

**Taxi Cab Safety Bylaw - Further Suggested Changes and Considerations****Report Purpose**

To give three readings to a bylaw that proposes to repeal and replace Bylaw 20-2013, the Taxi Cab Safety Bylaw.

**Recommendation**

1. THAT Bylaw 30-2016, the Vehicle for Hire Bylaw, be given first reading;
2. THAT Bylaw 30-2016 be given second reading;
3. THAT Bylaw 30-2016 be considered for third reading;
4. THAT Bylaw 30-2016 be given third reading; and
5. THAT Administration return to the February 21, 2017 Council meeting with a proposed bylaw to amend the Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw to align with the permit structure of Bylaw 30-2016.

**Council History**

October 7, 2014	-	Council gave third reading to Bylaw 20-2013.
July 1, 2015	-	Bylaw 20-2013 came into effect.
July 19, 2016	-	Council approved that the Taxi Cab Safety Bylaw Update be postponed to the September 13, 2016 Council Meeting.
September 13, 2016	-	Council directed that Administration conduct a review of Bylaw 20-2013, the Taxi Cab Safety Bylaw, and prepare recommended amendments for Council's consideration, by the end of the fourth quarter of 2016.
November 29, 2016	-	Council directed that Administration return to the January 17, 2017 Council meeting with a proposed bylaw to amend or replace the Taxi Cab Safety Bylaw that only requires Vehicle Permits for Taxis.

**Strategic Plan Priority Areas**

**Economy:** n/a

**Governance:** Ongoing review of bylaws is a best practice for municipalities.

**Social:** Vehicles for hire, including taxis, provide a necessary means of transportation for residents of Strathcona County. The safety of passengers and drivers is of significant importance.

**Culture:** n/a

**Environment:** n/a

**Other Impacts**

**Policy:** n/a

**Legislative/Legal:** The *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c M-26, authorizes Council to pass and amend bylaws respecting various matters. The Province has passed Alberta Regulation 100/2016 to regulate Transportation Network Companies.

**Interdepartmental:** Legislative and Legal Services has conducted the review of Bylaw 20-2013, and Enforcement Services, Communications, Transit, and Corporate Planning and Intergovernmental Affairs have each been involved in assisting Legislative and Legal Services with parts of the review of Bylaw 20-2013.

**Summary**

On November 29, 2016, Council considered a draft bylaw to repeal and replace Bylaw 20-2013, the Taxi Cab Safety Bylaw. Council directed Administration to return to the January

17, 2017 Council meeting with a proposed bylaw to amend or replace Bylaw 20-2013 that only requires Vehicle Permits for taxis. Council also considered options for regulating accessible taxis and their drivers and indicated its discussion would be continued at the January 17, 2017 Council meeting.

The Proposed Bylaw before Council on November 29, 2016 has been revised so that only taxi vehicles and their drivers are regulated. The Proposed Bylaw does not require the following vehicles and their drivers to obtain permits: transportation network automobiles, limousines, and shuttles.

At the November 29, 2016 Council meeting, Council discussed whether accessible taxis and their drivers should be required to obtain permits to operate in Strathcona County. Given the desire to regulate safety, Administration recommends that accessible taxis and their drivers should be required to obtain permits to operate in Strathcona County unless they have a valid permit from another municipality that meets or exceeds the requirements of Strathcona County's Proposed Bylaw. Accordingly, the Proposed Bylaw has been revised to reflect this recommendation. The fees for the accessible taxi driver's permit and the accessible taxi permit are proposed to be \$0.

The requirements in the Proposed Bylaw for obtaining an accessible taxi permit are the same as for a taxi permit, with the added requirement of proving to the Chief Commissioner that the vehicle for which the accessible taxi permit will be issued is equipped to provide transportation services to persons using mobility aids.

The requirements in the Proposed Bylaw for obtaining an accessible taxi driver's permit are the same as for a taxi driver's permit, with the added requirement of proving the successful completion of an accessible taxi driver training program acceptable to the Chief Commissioner.

If Council gives readings to Bylaw 30-2016, Administration proposes that it return to the February 21, 2017 Council meeting with a proposed bylaw to amend the Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw taking into account the considerations raised by Council and the permit structure of Bylaw 30-2016.

### **Alternative Options**

At the November 29, 2016 Council meeting the option was presented to Council that the Proposed Bylaw could be revised to not require accessible taxis and their drivers to obtain permits to operate in Strathcona County. If Council wishes to pursue this option, Administration is prepared to return to Council at the February 21, 2017 meeting with a revised bylaw reflecting Council's direction.

### **Communication Plan**

Communication to holders of permits issued pursuant to Bylaw 20-2013

### **Enclosure**

- 1 Bylaw 30-2016
- 2 Bylaw 30-2016 (track changes version showing changes between draft presented on November 29, 2016)
- 3 Suggested Fees under Proposed Bylaw for inclusion in the Fees, Rates and Charges Bylaw
- 4 PowerPoint Presentation

