

Update on Research Studies

Review of Chapter 546, Licensing of Vehicles-for-Hire

Overview

As part of the review of Toronto Municipal Code Chapter 546, Licensing of Vehicles-for-Hire, Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS) is conducting three major studies related to the ground transportation industry; an Accessibility Strategy, a Congestion Management Study and an Economic Impact Analysis.

This is a part of the [Work Plan for the Review of Chapter 546, Vehicles-for-Hire](#) that was considered by Licensing and Standards Committee on June 14, 2018. A final report, which will include the outcomes of these studies, is expected in Q2 2019. A description of each study, along with the status, is provided below.

Accessibility Strategy

MLS is developing an accessibility strategy to advance inclusive and accessible on-demand for-hire transportation within Toronto as part of the vehicle-for-hire bylaw review. This will include assessing the feasibility of implementing incentive programs and an alternate funding program. This report will provide recommendations to enhance the service, including responding to outstanding directives, identifying possible funding sources to mitigate the costs of providing the service, and examining the need for incremental taxicab licence issuance.

Status

MLS staff hosted two public consultations related to accessibility in September 2018 to hear from the public and members of the vehicle-for-hire industry about the current landscape and to better understand what issues and opportunities exist. In addition staff are conducting research and completing jurisdictional scans of other municipalities to assess best practices.

Staff will be hosting expert panel discussions with advocates, users, and providers of accessible service in Q1 2019. These discussions will inform staff's research and analysis of how wheelchair accessible service is currently provided and will be used to identify and assess potential future policy directions.

The study is currently on-track. Further, staff have engaged partner divisions, such as the Equity, Diversity, and Human Rights office as part of this study and will continue to do so as the study progresses.

Congestion Management Study

MLS is undertaking a congestion management study, in partnership with Transportation Services and City Planning, to understand the impact that the ground transportation

industry may have on transportation within the city. The purpose of the study is to expand the City's understanding of private transportation company trips in the City, and to understand the impact that the vehicle-for-hire bylaw has had on traffic, the transportation network, travel demand patterns as well as broader societal impacts, such as modal choice.

Findings from this study will provide input into the overall review of the vehicle-for-hire bylaw. The results of the study will also help inform City staff, City Council and the public on potential policy implications for relevant City policies and strategies.

Status

The study is organized into seven tasks: Project Initiation, Data Gathering, Descriptive Analysis, Analysis of Network Impacts, Curbside Impacts, Societal Impacts and Findings. The project team is currently finalizing Task Two: Data Gathering, and moving forward with Task Three: Descriptive Analysis.

Economic Impact Study

MLS has procured a third-party consulting firm to complete an economic impact analysis of the ground transportation industry, since the introduction of private transportation companies in 2016. The study will look at the economic and social changes affecting consumers, drivers, residents and the city, and the taxicab and limousine industry, since the licensing of private transportation companies. The results will be used to inform the research and analysis of the vehicle-for-hire bylaw review.

Status

The study is organized into five phases: Planning and Launch, Background Research and Methodology, Economic and Social Changes Affecting: Residents, Consumers and the City, Economic and Social Changes Affecting: Drivers and Industry, and Final Analysis. The project team has selected a successful vendor and launched the project.