

Public Vehicle Advisory Committee

Date

Thursday, November 19, 2015

Time

9:11 AM

Location

Civic Centre, Council Chambers - Second Floor,
300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga, Ontario, L5B 3C1

Members Present

Councillor Ron Starr	Ward 6 (Chair)
Councillor Carolyn Parrish	Ward 5 (Vice-Chair)
Al Cormier	Citizen Member
Rajendra Singh	Citizen Member
Baljit Singh Pandori	Industry Appointed – Taxicab Brokerages
Karam S. Punian	Elected – Taxicab Drivers
Harsimar Singh Sethi	Elected – At Large
Nirmal Singh	Elected – Taxicab Owners (Arrived at 9:14 AM)

Members Absent

Vikesh Kohli	Citizen Member
Joshua Zahavy	Industry Appointed – Limousine Brokerages

Contact:

Karen Morden, Legislative Coordinator, Legislative Services
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Find it online

<http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/cityhall/publicvehicleadvisory>

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – 9:11 AM

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Approved (H. S. Sethi)

3. **DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST** - Nil

4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the October 1, 2015 Public Vehicle Advisory Committee meeting.

Approved (A. Cormier)

5. **DEPUTATIONS**

5.1 Item 6.1 Dr. Dan Hara, Hara Associates Inc. to present the final report with respect to the Taxi Plate Issuance Model Review.

Recorded proceedings on this item are listed under Item 6.1 – Consultant’s Review of the Taxi Plate Issuance Model.

6. **MATTERS CONSIDERED**

6.1 **Consultant’s Review of the Taxi Plate Issuance Model**

Corporate Report dated October 14, 2015 from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works entitled, “Consultant’s Review of the Taxi Plate Issuance Model”.

Mickey Frost, Director, Enforcement provided a brief background to the Consultant's Review of the Taxi Plate Issuance Model and introduced Dr. Dan Hara, Consultant, Hara Associates Inc.

Dr. Hara spoke to the scope of the report, indicating the study objectives and the plan of his presentation to focus on the appropriate number of taxis in Mississauga and related formula comparisons, non-formula alternatives, recommended percentage of accessible taxis, and meter rates.

Dr. Hara spoke to the structure of Mississauga's taxi industry, noting the two external forces impacting the industry as Pearson Airport operations and Regional Transhelp program and described the Hara Associates Demand Model, noting that overall, Mississauga has a reasonably good taxi service, that the current taxi supply is adequate with some room for a minor increase in fleet size.

Questions from Members included those with respect to response times and peak rush hours, to which Dr. Hara commented that most Mississauga taxis operate under a single-shift and noted the importance of dispatch response time data in determining the effectiveness of Mississauga's taxi industry. Dr. Hara further commented on the complex nature of Mississauga's current formula, noting that while everyone gets a say, the formula is not evidence-based and therefore the data is inconsistent, and spoke to a simple, straightforward recommended formula.

Members' comments included those with respect to the current priority list, driver seniority, and the length of time to exhaust the current priority list. Daryl Bell, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement advised that there are currently 250 people on the priority list to receive an owner's plate. Harsimar Singh Sethi, Member - Elected At Large noted that it would take 20 to 30 years to exhaust the current list.

Councillor Parrish inquired as to whether there were cities that operate their taxi industry akin to their fire department, to which Dr. Hara advised that there were some cities in Europe that used that model.

Dr. Hara briefly spoke to accessible taxis, the appropriate percentage of accessible taxis, and the possibility of offering those on the priority list accessible plates. Dr. Hara further noted that 21% was the recommended target for accessible taxis in Mississauga, commenting that 100% accessible means 100% accessible to all kinds of disabilities, not only mobility accommodations.

Dr. Hara spoke briefly to meter rates, noting the last adjustment was in 2010 and suggested two options to assist in determining meter rates.

Mark Sexsmith, Taxi Industry spoke to accessible taxis and concerns with the mix of accessible taxis in the report, noting that a large number of accessible taxis are

not wheelchair-accessible taxis/vans.

Sami Khairallah, Aeroport Taxi inquired as to whether the demand for accessible taxis, outside of Transhelp, had been measured to which Mr. Frost commented that currently accessible service is such that persons requiring it have become frustrated and have stopped calling for accessible taxis. Mr. Khairallah commented that his company has 3 accessible vans, which all run as regular taxis as there is no demand for accessible service.

Gurvel Singh, All Star Taxi spoke to the cost of accessible vehicles, the cost of maintenance and customer resistance in using an accessible vehicle.

Jagdip Singh, taxicab driver spoke to the priority list and offering those on the list an accessible plate, noting the high cost of purchasing and maintaining an accessible vehicle.

Councillor Parrish encouraged members of the taxicab industry to share their comments and feedback on the report.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the report from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works, dated October 14, 2015 and entitled "Consultant's Review of the Taxi Plate Issuance Model", be received;
2. That the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee consider Appendix 1 to the report from the Commissioner of Transportation and Works, dated October 14, 2015 and entitled "Consultant's Review of the Taxi Plate Issuance Model", when Council has approved a framework to address the regulation of transportation network companies.

