



CITY OF HAMILTON
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Parking and By-law Services Division

TO:	Chair and Members Planning Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	December 6, 2016
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	Accessible Taxicab Licensing (PED16232) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SUBMITTED BY:	Jason Thorne General Manager Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That in 2017, six (6) accessible taxicab plates be issued as follows:
 - (i) Firstly, to individuals on the taxicab priority list;
 - (ii) Secondly, to qualified licensed drivers within the Hamilton taxi industry in accordance with the criteria as outlined in Appendix “A” attached to Report PED16232;
- (b) That in each of 2018 and 2019, an additional six (6) accessible taxicab plates be issued in the same manner as outlined in Recommendation (a)(i) and (ii) of Report PED16232 above, for a total complement of eighteen (18) new accessible taxicab plates.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Report requests approval for an additional eighteen (18) accessible taxicab plates to be issued over the next three (3) years, in addition to the existing sixteen (16) accessible plates that are currently in operation in the industry. The benefit of these additional plates include an improvement to the transportation needs of our community, and is in line with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Act, 2005* (AODA). In addition, the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (ACPD) and the Taxi Industry are in support of the recommendations.

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The issuance of six (6) accessible taxi plates will generate a one-time revenue increase of \$26.8K per year in each of 2017, 2018 and 2019 (\$4,471.25 – 2017 \$) per taxi plate. Throughout the duration of the issuance of the accessible taxi plates over 2017, 2018 and 2019, additional revenues will be generated annually from plate renewals.

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The current Taxicab Plate Program was established in 2004 with the implementation of recommendations contained in Item 2 of Planning and Economic Development Committee Report 05-011, approved by Council on January 12, 2005 (Staff Report PD01120(c)). The Program commenced in January 2005 for a ten (10) year period, expiring in 2015, with thirty (30) plates to be issued at a rate of three (3) plates per year to individuals on the priority list.

On October 24, 2012, Council adopted Item 10 of Planning Committee Report 12-016 which approved the issuance of sixteen (16) accessible taxicab plates in 2013 to deliver taxicab services in accordance with the AODA.

In 2016, after public consultation with representatives from the taxi industry and ACPD, it was identified that additional accessible taxicab plates are required to meet the needs of the community.

A copy of the Criteria for the Issuance of Accessible Taxi Plates is attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED16232.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

Schedule 25 of the Business Licensing By-law 07-170 is currently being rewritten with a focus on improving access to ground transportation.

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Consultation with Hamilton Cab and Blue Line Cab brokers, as well as representatives of the taxi industry, including drivers, lessors and owners, has indicated support for an increase in accessible plates being issued. Consultation with ACPD, as well as the Transportation Working Group of ACPD, also supports that there is an identified need and support for an increase in accessible plates.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Staff met on several occasions with Hamilton Cab and Blue Line Cab brokers, as well as representatives from the taxi industry, including consultation with ACPD, to discuss and solicit opinions on the implementation of the recommended eighteen (18) new Accessible Taxi Cab plates. A mutual concern expressed throughout the discussions was the need for increased access and availability of accessible taxis as the demand outweighs the current fleet numbers. Based on the full review, the additional Accessible Taxi Cab plates will achieve the increase in access and availability and has the support of all parties and stakeholders. The following information was reviewed and analyzed in order to support the need for the increase in Accessible Taxi Cab plate availability:

- An average of 868 Accessible Taxi Cab rides per month;
- A monthly average of approximately 115 ride refusals or denials;
- Based on information provided from the Taxi Cab brokerages, there are “many complaints” per month related to the access to available accessible taxi rides;
- There are an average of 45 driver *no-shows* per month;
- Current Accessible Taxi Cab ratio is 1:35,635 (based on population 570,000); and,
- Proposed Accessible Taxi Cab ratio will be 1:16,764 (based on population 570,000), which improves the ratio by over 100%.

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Community Engagement & Participation

Hamilton has an open, transparent and accessible approach to City government that engages with and empowers all citizens to be involved in their community.

Healthy and Safe Communities

Hamilton is a safe and supportive city where people are active, healthy, and have a high quality of life.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Appendix “A”: Criteria for the Issuance of Accessible Taxi Plates

DS:KL:cab