

INFORMATION REPORT

TO: Chair and Members Planning Committee	WARD(S) AFFECTED: CITY WIDE
COMMITTEE DATE: February 28, 2012	
SUBJECT/REPORT NO: Accessible Taxicabs Licensing PED10063(d) (City Wide)	
SUBMITTED BY: Tim McCabe General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department	PREPARED BY: Vincent Ormond 905-546-2424 ext 1358
SIGNATURE:	

Council Direction:

At its meeting of May 3, 2011, the Planning Committee approved Report PED10063(c) which included the following recommendation:

“(d) That no new taxicab plate owner licences be issued until a review of the accessible taxi service can be undertaken and reported back to the Planning Committee.”

Information:

To-date, the City has met all required timelines of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act, 2005 (AODA) including Ontario Regulation 191/11, relating to Provincial requirements for accessible transportation service levels, by appointing the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (ACPD) to advise Council on the implementation of AODA standards, including accessible taxicab service levels.

The ACPD made a number of recommendations regarding accessible taxicabs through ACPD Report 10-006, and in May 2011, the Planning Committee directed staff not to issue any new taxicab plate owner licences until a review of the accessible taxi service can be undertaken.

As part of the review into accessible taxi service, staff have consulted extensively with several industry and stakeholder groups, and have received valuable input. However, there are many issues to still consider such as:

- service delivery levels;
- industry capital costs for converting to accessible vehicles;
- possible increased operating costs;
- educational and training requirements for the public, taxicab owners, brokers, taxicab drivers, staff and other service providers;
- possible amendments needed to Licensing By-law 07-170;
- impacts on Accessible Transportation Services and Disabled and Aged Regional Transportation Service (DARTS) program; and,
- passenger safety concerns expressed by the public about unregulated accessible taxi vehicles.

Therefore, staff expect to be able to report back to the Planning Committee with recommendations respecting creating an accessible taxi service in the Fall of 2012, and therefore, it will be necessary to delay the issuance of taxicab plate owner licences until later in the year.

VO/dt