

Large Multi-Passenger Pedalled Vehicles on City Streets

Date: April 13, 2022

To: General Government and Licensing Committee

From: Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, and City Solicitor

Wards: All

REASON FOR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

The attachment to this report contains advice or communications that are subject to solicitor-client privilege.

SUMMARY

This report seeks City Council direction on the licensing and regulation of pedal powered vehicles carrying multiple passengers on Toronto city streets.

In the last few years, staff in Municipal Licensing and Standards, Transportation Services, and Economic Development and Culture have been approached with inquiries related to the regulation of large, multi-passenger vehicles that are pedal-powered by the passengers and have a driver responsible for steering the vehicle on the roadway. Where used in other jurisdictions, the vehicles support group tourist and/or recreational activities.

Pedicabs, as defined in Chapter 545, Licensing, are pedal-powered vehicles which permit up to two adult passengers, or more if approved by the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards. Pedicab drivers must hold a valid Ontario driver's licence. Their operation is prohibited during rush hour and they are also prohibited at all times on certain streets.

There are two operators proposing to operate large, multi-passenger pedalled vehicles on city streets this Spring and one has applied for a business licence as a pedicab.

In seeking direction on whether the Executive Director should license these vehicles as pedicabs to operate with up to 16 passengers, subject to compliance with all other licensing requirements, staff also recommend that consideration be given to temporary limits on the number of pedicab licences issued for such large vehicles, and that staff be

directed to consult with stakeholders, including emergency services and the TTC, and report back with final recommendations.

Economic Development and Culture and Transportation Services were also notified of the development of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards and the City Solicitor, recommends that:

1. Council direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards, to:
 - a. refuse the issuance of pedicab licences for large, multi-passenger pedalled vehicles pending completion of the consultation and report referenced in recommendation 2 below; or
 - b. issue no more than two pedicab business licences to large, multi-passenger pedalled vehicles, with a maximum of 16 passengers, for one year and amend Toronto Municipal Code, Chapter 545, Licensing, Article III, Licensing of Pedicabs, section 545-21, to add a new section that will require that each owner of a large multi-passenger pedicab to maintain a minimum of \$2,000,000 in insurance.
2. Council direct the Executive Director, Municipal Licensing and Standards in consultation with Transportation Services, Economic Development and Culture and other divisions, as appropriate, to consult with relevant stakeholders, including emergency services and the TTC, and the public on the impacts of large, multi-passenger pedalled vehicles on city streets and any proposed regulatory changes, and to include a summary of these consultation efforts in a final report in 2023.
3. Council direct that Confidential Attachment #1 remain confidential as it contains advice which is subject to solicitor-client privilege.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no current or known future year financial impacts arising from the recommendations contained in this report.

Future recommendations resulting from the review of large, multi-passenger pedalled vehicles may have financial impacts. This will be discussed as part of the proposed final report in 2023.

The Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial implications as identified in the Financial Impact section.

DECISION HISTORY

There has been no previous report on the subject of large, multi-passenger pedalled vehicles.

COMMENTS

The City's licensing requirements for pedicabs are set out in Article III, Owners and Drivers of Pedicabs, Chapter 545, Licensing.

Pedicabs, as defined in Chapter 545, are licensed pedal-powered vehicles which permit up to two passengers (and a child under 12 years of age). Pedicabs may have additional passengers if approved by the Executive Director of Municipal Licensing and Standards.

Among other things, pedicabs must:

- a. have a plate identifying their licence number;
- b. be operated by a driver with a valid Ontario driver's licence;
- c. have at least \$1M in insurance covering bodily injury, death and property damage for any one accident or incident, and provide satisfactory proof of this coverage to Municipal Licensing and Standards;
- d. be clean, in good repair, free from mechanical defects, and have appropriate reflective devices and safety signage; and
- e. park in legally permitted locations only.

As for other licensing categories, each pedicab licence is issued for one year. An owner must re-apply for a licence annually. A pedicab licence cannot be leased, transferred or sold.

At all times, pedicabs are prohibited from operating on:

- a. King Street, between Spadina and Jarvis Street;
- b. Queen Street, between Spadina and Jarvis Street;
- c. Front Street, between Spadina and Jarvis Street; and
- d. Gerrard Street between Spadina and Jarvis Street.

Pedicabs are also prohibited from operating on all city streets between 3:30 to 6:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

City staff have received inquiries over the years by operators wishing to operate large pedalled vehicles with up to 16 passengers on city streets. Generally speaking, the proposals received have been by operators wishing to take tour groups between several downtown brewery or winery locations. This is why these large vehicles are colloquially referred to as "pedal pubs" and they generally operate seasonally, with tours running in Spring, Summer and Fall. The pedal pubs typically follow a pre-determined route, and no alcohol is served to individuals while on the cycle vehicle itself.

When approached in late 2020 by Economic Development and Culture on behalf of an interested party, consideration was given to licensing these vehicles as pedicabs. At the time, the potential operator was made aware of the pedicab restrictions, and staff concerns that a pedal pub vehicle would also warrant a higher commercial liability insurance than the existing minimum \$1,000,000 requirement.

Municipal Standards and Licensing is recommending that, should Council direct that pedicab licences be issued for the operation of large multi-passenger pedalled vehicles, no more than two pedicab licences be issued in 2022, subject to the operator's compliance with all the requirements of Chapter 545. At the same time, Municipal Licensing and Standards is proposing to monitor their operations to assess the impacts and undertake consultations with emergency services and the TTC and others, with a view to reporting back in 2023 with recommendations for the continued licensing of these types of vehicles or their prohibition.

CONTACT

Fiona Chapman, Director, Business Licensing and Regulatory Services, Municipal Licensing and Standards, Tel: 416-392-3070, Email: Fiona.Chapman@toronto.ca

[Michele A. Wright, Deputy Director, Litigation, City Solicitor's Office, Tel: 416-397-5342, Email: Michele.A.Wright@Toronto.ca](#)

SIGNATURE

Carleton Grant
Executive Director
Municipal Licensing and Standards

Wendy Walberg
City Solicitor

ATTACHMENTS

Confidential Attachment 1 - Large Cycle Pedicabs for City Streets