



Administration and Operations Committee Report

To: The Chair and Members of the Administration and Operations Committee
From: Greg Bergeron, Director of Enforcement and Regulatory Services
Date: April 15, 2025
Report #: RPT-0160-25
Subject: Vehicle for Hire By-law, Vehicle Age Requirement
Purpose: For Approval

Recommendation

Whereas subsection 2.2 of Schedule 2 of the County of Brant Vehicle for Hire By-law No. 58-22 requires that no motor vehicle more than (10) years old may be plated as a vehicle for hire under this By-law; and

Whereas Easy Ride Taxi provided communication at the Administration and Operations Committee meeting on March 18, 2025, requesting an increase to the current 10-year maximum vehicle age to be changed to 15-20 years; and

Whereas Grand River Cab provided communication to Council at the March 25, 2025, meeting regarding the Vehicle for Hire By-law prohibition for vehicles that are more than 10 years old;

Therefore, that RPT-160-25 "Vehicle for Hire By-law, Vehicle Age Requirement" be received as information; and

That Committee provide approval of the vehicle age requirement, based on option ____ as recommended in the report;

And THAT staff prepare an amending By-law for Council presentation on April 22, 2025, should the Committee choose Option B or provide an alternate recommendation.

Strategic Plan Priority

Strategic Priority 6 - Stable and Responsive Governance

Impacts and Mitigation

Social Impacts

There may be some social impacts for drivers and passengers associated with this report as older vehicles lower the vehicle standard, may be prone to mechanical issues, and have less safety features.

Environmental Impacts

There are no known environmental impacts associated with this report.

Economic Impacts

The (10) year prohibition in the By-law has economic implications for local taxicab companies as a recurring business cost requiring the acquisition of newer vehicles. A (12) year prohibition will provide some relief for licensed local taxicab and limousine companies. The removal of the maximum age for accessible taxicabs will facilitate market entry.

Report

Background

The County of Brant Vehicle for Hire By-law #58-22 was enacted on May 24, 2022.

Subsection 2.2 of Schedule 2 of the Vehicle for Hire By-law requires that no motor vehicle more than 10 (ten) years old may be plated as a vehicle for hire under this By-law.

When enacted, a two (2) year grace period was built into the By-law whereby allowing plated vehicles, regardless of their age at the time By-law was passed, to continue to operate until April 1, 2024.

Analysis

Schedule 2 of the By-law, which applies to Taxicabs, Accessible Taxicabs and Limousines, currently prohibits these vehicles from being more than ten (10) years old.

The age restriction was incorporated in the By-law to maintain a higher and safer standard for County vehicles for hire. By way of internal policy, Uber also prohibits private vehicles for hire to be more than 10 years old.

Since the enactment of the County Vehicle for Hire By-law in May of 2022, the automobile market has shifted. Material shortages during the pandemic slowed down vehicle production. As a result of the disruption to the supply chain, new and used car prices surged.

The Canadian automobile sector continues to be threatened with the implementation of tariffs on auto imports to the United States. Vehicle costs are projected to increase as a result. Production disruptions from tariffs may further cause vehicle prices to soar.

Having a vehicle age restriction is a common requirement in other Vehicle for Hire By-laws. Norfolk County, Burlington, London, Cobourg, Milton, Ottawa, and Pembroke are some of the municipalities that have some type of age requirement for their Vehicles for Hire.

The rationale surrounding the age requirement is mainly focused on safety and upholding vehicle standards for the community and riders. New vehicles tend to be safer based on the evolving advances in technology. For example, vehicles that are less than 10 years old are generally considered to be safer than older models due to such advances in technology.

which include: lane assist, emergency braking, blind spot monitoring, rear view cameras, pedestrian detection, airbag technology and deployment, structural integrity, stability control and braking systems.

Recommended Options

The effects of the recommended options are explained below.

Option A – Should the Committee choose to maintain the current standard no further action will be required. Retiring aged out vehicles and replacing them with newer vehicles does have an economic impact on our local taxi companies as this business cost may narrow profit margins.

Option B – A By-law amendment will be required should the Committee choose Option B to lower the standard by increasing the allowable age limit for Taxicabs and Limousines to be no more than 12 years old.

Removing the age limit for Accessible Taxicabs will facilitate market entry. Currently, the Vehicle for Hire By-law requires that every 5th licensed taxicab be an Accessible Taxicab. The County currently has (2) licensed Accessible Taxicabs.

As an additional safeguard, staff are recommending that vehicles (Taxicabs, Limousines and Accessible Taxicabs) that are more than 10 years old, require safety standards certificates to be filed with the licensing officer on a semi-annual basis, within the previous 60 days from March 31 and September 30.

Summary and Recommendations

Staff have provided (2) options for the Committee’s consideration. The Committee may create and choose an alternative recommendation.

Attachments

- 1) Correspondence from Easy Ride and Grand River Cab

Reviewed By

- 1) Cindy Stevenson – General Manager or Emergency and Protective Services

Copied To

- 1) Alison Newton – CAO
- 2) Julie McKeen – Licensing Officer
- 3) Amanda Paine – Supervisor of Enforcement and Regulatory Services

By-law and/or Agreement

By-law Required	No
Agreement(s) or other documents to be signed by Mayor and /or Clerk	No