

VEHICLE FOR HIRE INDUSTRY ADVISORY GROUP

Meeting Date: **July 10, 2014**

1. An update on the upcoming independent study of Edmonton's taxi industry service levels was given.

On June 22, 2014, Executive Committee moved that administration report back to Executive Committee on the results of an independent study to compare Edmonton's taxi industry with other municipalities, review seasonal and evening availability, develop a formula for the optimal number of taxi s per capita and provide recommendations on how the City can balance the interests of the industry and the public with respect to service levels.

Executive Committee requested that additional topics be reviewed, which include surveying broker franchise fees and other fees charged by the broker, rental rates charged by vehicle owners, take home pay for drivers, the dispatch process of getting a trip, apps, the effect of the Edmonton International Airport, and regional taxi service.

The motion also included holding a public hearing when the report returns to Executive Committee to give the industry and the public an opportunity to address the report.

2. Shift rates, job security and plate prices were discussed.
 - The IAG discussed the possibility of having Administration create contracts which would define the relationship between the driver renting the vehicle and the vehicle owner and set out minimum protections for both.
 - Another possibility discussed is to have the brokers act as middlemen to assist both the driver and the vehicle owner in their relationship.
 - A further option proposed was to put a freeze on the number of new taxi driver licences issued.

3. Taxi rates were also discussed.
- There has not been a fare increase since 2008, therefore there is some catching up required.
 - IAG discussed raising the taxi fare to keep in line with the customer price index (CPI).
 - There was also discussion on the Edmonton International Airport zone rate map.
 - Any proposed increase in the rates will be presented to the industry and the public for comments prior to a report going forward.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 14, 2014. The agenda will continue the discussion of taxi rates and includes various topics affecting the limousine industry.

NOTE: **The Vehicle for Hire Industry Advisory Group is a cooperative group of members from the taxi and limousine industry working together to provide a forum where issues related to the vehicle for hire industry are brought forward, reviewed and discussed. The Vehicle for Hire Industry Group does not have any power to govern the industry. The members do not represent any interest group in the industry. Members bring their knowledge and experience to the IAG to provide advice to the vehicle for hire administration. Before any changes are made to the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw, industry members and the public will have an opportunity to comment.**