending.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION: Discussion of options RE Accessible Taxi Review Update (TLAC2016-28)

Summary of discussion:

Recap of purpose of Accessible Taxi Review: to assess the feasibility of a subsidization model to help ensure drivers of wheelchair taxis are compensated equitably compared to drivers of conventional taxis.

The committee requested a legal opinion as to where the responsibility for the provision of on demand accessible taxi service rests –taxi brokerages? The City? Other? The 'Donna Martin' case law was referenced.

Sentiment among the subcommittee is that there is a global policy matter with respect to accessible transportation involving Calgary Transit Access and Livery Transport Services that needs to be addressed by City Council before TLAC can recommend any particular solution. Sentiment included a desire to request an audience between key subcommittee members, the City Manager and the General Managers of Transportation and Community Services to present the issue and ask for advice.

In addition to options #1-5 from TLAC2016-28, an option 6 (new) was presented, as follows:

- Voluntary trade-in of 100 ATPL-class 1 (transferable) to 100 TPL-class 1 (transferable)
- Voluntary trade-in of 89 ATPL-class 2 (non-transferable) to 89 TPL-class 2 (non-transferable)
- Open entry for ATPL-class 2 (non-transferable)
 - Brokerages determine how many ATPLs each needs to deliver service
 - For each ATPL, brokerages also receive 'x' number of TPLs to cross-subsidize a portion of the additional costs
 - Each ATPL would be conditioned to ensure the vehicle is in service and meeting service standards set by The City
 - In addition to cross-subsidization through regular plates, an opportunity may also exist for brokers to add a per-trip subsidization to all trips to help subsidize the additional costs of purchasing and operating an accessible taxi
- Transition strategy to ensure continuity of service TBD

The subcommittee raised several operational and logistics issue with option 6: current Council policy is to release plates to drivers only; can brokers legally charge a levy to directly subsidize costs. The committee heard that some brokerages are supportive of this option, while others are still considering the option. Regardless of any of the options, the subcommittee reiterated that a global policy review is required prior to recommending any particular solution.

The subcommittee also discussed the supplementary Access Calgary Extra (ACE) program for eligible low-income users. The question was raised as to whether a similar program could be developed to subsidize all on demand accessible trips wherein the user would still pay the full meter rate, but the driver would be subsidized for the trip through the mill rate-supported ACE card.

A global policy review on wheelchair accessible transportation would include:

1. An evaluating of how well the current policies are meeting the wheelchair accessible transportation needs of customers.
2. A review of the comparative accessible transportation (pre-arranged and on demand) service delivery costs.
3. Consideration for whether financial efficiencies can be found through a reallocation of the existing mill rate support.

The following persons came forward to address the committee with respect to Oral submissions:

Ian Lawson (TLAC member not on subcommittee)
Len Bellingham
Wayne Bill

EXCUSING ABSENCE OF MEMBERS: NONE

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURN, Moved by Gord Lowe that the meeting adjourn. (1:36 p.m.) **CARRIED**

S. Villiam, Chair

L. Brunner, Vice Chair