

SAFETY PARTITIONS SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

SUMMARY

The Safety Partitions Subcommittee presents its recommendations.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Through LPT2010-74 (2011 January 10), Council directed TLAC to investigate a Peer Review Study on driver safety and driver partition/shields to determine the impact on driver safety in North America.

This direction was later deferred by Council through NM2011-16 (2011 April 18; taxi industry and regulation scoping study).

Through TLAC2012-22 (2012 June 15), TLAC adopted recommendations to:

1. *Recommend the mandatory installation of security cameras in all taxis by July 1, 2013,*
2. *Continue to evaluate available research material on the adoption of safety shields including Calgary Police Service reports on incidents of violent crime in taxis and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) report on Preventing Violence against Taxicab Drivers, and*
3. *Direct the Broker representative and Driver representatives of TLAC in cooperation with Administration to begin an evaluation of the most suitable shields for the current fleet of taxis and be prepared to report on options including costs to TLAC by July 01, 2014.*

TLAC's recommendations were based on:

- An informal survey conducted by Livery Transport Services between January and March 2012 to gain insight into driver attitudes toward security cameras and safety partitions.
- A Calgary Police Service report on Violent Crime Involving Taxis Drivers (2011).
- The pending NIOSH report.

Through C2012-0459 (2012 July 30), security cameras were made mandatory with an effective date of 2013 July 1, and Council directed TLAC to report by July 2014 with final recommendations on the mandatory installation of taxi safety partitions.

At the 2013 August 16 meeting of TLAC, the Taxi Safety Partitions Subcommittee was struck.

INVESTIGATION

The NIOSH report *Effectiveness of Taxicab Security Equipment in Reducing Driver Homicide Rates* was published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine [AM J Prev Med 2013; 45(1):1-8] and later presented at the 2013 International Association of Transportation Regulators (IATR) conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

The purpose of the study was to *evaluate the effectiveness of taxicab security cameras and partitions on citywide taxicab driver homicide rates.*

This was done by comparing driver homicide rates in 26 different cities in the U.S., 8 with security cameras, 7 with partitions and 11 with neither.

The results stated: *Cities with cameras experienced a threefold reduction in taxicab driver homicides compared with control cities. There was no difference in homicide rates for cities with partitions compared with control cities.*

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In addition to the NIOSH report, the subcommittee received an updated report from the Calgary Police Service, *Violent Crime Involving Taxi Drivers, 2012-2013* (Attachment). This report showed a drop in assaults and robberies involving taxis in both 2012 and 2013 compared to the previous five year averages, as follows:

- 51 in 2012 compared to the previous five-year average of 58 (Attachment, Table 4)
- 44 in 2013 compared to the previous five-year average of 56 (Attachment, Table 9)

Having considered the NIOSH and CPS findings, the subcommittee does not support mandating safety partitions.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT OR RESEARCH CONDUCTED

As outlined above.

CURRENT AND FUTURE FINANCIAL IMPACTS

None. An amount of \$55,000 to initiate driver research has already been set aside in TLAC's 2014 budget.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TLAC TO CONSIDER

That TLAC prepare a report to Council by July 2014 recommending that safety partitions not be mandated as the research does not support their effectiveness.

ATTACHMENTS

1. NIOSH report: Effectiveness of Taxicab Security Equipment in Reducing Driver Homicide Rates (<http://download.journals.elsevierhealth.com/pdfs/journals/0749-3797/PIIS0749379713002122.pdf>)
2. CPS report: Violent Crime Involving Taxi Drivers 2012-2013

SUBMISSIONS PRESENTED BY: *Mr. Tongjie Zhang, Safety Partitions Subcommittee Chair*