Referred (Councillor Parrish)
Recommendation PVAC-0044-2015

7. INFORMATION ITEMS

7.1 Recommendation PVAC-0042-2015

Memorandum dated October 23, 2015 from Karen Morden, Legislative Coordinator with respect to Recommendation PVAC-0042-2015.

RECOMMENDATION

That the memorandum dated October 23, 2015 from the Legislative Coordinator with respect to Recommendation PVAC-0042-2015, be received.

Received (B. Pandori)
Recommendation PVAC-0045-2015

7.2 2016 Public Vehicle Advisory Committee Meeting Dates

Memorandum dated October 16, 2015 from Karen Morden, Legislative Coordinator, with respect to the 2016 meeting dates of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee.

RECOMMENDATION

That the memorandum dated October 16, 2015 from the Legislative Coordinator with respect to the 2016 Public Vehicle Advisory Committee meeting dates, be received.

Received (B. Pandori)
Recommendation PVAC-0046-2015

7.3 Public Vehicle Advisory Committee 2015 Action List

The Committee briefly reviewed the 2015 Action List, updated for the November 19, 2015 Public Vehicle Advisory Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Public Vehicle Action Committee (PVAC) Action List, updated for the November 19, 2015 meeting of PVAC, be received.

Received (B. Pandori)
Recommendation PVAC-0047-2015

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Mayor's Letter to the Premier

Letter dated November, 2015 from Mayor Crombie to the Premier of Ontario with respect to new and emerging transportation services.

RECOMMENDATION

That the letter dated November, 2015 from Mayor Crombie to the Premier of Ontario regarding New and Emerging Transportation Services, be received.

Received (H. S. Sethi)
PVAC-0048-2015

8.2 Hara Associates Report

Email dated November 14, 2015 from Peter Pellier, Taxi Industry with respect to the Hara Associates report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the email dated November 14, 2015 from Peter Pellier, Taxi Industry with respect to the Hara Associates report, be received and forwarded to staff for consideration.

Referred (H.S. Sethi)
PVAC-0049-2015

8.3 Hara Associates Report Recommendations

Letter dated November 14, 2015 from Ron Baumber, Accessible Taxi Owner/Operator with respect to the Hara Associates Report.

RECOMMENDATION

That the letter dated November 14, 2015 from Ron Baumber, Accessible Taxi Owner/Operator regarding the Hara Associates report recommendations, be received and forwarded to staff for consideration.

Referred (A. Cormier)
PVAC-0050-2015

8.4 Taxi Plate Issuance

Email dated November 18, 2015 from Tahir Iqbal, Taxi Industry with respect to unattended issues with a new taxi plate issuance model.

RECOMMENDATION

That the email dated November 18, 2015 from Tahir Iqbal, Taxi Industry regarding new taxi plate issuance and unattended to issues, be received and forwarded to staff for consideration.

Referred (H. S. Sethi)
PVAC-0051-2015

8.5 Councillor Starr spoke with respect to Uber renting space at the Living Arts Centre to host recruitment meetings and inquired as to whether the City could limit who the Living Arts Centre is permitted to rent space to, to which Councillor Parrish encouraged members of the taxi industry to write to the Living Arts Centre with an explanation as to why Uber shouldn't be permitted to rent space.

8.6 Councillor Parrish requested clarification as to the number of demerit points required for drivers/owners to lose the ability to drive, as per the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, to which Mr. Bell advised that drivers would have their licence suspended upon reaching seven (7) demerit points or if they received one charge that resulted in four (4) demerit points.

Karam Punian, Taxicab Drivers spoke to driver displeasure with the demerit limits, to which Councillor Starr advised that drivers have the opportunity to appeal through the Mississauga Appeal Tribunal that meets monthly to deal with such issues.

Harsimar Singh Sethi, Elected At Large spoke to the necessity of further discussion on both the demerit point issue and the requirement of taxicab owners/drivers to present a criminal records search yearly, to which Nirmal Singh, Taxicab Owners agreed spoke to the cost involved in making an appeal.

RECOMMENDATION

That the matter of the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended specifically pertaining to the licensing of taxi and limousine drivers and demerit points, be referred back to staff for a report at a future Public Vehicle Advisory Committee meeting.

Referred (Councillor Parrish)
PVAC-0052-2015

8.7 Yad Sidhu, Taxicab Industry spoke to the Hara report and hotel shuttles from the airport, and suggested that the Federal Government should be dealing with Uber-type companies, to which Councillor Starr commented that staff are working diligently on the issue.

9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday, December 7, 2015 – 9:30 AM, Civic Centre, Council Chambers – 300 City Centre Drive, Mississauga L5B 3C1

10. **ADJOURNMENT** – 11:41 AM