




CITY OF HAMILTON
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Licensing & By-law Services Division

TO:	Mayor and Members General Issues Committee
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 10, 2022
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	2022 Council Referred Business Case – Accessible TaxiCabs (PED18082(a)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
PREPARED BY:	Dan Smith (905) 546-2424 Ext. 6435
SUBMITTED BY:	Monica Ciriello Director, Licensing & By-law Services Planning and Economic Development Department
SIGNATURE:	

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) That the 2022 Council referred business case involving Financial Incentives for Taxi Operators to Provide Accessible Taxicab Trips, be referred to the 2023 Budget process for consideration; and,
- (b) That the Accessible Taxicab Trips pilot program be extended for one year to end on April 1, 2023, with operations ending December 31, 2022, at an estimated cost of \$60,000, to be funded from the Working Funds – General Reserve (Account# 112400).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff continue to operate and administer the pilot program for Financial Incentives for Accessible Taxicab Trips as approved by City Council. However, staff feel it prudent to defer the business case to 2023 in order to be able to better assess the financial viability and overall effectiveness of each program under normal conditions (i.e. a 'non-pandemic').

Alternatives for Consideration – N/A

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

FINANCIAL – STAFFING – LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The estimated cost of extending the subject pilot program to the 2023 budget process is estimated at a net total of \$60,000 which can be funded from the Working Funds – General Reserve 112400 as follows:

- Financial Incentives for Taxi Operators to Provide Accessible Taxicab Trips \$60,000 at \$5,000/month

Staffing: N/A

Legal: N/A

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In dealing with report PED18082 (Financial Incentives for Taxi Operators to Provide Accessible Taxicab Trips), the Planning Committee; on June 19, 2018, approved the following:

- (a) That the Licensing and By-Law Services Division create a one-year pilot program to provide a subsidy for Accessible Taxicab trips to further support the provision of Accessible Taxicab services for the accessible community;
- (b) That, subject to the approval of Recommendation (a) of Report PED18082, Financial Incentives for Taxi Operations to Provide Accessible Taxicab Trips, the following be approved:
 - (i) That a one-year pilot program be created within the Licensing Section to provide a \$5 flat subsidized rate to all qualified Accessible Taxicab drivers for each accessible taxi trip dispatched with Hamilton Cab and Blue Line Taxi Brokers, at an estimated cost of \$115,000;
 - (ii) That \$20,000 be allocated from the Tax Stabilization Reserve to support the funding of the pilot program. The \$20,000 represents the “in lieu of accessibility” voluntary annual revenue received in 2017;
 - (iii) That in support of achieving compliance with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005, S.O., 2005, c.11 (AODA)* standards and to support the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities with the on-demand Accessible Taxicab initiative, the results of the pilot program be referred to the 2019 budget process for further consideration;

- (iv) That Report PED18082 respecting Financial Incentives for Taxi Operators to Provide Accessible Taxicab Trips be brought to the next Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities meeting for information only;
- (v) That 0.25 temporary full-time equivalent (FTE) be approved for program administration, to be funded from the Personal Transportation Providers revenues generated from new licences;
- (vi) That the Director of Licensing and By-Law Services and/or designate be authorized and directed to negotiate and execute a new agreement with Blue Line Taxi and Hamilton Cab, in a form satisfactory to the City Solicitor, for the provision of Accessible Taxicab subsidized payments in the amount of \$5 per dispatched trip;

The above recommendations were approved by City Council on June 27, 2018.

On January 22, 2020, City Council approved a recommendation of the Planning Committee *“that the Accessible Taxicab Financial Incentive Pilot Program be extended for an additional 16 months to the end of April 2021 and that the program be funded through the Working Funds - General Reserve 112400 at an estimated net cost of \$80,000 or \$5,000 per month”*.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND LEGISLATED REQUIREMENTS

N/A

RELEVANT CONSULTATION

Finance staff were consulted in the development of the recommendations in this report.

ANALYSIS AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Staff feel it prudent to defer this business case to 2023 in order to be able to better assess the financials under normal conditions (i.e. a ‘non-pandemic’). Some of the analytics being assessed for this pilot program include; number of Accessible trips completed, compliance rate of financial incentive requests submitted to Licensing, Personal Transportation Provider (PTP) fees collected, et al which will be used to accurately assess the financial viability and overall success of this program.

Summary of data from inception of the program is charted below. With the pandemic having a major effect on the program through both the number of PTP and Accessible trips, the program has not allowed staff to provide a comprehensive overview of the impact on the Accessible Taxi operation. Currently, it is difficult to project or provide

reasonable insight into the permanency or sustainability of the program due to these pandemic induced challenges.

YEAR	PTP TRIPS	ACCESIBLE TAXI TRIPs	INCENTIVES PAID
2018 (September to December)	71,513	4963	\$24,815
2019	2,369,849	24,977	\$124,885
2020	1,505,571	13,354	\$66,830
2021	1,395,729	13,206	\$66,090

ALIGNMENT TO THE 2016 – 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

Healthy and Safe Communities

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