
VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION

EDMONTON VEHICLE FOR HIRE COMMISSION
MEETING AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, November 9, 2011 @ 1:30 p.m.

Heritage Room in City Hall

*****DRIVER APPRECIATION AWARDS*****

12:30 – coffee and donuts

1:00 – AWARD PRESENTATIONS

1. Call to Order
2. Announcements (Page 3)
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of October 12, 2011 Minutes
5. Public Involvement
6. Reports
- 7.. Business
 - a. Business Arising
 - (i)
 - b. New Business
 - (i) Motions from Executive Committee Meeting on October 19, 2011

6.2. Alternative Models for Governing and Advising the Taxi Industry

Implementation Process to Govern the Taxi Industry

Corporate Svcs.

That Administration, after consulting with the Commission and the Industry, return to Executive Committee by January 2012, with an implementation process to govern the taxi industry based on an Administrative Advisory Model as outlined in Attachment 1 of the September 21, 2011, Corporate Services report 2011COC116.

Due Date:
Jan. 2012

Issues Related to Regulating the Taxi Industry

Corporate Svcs.

That Administration consult with the Vehicle for Hire Industry to review the following issues and return to Executive Committee with a report addressing:

1. City bylaw parking restrictions.
2. Issues that are creating a strife between Edmonton Transit and the Industry.
3. Flagging of taxis at curbs.
4. Regulations of the Industry on issuing permits and approvals.
5. Plate ownership - as the City's ownership of plates creates challenges in using them as collateral.

Due Date:
Jan. 2012

8. Administrative Matters

- a. Vehicle for Hire Commission**
- b. Edmonton Police Service**
- c. Edmonton Transportation**

9. News Articles

- a.** 630 Ched Article dated October 20, 2011 regarding "Taxi industry frustrated".
- b.** CBC News article dated October 20, 2011 regarding "Restrictions on cab hailing irks Mayor".
- c.** Metro Edmonton article dated October 20, 2011 regarding "Cab driver sought in industry policy".

10. General Correspondence

There are no general correspondence items to be discussed at this time.

11. In-Camera Items

There are no in-camera items to be discussed at this time.

12. Adjournment

The next regular Vehicle for Hire Commission meeting will be held starting at 1:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room, City Hall on Wednesday, December 14, 2011.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please turn off all cell. phones.

The topic of 'Public Involvement' allows time to hear from those who wish to address the Commission. To do so, please observe the following procedures;

- sign on speaker list at entry.
- maximum time is 5 minutes per speaker with a four minute warning (yellow card) and expired time (red card).
- be prepared to answer clarification questions from Commission members.

9.d.

Taxi industry frustrated

2:00pm

[Click here to email Scott Johnston](#)

10/19/2011

People are not happy in the taxi industry.

Drivers have complaints about how transit gets in their way, the attitude of police, and the number of plates. So an advisory panel has been set up through the Vehicle for Hire Commission that will eventually they'll look at the International Airport situation which will come to a head in the spring. "It's the frustration of the industry, and they're feeling alienated," said Mayor Stephen Mandel. The lead councillor on this, Amarjeet Sohi has a long list of problems. "One is how to make it easier for cabs to pick up passengers, or drop off passengers on the street."

Everyone agrees including the mayor, how dumb it is, that you can't flag a cab from the curb. "I was shocked," said Mayor Stephen Mandel. "I absolutely agree. We were in a meeting a couple of weeks ago and some one said that. I said 'you've got to be kidding me? You mean I can't flag down a cab?'" Because I kept saying why are these guys sitting at stands and not going down the streets so people can flag them down? Not allowed to. It's the dumbest thing I've ever heard."

Police even cracked down on one driver taking some one to the Indy race this summer. He got a \$173 ticket for dropping a passenger off on 107th street.



Photo: 630 CHED's Scott Johnston

Vince Paniak, the GM of Co-op says there's a lot of frustration. "The current suspicions and anger that exist by the taxi union members and the brokers is real."

So the commission is setting up an advisory committee, to air all of the grievances, to get the system running better. It'll report back to council in the new year. The mayor says this will give drivers a chance to get answers from the administration so if things need changing, it can happen. (sj,mb)

9. b.

Restrictions on cab hailing irks mayor

Mandel wants to ease rules that prevent passenger pick-up

CBC News

Posted: Oct 20, 2011 11:20 AM MT

Last Updated: Oct 20, 2011 11:10 AM MT

24

Edmonton Mayor Stephen Mandel wants to make it easier for people to hail taxis in the city.

Mandel told reporters he was "shocked" to learn at an executive committee meeting Wednesday that cab drivers are sometimes ticketed for stopping and picking up passengers in the middle of the road, at curbsides or in front of fire hydrants.

"You gotta be kidding me," Mandel said.

"You mean, I can't flag down a cab? Because I kept saying, 'Why are these guys sitting at stands? Why aren't they out there going down the streets so people can flag them down?' "

Committee members were told that in 2010, around 100 cab drivers were ticketed \$50 each for illegally stopping to pick up passengers.

While there are no specific rules governing the pick-up and drop-off of taxi passengers, Edmonton's traffic bylaw restricts any vehicle, including cabs, from stopping in bus zones or in roadways when it blocks traffic, or from parking in crosswalks or in front of fire hydrants.

Some cabbies not aware of rules

Taxi drivers in front of the Greyhound bus depot downtown raised their eyebrows in surprise when told about the restrictions by CBC News.



Edmonton cab driver Abdul Abdoun says some passengers don't carry cellphones and sometimes need to be able to hail a taxi in the middle of a road. CBC "This is the first time I know that's illegal," said Abdul Abdoun.

"Somebody waving, they need a car, why wouldn't I stop for them?"

Abdoun said some passengers don't carry cellphones or know which numbers to call.

Taxi-user Dwayne Johnson agreed that the restrictions are impractical.

"If I'm out in the middle of the night and I need a cab here, I want him to come get me here," he said, pointing to the curbside.

"Not running down the street and go get me."

Mandel wants the city to create an advisory committee to look at relaxing the restrictions on passenger pick-up.

9.c.

Cab driver input sought in industry policy

HEATHER MCINTYRE
METRO EDMONTON

Published: October 20, 2011 5:40 a.m.

Last modified: October 20, 2011 1:51 a.m.

[Be the first to comment](#)

[Print article](#)

[Text size](#)

Frustration between taxi brokers and the city's Vehicle for Hire Commission resulted in a council committee recommending drivers sit on an advisory board.

Garry Dziwenka, chief livery officer, said yesterday that staff will return with a report on implementation in January.

The key, he said, will be including driver input when creating policies.

Some industry concerns include waving a cab down from the curb, which can result in a \$173 ticket, as well as the Edmonton International Airport contract, which will be re-examined in the spring.

8.2

Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers

Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers

Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers

Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers

Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers

Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers

Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers

Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers

Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers Yonkers