

MOTION ON NOTICE

1. City Action to Ensure Innovative, Increased Taxi Service

At the Regular Council meeting on Tuesday, September 30, 2014, Vancouver City Council referred this motion to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transportation and Environment meeting on Wednesday, October 1, 2014, to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor Meggs
SECONDED by Councillor Carr

WHEREAS

1. The City of Vancouver has long had a taxi policy framework with a view to ensuring the best possible service at a reasonable cost, delivered by an industry committed to the highest possible standards for safety, innovation, accessibility and environmental sustainability;
2. Vancouver's taxi industry has become an industry leader in smartphone dispatching systems, driver training, vehicle cleanliness, safety, and low emission vehicles;
3. Recent court decisions have emphasized the city's responsibility, along with the Passenger Transportation Branch (PTB), to regulate the industry; and
4. The PTB's decision to approve temporary operating permits in Vancouver to certain suburban taxi companies, along with the declared intention of so-called "ride-sharing" companies to enter the market with or without City and PTB approval, mark a fundamental change in the industry that threatens existing standards and operators without ensuring appropriate standards for timely, safe, economical quality service.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT Council affirm its commitment to ensure Vancouver's taxi service remains an industry leader in the provision of safe, timely, economical, accessible, green and innovative service.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to prepare an amendment to the *Vehicles for Hire Bylaw* to suspend the issuance of any new licences for a period of six months to allow for consultation with the Taxi Roundtable and other stakeholders and to report to Council at the end of that time on:
 - measures necessary to expand service, while ensuring the industry responds to the needs of consumers and stakeholders in the tourism, hospitality and the disability community through innovation and best-in-class standards for safety and service;
 - a process to respond to the PTB decision to allow suburban taxis to work in Vancouver during certain periods;
 - the Vancouver Taxi Association's proposal to add 78 full-time accessible taxis to the city fleet, which is now under PTB review; and
 - measures to ensure customers achieve the full benefits of new "ride-sharing" technology without undermining the existing industry's standards for safety, driver training and green technology.