

**TO: FINANCE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

2002 March 06

FROM: DIRECTOR FINANCE

**SUBJECT: BONNY'S TAXI APPLICATION TO THE MOTOR CARRIER
COMMISSION**

PURPOSE: To provide information on the Bonny's Taxi Ltd. application to the Motor Carrier Commission for ten additional wheelchair accessible taxi licences.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** a copy of this report be sent to :

Bonny's Taxi Ltd.
5525 Imperial Street
Burnaby, B.C. V5J 1E8

Motor Carrier Commission
PO Box 9850 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9T5

REPORT

Council, at the Open Council meeting held on 2002 February 11, heard a presentation from Bonny's Taxi Ltd. regarding its two applications to the Motor Carrier Commission (M.C.C.) for ten additional wheelchair accessible licences and provision of a shared ride service. Arising from consideration of the presentation, Council adopted the following resolution:

"THAT staff prepare a report to the Finance and Economic Development Committee addressing the presentation and material provided by Bonny's Taxi and further; that the Finance and Economic Development Committee report dated 2001 January 3 be considered in the context of this review."

: COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
- DIRECTOR FINANCE

At the 2002 March 4 meeting of the Finance and Economic Development Committee, representatives of Bonny's Taxi appeared as a delegation to discuss the M.C.C. application with the Committee. Arising from the Committee's consideration, this report is prepared to address the Bonny's M.C.C. application for ten additional accessible taxi licences. The Bonny's application to provide a shared ride service in Burnaby is the subject of a report from the Director Planning and Building, presented elsewhere on this agenda.

Motor Carrier Commission

The M.C.C. has a statutory mandate to regulate and licence all motor carriers such as taxis, limousines and buses that transport passengers for compensation. In 2001 March, this mandate was reinforced with the elimination of the exemption to M.C.C. licencing for those companies operating solely in one city. The M.C.C. currently holds a moratorium on the issuance of regular taxi licences in the region. Applications for wheelchair accessible service are being accepted.

On 2000 June 6, Bonny's Taxi Ltd. made application to the M.C.C. to operate ten additional wheelchair accessible taxis and to provide a shared ride service in Burnaby. The M.C.C. has held hearings on these applications on 2002 February 7 - 8 with an additional day of hearings scheduled for 2002 March 15.

City Bylaws

The Burnaby Cab and Commercial Vehicle Bylaw provides for city licencing and regulation of taxis in the city. The Bylaw provides for one hundred-two taxi cabs in Burnaby, including six wheelchair accessible taxis. Where provisions in the Bylaw are contrary to M.C.C. regulation, taxis are ultimately subject to the provincial regulations and licences of the M.C.C.

Accessible Taxi Service

The number of taxi licences for Burnaby were last increased in 1989 when twenty-five new licences were made available. Of these, six were wheelchair accessible. Following the issuance of these licences, the per capita ratio of licences was 1: 1,470 for all taxis and 1: 25,000 for accessible taxis. Currently, these per capita ratios are 1: 1,882 for all taxis and 1: 27,429 for accessible taxis. An increase of ten accessible taxis would see the per capita ratio drop to 1: 1,714 for all taxis and 1: 11,294 for accessible taxis.

Bonny's has advised that wait times for accessible taxis is normally 45 - 60 minutes, if the service is not pre-booked. With regular taxi service, wait times are generally 5 - 10 minutes.

Demand for Accessible Service

A Translink strategic plan dated 2001 January 4 indicates that the demand for accessible transportation has increased in the last two decades and will continue to increase with our aging population. Translink endorses the application for additional accessible taxi licences.

Demand for localized transportation options has grown with increased support services for the aging population, general development within the city and new transportation services such as Skytrain. Bonny's has provided numerous letters of support for additional accessible taxi licences. This support comes from local individual users and from local businesses and institutions. Bonny's has noted that twenty-two individuals made presentations at the M.C.C. hearings in support of additional taxi licences. The Motor Carrier Division, the operational arm of the M.C.C., supports Bonny's application for additional accessible taxi licences.

Conclusion

Given the information noted above, the M.C.C. licence application to improve wheelchair accessible taxi service with additional accessible taxi licences is supportable. Even with additional accessible taxis, service issues for accessible patrons may continue to exist. Further investigation is required to determine the appropriate combination of accessible and sedan taxis. Given the dual purpose nature of accessible taxis, M.C.C. consideration of future applications for taxi licences could continue to be limited to accessible taxis only, to address outstanding accessible service issues.

Where necessary, taxi licencing decisions of the MCC effecting city bylaws will result in recommendations to Council for bylaw amendments.



DIRECTOR FINANCE

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cc: Director Planning and Building
City Solicitor



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