

Taxi Cab Safety Bylaw Update

Report Purpose

To communicate the need for a review of Bylaw 20-2013, the Taxi Cab Safety Bylaw, including obtaining input from stakeholders.

Recommendation

THAT Administration conduct a review of Bylaw 20-2013, the Taxi Cab Safety Bylaw, and bring forward any recommended amendments for Council's consideration, prior to the end of the fourth quarter of 2016.

Council History

October 7, 2014 – Council gave third reading to Bylaw 20-2013.

July 1, 2015 – Bylaw 20-2013 came into effect.

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: Governance Policy 002-025 details the Public Engagement policy and includes guidelines for public engagement.

Legislative/Legal: The *Municipal Government Act*, RSA 2000, c M-26, authorizes Council to pass and amend bylaws respecting various matters.

Interdepartmental: Enforcement Services, Communications, Transit, and Legislative and Legal Services will each be involved in a comprehensive review of Bylaw 20-2013.

Summary

Over the past few years changes have occurred in the vehicle for hire industry including the introduction of innovative technologies that directly compete with traditional taxi business models. These technological advances have brought new participants into the vehicle for hire industry in Strathcona County. This has resulted in confusion regarding whether Bylaw 20-2013, the Taxi Cab Safety Bylaw, is applicable to these new participants. Additionally, the Province of Alberta has recently amended the *Traffic Safety Act*, RSA 2000, c T-6, and has regulated the responsibilities of Transportation Network Companies and their drivers through the Transportation Network Companies Regulation. These developments affect municipalities throughout the region, and one neighbouring municipality has already taken steps to address these issues through significant amendments to its bylaws.

Given the above mentioned innovations in the vehicle for hire industry, the operation of Transportation Network Companies within Strathcona County, the steps taken by the Province of Alberta, and the desire to address these issues being mindful of the regional context, it is prudent to undertake a review of Bylaw 20-2013. Administration will report to Council with any recommended amendments to Bylaw 20-2013 resulting from the review by the end of the fourth quarter of 2016.

Communication Plan

Commencing this fall, Communications will support a public engagement process aligned with Policy GOV 002-025 Public Engagement. This process will include outreach to industry stakeholders and residents.