

On-Street Stopping Prohibitions - Proposed Exemption for Limousines While Engaged in Loading/Unloading Passengers

Date:	May 24, 2012
To:	Public Works and Infrastructure Committee
From:	Acting General Manager, Transportation Services
Wards:	All Wards
Reference Number:	P:\2012\Cluster B\TRA\Toronto and East York District\TOP\PW2012134te.top.doc

SUMMARY

This report seeks approval from City Council to exempt limousines licensed by the City of Toronto from on-street stopping prohibitions while actively engaged in the loading and unloading of passengers. This exemption is similar to an exemption currently in place for taxicabs licensed by the City.

It is emphasized that this exemption does not permit taxis, or limousines, should it be so extended, to stand at the curb and wait for passengers in a No Stopping Zone.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Acting General Manager of Transportation Services recommends that:

1. City Council exempt limousines licensed by the City of Toronto to operate within the City from on-street stopping prohibitions while actively engaged in the loading and unloading of passengers.
2. City Council authorize the City Solicitor, in consultation with the General Manager of Transportation Services, to prepare and submit the appropriate Bill(s) to Council to give effect to Recommendation 1 above.

Financial Impact

Approval of the recommendations contained in this report will result in amendments being made to the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking. There are no financial impacts associated with enactment of the recommendations contained in this report.

DECISION HISTORY

At its meeting of February 6 and 7, 2012 City Council adopted, as amended, Item PW11.2 entitled, "Relieving Rush Hour Congestion Due to Unlawful Stopping, Standing, and Parking".

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2012.PW11.2>

In so doing, Council adopted a recommendation (No. 6) that the General Manager, Transportation Services be requested to report to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee on a proposal that limousines be exempted from stopping prohibitions while actively engaged in loading or unloading passengers.

ISSUE BACKGROUND

Under the City of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking, taxicabs licensed by the City of Toronto are currently exempted from on-street stopping prohibitions while actively engaged in the loading and unloading of passengers. This proposal would extend this exemption to limousines. Transportation Services also considered whether this exemption should apply to all sizes of limousines.

COMMENTS

Taxicabs and limousines are both licensed by the City's Municipal Licensing and Standards Division under Municipal Code Chapter 545, Licensing. There are currently 10,420 taxicab driver licenses and 740 limousine driver licenses in the City of Toronto. Licensing fees for taxicabs and limousines differ because they are based on the recovery of costs related to licensing, ie, the costs to review and approve applications, issue and renew licenses, and to regulate, inspect, and enforce.

There are some differences between taxicabs and limousines: taxicabs may be booked in advance or hailed/flagged on-street, while limousines must be booked in advance; taxicabs are sedan-type vehicles or minivans, while limousine vary greatly in size, from sedan-size to stretch-SUV size. However, both taxicabs and limousines must be able to stop and drop off passengers.

Under the Traffic and Parking Code Chapter 950, taxicabs are currently exempted from on-street stopping prohibitions while actively engaged in the loading and unloading of passengers. The applicable provisions read as follows:

"No stopping certain times.

Where official signs to that effect are displayed, no person shall stop a vehicle on any highway at the side and between the limits set out respectively in Schedule XIV in § 950-1313 during the prohibited times and/or days set out in Schedule XIV, provided that this subsection shall not be deemed to prohibit a taxicab from stopping while actually engaged in loading or unloading passengers on any highway nor a school bus actively engaged in picking up or dropping off school children in a designated school bus loading zone."; and

"Where a lane of a highway has been reserved for the use of designated vehicles: No person shall stop a vehicle in the lane during the times and/or days set out in Schedule XXII in § 950-1321, but this Section shall not be deemed to prohibit a public transit vehicle or taxicab from stopping while actually engaged in loading or unloading passengers."

The Transportation Services Division has no objection to extending this exemption to include limousines. In most cases this exemption would be legalizing activities that already occur. In considering whether all sizes of limousines should be included in this exemption we looked at the impact on traffic flow and the feasibility of enforcement. Generally, the impact of a vehicle stopping in the curb lane to load/unload passengers has a similar impact regardless of the length of the vehicle. It is the presence of a stopped vehicle that causes the disruption. It is only when the vehicle has many passengers, for instance a bus, when the disruption is extended. Also, to differentiate between sedan-type limousines and stretch limousines would require separate definitions by length of vehicle. This would cause difficulties for enforcing police officers. Finally, stretch-type limousines would have fewer opportunities than smaller vehicles to find space to legally park on-street while loading/unloading passengers. Therefore, they should be included in this exemption.

In order to effect this exemption, amendments to Municipal Code Chapter 950, Traffic and Parking will be required.

CONTACT

Jacqueline White, P.Eng.,
Acting Director, Toronto and East York District
Phone: 416-392-7714
Fax: 416-392-1920
E-mail: JWhite@toronto.ca

SIGNATURE

Andrew Koropeski, P.Eng.
Acting General Manager, Transportation Services

P:\2012\Cluster B\TRA\Toronto and East York District\TOP\PW2012134te.top.doc – bmk