

Date: March 25, 2022

To: Chair and Members of Public Vehicle Advisory Committee

From: Geoff Wright, P.Eng, MBA, Commissioner of Transportation and Works

Originator's files:

Meeting date:  
April 19, 2022

## Subject

**Amendments to the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, to close the Priority Waiting List.**

## Recommendation

That a by-law be enacted to amend the Public Vehicle Licensing By-law 420-04, as amended, to close the Priority Waiting List to additional applicants.

## Background

The Priority Waiting List was established to provide an orderly mechanism for the issuance of Taxicab Owners Licences to applicants who could not be provided a licence immediately due to the restrictions placed on the total number of licences through the By-law. When the Taxicab Plate Issuance Calculation Formula identifies the need for additional licences these are issued to members of the Priority List sequentially based on the date that each applicant placed their name on the List.

The Plate Issuance Calculation Formula that determines the number of new Taxi Owners Licences to be issued is essentially a formula that sought to measure the growth in the market for point to point transportation services through the use of a number of factors that were viewed as reliable indicators.

The introduction of Transportation Network Companies in 2016 dramatically shifted the landscape for the Taxi industry. While the number of rides taken by the public increased five fold the demand for taxicabs dropped precipitously.

This shift has identified that the Plate Issuance Calculation Formula is not an effective tool to predict the demand for point to point transportation services.

At the November 16, 2021 meeting of the Public Vehicle Advisory Committee, staff provided a presentation outlining options available to resolve the issue of the Priority Waiting List.

As part of the annual fees and charges review, staff are currently addressing whether the Maintenance Fee is appropriate given the current Priority List administrative requirements.

## **Present Status**

The decline in a number of key criteria used to measure demand for taxi services has created a situation whereby there will almost certainly be no issuance of new Taxi Owner Licences in the foreseeable future using the existing formula.

Currently there are 145 individuals who have continued to pay the required fee to maintain their position on the Priority Waiting List. Of these the twenty drivers who appear first have been on the list for an average of 20.9 years.

## **Comments**

An amendment to close the Priority Waiting List would reduce the administrative requirements associated with the maintenance of the list year over year. At such time that a decision is made to restart the issuance of Taxi Cab Owner Licences, whether dictated by improved economic realities using the current Plate Issuance Calculation Formula or through the development of a new formula, the Priority List may be reopened and new applicants who meet the requirements would be permitted entry.

Though closed to new applicants it will remain important to provide at least some maintenance of the list as the By-Law currently permits the issuance of owners licences that have been surrendered to or revoked by the City of Mississauga.

## **Financial Impact**

There have been no additions to the Priority Waiting List since 2017. As such the closure of the Priority Waiting List will have no appreciable financial impact.

## Conclusion

A shift in the marketplace for point to point transportation services over the past decade has illustrated that the Plate Issuance Calculation Formula contained in the Public Vehicle licensing By-law 420-04 is ineffective for predicting the market for these services. Until the formula is reconfigured or replaced entry onto the Priority Waiting List should be prohibited.



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Geoff Wright, P.Eng, MBA, Commissioner of Transportation and Works

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