



MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE

Information previously distributed / Information distribué auparavant

TO: Community and Protective Services Committee

DESTINATAIRE : Comité des services communautaires et de protection

FROM: Anthony Di Monte,
General Manager, Emergency and
Protective Services Department

Contact :
Roger Chapman,
*By-law and Regulatory Services/
Emergency and Protective Services
Department
613-580-2400 x41362
Roger.Chapman@Ottawa.ca*

EXPÉDITEUR : Anthony Di Monte,
Directeur général, Services de
protection et d'urgences

Personne ressource :
Roger Chapman,
*Services des règlements
municipaux/ Direction générale des
services de protection et d'urgences
613-580-2400 x41362
Roger.Chapman@Ottawa.ca*

DATE: June 8, 2021

8 juin 2021

FILE NUMBER: ACS2020-EPS-GEN-0001

SUBJECT: RE-NEGOTIATION OF THE VOLUNTARY VEHICLE-FOR-HIRE
ACCESSIBILITY SURCHARGE

OBJET : RENÉGIATION DES FRAIS SUPPLÉMENTAIRES VOLONTAIRES
RELATIFS AU FONDS POUR L'ACCESSIBILITÉ DES VÉHICULES DE LOCATION

On March 27, 2019, Council directed the General Manager of Emergency and Protective Services to re-negotiate the voluntary accessibility surcharge with Private Transportation Companies, and report back to the Community and Protective Services Committee at the conclusion of these negotiations. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on the results of these negotiations.

BACKGROUND

On April 13, 2016, as part of its consideration of the Taxi and Limousine Regulation and Service Review, City Council approved regulations for Private Transportation Companies, which took effect September 30, 2016 as part of the Vehicle-for-Hire By-law.

As part of its deliberations, Council directed the City Clerk to petition the Province for legislative amendments relating to accessible transportation. Currently, there is no legislative authority for the City to impose a mandatory accessibility levy on Private Transportation Companies. In May 2016, the City Clerk sent two letters requesting that the Province:

- Amend the Accessibility for Ontarians With Disabilities Act, 2005 to mandate appropriate accessible transportation requirements for Private Transportation Companies and to foster a more level playing field with taxicabs and accessible taxicabs; and
- Amend the Municipal Act, 2001 or the City of Ottawa Act, 1999 to provide authority for City Council to impose and implement an accessibility levy to be applied to Private Transportation Companies that do not offer accessible vehicle-for-hire services to the City's standards, where the fees collected from such a levy are to be used by City Council to promote and foster accessible transportation services in Ottawa. To date, there has been no change in legislation to grant such authority.

In the absence of legislated authority, Council delegated the authority to the General Manager of Emergency and Protective Services to negotiate, finalize and execute the establishment of a voluntary, per-trip surcharge for accessibility, with any funds received from this surcharge to be directed to a dedicated reserve fund.

DISCUSSION

Following the effective date of the Vehicle-for-Hire By-law, each licensed Private Transportation Company agreed to a voluntary accessibility per-trip surcharge of \$0.07

In April 2016, Council further directed that the General Manager of Emergency and Protective Services work with the City's Accessibility Unit, the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Para Transpo and other internal and external stakeholders to develop a strategy with respect to how funds generated through an accessibility surcharge could be used to offset costs for a number of programs supporting accessible transportation, including but not limited to enhancing the taxi coupon program, and report back to Committee and Council with a recommended approach.

On March 27, 2019, following public and stakeholder consultation, a feasibility analysis by staff and recommendations by the Vehicle-for-Hire Accessibility Fund Steering Committee, Council approved a strategy for the use of funds derived from the voluntary surcharge for programs supporting accessible transportation in the City of Ottawa. The Council-approved initiatives included the taxi coupon program, expanding accessible transportation services in rural areas, and funding for not-for-profit agencies that provide transportation services to older adults and people with disabilities. At that time, Council also directed the General Manager of Emergency and Protective Services to re-negotiate the accessibility surcharge with Private Transportation Companies with a view to increasing their contribution, in order to be more in line with the KPMG recommendation of \$0.30 (from the 2016 report on the Taxi and Limousine Regulation and Service Review), and report back to Community and Protective Services Committee at the conclusion of these negotiations.

CONCLUSION

Following extensive discussions with the Private Transportation Companies licensed in Ottawa, an increased Voluntary Per-Trip Surcharge of \$0.10 took effect on July 1, 2020. All Voluntary Per-Trip Surcharge payments made by licensed Private Transportation Companies are directed into the Vehicle-for-Hire Accessibility Fund to be used for the Council-approved initiatives as described above.

Anthony Di Monte

General Manager, Emergency and Protective Services

CC: Senior Leadership Team

Emergency and Protective Services Leadership Team