

Dear Hamilton City Council,

The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce is writing to inform you of our support for smart, progressive legislative design for Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) like Uber, that will ensure a future for ridesharing in Hamilton. We support recommendations within the staff report "Licensing Uber or Like Ride-Sharing Applications (PED16099(a))" and some of the suggested amendments to Business Licensing By-law 07-170.

Our Chamber has long recognized the importance of multi-modal transportation as an integral pillar to a thriving city and downtown core. Hamilton's economy thrives when people and goods move efficiently and affordably between destinations. Roads and parking, public transit, walkable neighborhoods, cycling, and taxis are all essential services supporting the economy. Equally significant is the evolving ecosystem of new services that offer alternative modes for moving people and goods efficiently and affordably, such as car-sharing, bike-sharing, and more recently, Uber and ride-sharing.

Uber's ridesharing program makes sense. Without uberX peer-to-peer ridesharing, other innovations like uberPOOL (carpooling on the Uber app) is not possible. Allowing commuters to carpool via uberPOOL will reduce the vehicle traffic into the city and help decongest our major roadways. Uber and other flexible transportation options are critical to resolving the first and last mile challenge of getting potential transit commuters to and from transit hubs and as such will serve as a complement to the adoption public transportation initiatives like LRT.

The Chamber supports greater choice in our transportation network. As a business-focused organization, we recognize the value and benefit of a competitive marketplace that fosters product and service selection excellence. If the City decides to move forward with changes to its vehicle-for-hire industry, then the Chamber encourages the City to establish a balanced approach that will enable the traditional taxi industry and other reputable transportation service providers to remain competitive in a changing industry, while recognizing the demand for and need to move people around Hamilton, including Uber and ridesharing services.

It is important that the City of Hamilton continues to provide maximum affordable and reliable choice for providers and consumers, including Chamber members and their customers, employees, residents and visitors to move in and around Hamilton and beyond.

It is equally important that the City of Hamilton design legislation that welcome new technologies and ways of doing things that are disruptive, signalling to the City's burgeoning technology sector that we are a hub for entrepreneurship and innovation.

Sincerely,



Keanin Loomis,
President & CEO,
Hamilton Chamber of Commerce

120 King Street West
Plaza Level
Hamilton, ON L8P 4V2
www.hamiltonchamber.ca

Office: (905) 522-1151
Fax: (905) 522-1154
hcc@hamiltonchamber.ca

