

Report to Council



Date: January 15, 2018
File: 1410-50
To: City Manager
From: Jerry Dombowsky, Transit and Programs Manager
Subject: Provincial consultation on ride-hailing policy

[Recommendation]

THAT Council receives, for information, the report from the Transit and Programs Manager dated January 9, 2018 with respect to Provincial consultation on Ride-hailing policy;

AND THAT the Mayor, on behalf of Council, send the attached letter to the Select Standing Committee on Crown Corporations

Purpose:

To receive Council endorsement on feedback to be provided to the Provincial Governments call for consultation on policy development for Ride-hailing services and Transportation Network Companies in BC.

Background:

Ride-hailing in BC is regulated by the provincial government Passenger Transportation Board which has provided policy and regulation for the licensing and operation of taxis and chauffeur operations within the City of Kelowna. Currently, the province is soliciting feedback on the potential introduction of Transportation Network Companies e.g., Uber, Lyft, among others, which operate outside the traditional taxi operation model.

City Council does not have a formal policy on Ridesharing or Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) at present. From a transportation planning perspective, however, and based on feedback from Council, the potential for this is recognized as an important added option to satisfy our citizen's mobility needs. Used effectively, ridesharing via TNCs can help individuals rely less on the single occupant vehicle. Trips could be taken in a number of ways like transit, carpooling, cycling, walking and the use of rideshare services when needed. With more options, people may find it more and more possible to live without owning a personal vehicle, or at the very least, making far fewer single occupant trips. This trip reduction helps us as a community meet sustainability goals, and to reduce the amount spent on costly infrastructure. It is viewed as a responsible way to manage our growth.

In addition, many social concerns can be addressed by increased transportation options. For example, peak demand for ride-hailing services is a concern where the limited

availability of taxis affects citizens' safe choices with respect to drinking and driving. Areas of the city that are less walkable, bike-able or with limited transit service can benefit from increased transportation options as well. There is strong potential for a new model of transit service delivery that is more responsive and efficient in some areas through the use of innovative ridesharing or ride-hailing services.

While the practicality and demand for ridesharing services is understood, there is also an appreciation and sensitivity to the taxi and transit industry who would be impacted by any transition to a new model. Provincial policy should support a level playing field while recognizing that the entire passenger transportation industry is experiencing a technological and service revolution.

Council's approval of the attached correspondence containing detail on the above is respectfully requested.

Internal Circulation:

Policy and Planning, Department Manager
Corporate Communications Manager

Considerations not applicable to this report:

Financial/Budgetary Considerations
Legal/Statutory Authority
Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements
Existing Policy
Personnel Implications
Communications Comments
Alternate Recommendation
External Agency/Public Comments

Submitted by:

J. Dombowsky, Transit and Programs Manager

Approved by, Rafael Villarreal, Manager, Integrated Transportation Department

Approved for inclusion:



A. Newcombe, Divisional Director, Infrastructure

Attachment: Draft letter regarding Ride-hailing consultation to BC Provincial Government

cc: Policy and Planning, Department Manager
Corporate Communications Manager