

February 2, 2022

Roger Chapman
Director, By-Law and Regulatory Services
City of Ottawa

Re: Taxi Tariff amendment

Dear Mr. Chapman

As committed members of the ground transportation industry upon which Ottawa relies to keep moving around the clock and throughout the year, we are writing to you today in hopes you will give consideration of the resources required in order for us to continue to provide the excellent services upon which the City depends.

Ottawa's taxi industry has provided reliable, flexible service without an increase to the meter pricing for over a decade; the last increase was in the fall of 2011.

Ottawa's Taxi industry has gone through many challenges in recent years and made difficult adjustments in order to work within the existing meters rates. Essentially, Ottawa has asked the industry to subsidize transportation for City residents.

Unfortunately, we are no longer able to continue to operate without an increase in revenues, which means a meter increase.

I have reviewed the taxi cost index and can say with confidence that every item on the taxi cost index has seen a hike while the drivers' earning power has not followed.

Our cost of operation has increased dramatically over the years. For example:

- The cost of insurance has increased 35% since 2012.
- The cost of fuel continues to rise due for various reasons including the newly imposed carbon tax which is set to increase yearly increased from \$1.28 per litre in [2012](#) to [\\$1.63](#) per litre currently, an increase of 28%.
- Vehicles are now more expensive to purchase, and options are limited due to the worldwide supply chain issues.



- Minimum wage in Ontario was \$10.25 in 2011 and is now at \$15.00 per hour, an increase of 32%. This has affected the cost of operation and the cost of living for every Taxi driver.

As a result of these and other unavoidable cost increases, the Taxi industry is requesting a meter increase that would reflect an overall increase of 10% (combination of increased drop rate and per KM rate).

Upon reviewing By-Law Section 89, we understand that consideration of Taxi meter rates traditionally has taken place on October 1st each year; however, no such rate increase was proposed on October 1, 2021, or for many years previously.

Therefore, we respectfully request that this matter be dealt with now and not be delayed until October 1st, 2022. Our industry cannot wait until then, given the current economic realities. The ideal scenario would be an approval and implementation for a meter increase to be done before the end of June 2022.

We are also requesting that a minimum charge of \$20.00 be applied to all trips originating from the airport. We ask the flat rate to be added to the new tariff cards. We would be amending the pricing info at the airport.

We are open to meeting with you to discuss background details with you and explain our position.

We are certain that the City of Ottawa is motivated to do all it can to support the Taxi industry which has supported the City without fail during the past decade, and especially during COVID.

Sincerely,

Ali Enad
President
Unifor Local 1688

Marc André Way
President and CEO
Coventry Connections Inc.