

TECHNICAL AMENDMENT RE LIVERY TRANSPORT BYLAW 6M2007

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Taxi meter rates are comprised of an initial flat fee once the meter goes on, known as the drop rate, as well as incremental rates for both distance and time. The combination of these rates makes up the taxi fare that a customer pays. Prior to 2014 September 22, the incremental rates for both distance and time were \$0.20. On 2014 September 22, through an amendment to bylaw 6M2007, Council approved two different incremental rates: \$0.20 for distance and \$0.30 for time. It has since been determined that taxi meters cannot process two separate rates based on existing technology limitations. In order to address this issue, Administration is recommending an amendment to Bylaw 6M2007 to change the incremental rate for time from \$0.30 back to \$0.20; meaning the rate for both time and distance will be \$0.20 and will be compatible with existing taxi meter technology. The previously approved 8.1% taxi meter rate increase will not be affected.

ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council give three readings to Bylaw 68M2014, amending Schedule A.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

On 2014 September 22, Livery System Enhancements (CPS2014-0664), ADOPT, AS AMENDED, Moved by Councillor Colley-Urquhart, Seconded by Councillor Farrell, that the SPC on Community and Protective Services Recommendations contained in Report CPS2014-0664 be adopted, as amended, as follows, that Council:

1. Give three readings to Bylaw 50M2014 to increase the taxi meter rate 8.1% (Attachment 1);
2. Give three readings to Bylaw 51M2014 (Attachment 2) to approve the release of 383 new plates, 42 of which are accessible;
3. Direct Administration to release one-third of the new plates in Bylaw 51M2014 (126 plates, 14 of which are accessible) immediately and to commence work on a report to Council detailing: data on dispatch service; feasibility of creating an insurance marketplace and any other mechanisms to enhance driver independence; a schedule for the release of the remaining new plates; and return to Council no later than Q1 2015;
4. Receive for information the Smartphone technology information; and
5. Receive for information the Citizen Satisfaction Survey (Attachment 3).

BACKGROUND

Council approved CPS2014-0664 on 2014 September 22, giving 3 readings to Bylaw 50M2014 to amend Bylaw 6M2007, replacing Schedule "A", Part 1 – Taxi Rates, with the following:

"3. The meter rate fares to be charged for the hire of a Taxi shall be as follows:

- (a) (i) where the trip originates at the main passenger building of the Calgary International Airport, \$8.30 for the first 120 meters or any portion thereof, which amount includes an airport departure fee of \$4.50, or
- (ii) where the trip originates at a location other than the main passenger building of the Calgary International Airport, \$3.80 for the first 120 meters or any portion thereof; and
- (b) (i) \$0.20 for each additional 120 meters or any portion thereof,
- (ii) \$33.80 per hour for waiting time or elapsed time calculated at \$0.30 per 32 seconds or any portion thereof; and

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(c) where a rate pursuant to section 3(a)(i) of this schedule is charged, the Driver shall advise the customer at the time the service is requested that the rate includes a \$4.50 airport departure fee and the charge shall be displayed on the taximeter.”

INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS

Prior to 2014 September 22, the incremental rates for both distance and time were \$0.20. On 2014 September 22, through an amendment to bylaw 6M2007, Council approved two different incremental rates: \$0.20 for distance and \$0.30 for time. Initially, Administration had been advised that it would be possible to program two separate rates into the taxi meter's, but has since been determined that current taxi meter technology cannot process two separate rates. In order to address this issue, Administration is recommending an amendment to Bylaw 6M2007 to change the incremental rate for time from \$0.30 back to \$0.20; meaning the rate for both time and distance will then be \$0.20 and compatible with existing taxi meter technology. It is important to note that this change does not affect any other taxi rates and will result in a very slight differences to the rate charged to a customer.

Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication

Research conducted on taxi meters determined the incompatibility of multiple incremental rates with current taxi meter technology.

Strategic Alignment

The mandate of Taxi & Limousine Advisory Committee (TLAC) includes a requirement to make recommendations to Council on all issues related to fares, rates and fees for taxi and limousines and the related businesses.

Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Ensuring there is an adequate supply of taxi services is essential to maintaining a vibrant and productive community.

Financial Capacity

Current and Future Operating Budget

None.

Current and Future Capital Budget

None.

Risk Assessment

If the bylaw is not amended to align the fees, the taxi meters will not be able to be programmed according to the approved Council bylaw.

REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):

Following Council's approval of separate incremental rates for distance and time it has been discovered that taxi meters are unable to calculate two different rates due to existing technology limitations. In order to address this issue, Administration is recommending an amendment to Bylaw 6M2007, to ensure a return to a consistent rate that is compatible with taxi meters.

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ATTACHMENT(S)
Bylaw 68M2014