

August 8, 2018

Consultations on Taxi Modernization Recommendations

The Passenger Transportation (PT) Board is reviewing three taxi modernization actions. These are:

1. Allowing existing licencees a one-time opportunity to increase their number of taxi vehicles (plates) by up to 15% in the near term;
2. Giving the industry the flexibility to lower fares below meter rates in off-peak hours for app-hailed taxi trips; and
3. Increasing efficiencies at shift change through separate day and night vehicles.

The Board will also be working on a provincial standard for smartphone apps and data issues.

These actions were recommended in a report on [Modernizing Taxi Regulation](#) by Hara Associates. We refer to the three short term actions as the “Hara recommendations”.

Overall PT Board Process

In the past nine months, Hara Associates consulted extensively with the taxi industry, local governments, and consumer and business interest groups in BC. The Select Standing Committee on Ridesharing also consulted extensively. In addition to this, many organizations have publicly stated their position on ridesharing. The PT Board will not duplicate this consultation but it must ensure it meets its obligations under the *Passenger Transportation Act*.

The PT Board is undertaking a three-stage process to review Hara’s recommendations:

- First, we will consult with industry representatives and other stakeholders on the Hara recommendations. This will include:
 - Meetings with the taxi associations (licencees and drivers), individual taxi companies and associations representing persons with disabilities and seniors.

- Online surveys for licencees and drivers. These surveys are voluntary and confidential.
- Secondly, we will review and assess the consultation findings and set policies on the three recommendations that are consistent with the PT Act requirements for decisions on additional taxis and rates.
- Implement streamlined application requirements (only a few metrics) and processes (publish, receive submissions and adjudicate applications as required by Act) to make decisions.

Timeframes:

Consultations begin this month. By early September, we would like to start to implement recommendations and, shortly thereafter, make decisions on additional taxis.

Communication:

We will update people on the PT Board [taxi modernization webpage](#) and [Weekly Bulletin](#).