

Application Decision

Taxi – Change of Rates

Application No:	13590-21
Applicant & Application Summary	<p>Rehfeldt, Herbert Ernst <i>Trade Name: Coast Taxi</i> <i>Current Originating Area: qathet Regional District</i></p> <p>Change of Rates: PDVA (Taxi)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Increase: Metered taxi rates</i>
Applicant Information	<p><i>Current Passenger Transportation Licence: # 75415 with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Passenger Directed Vehicle Authorization (PDVA)</i> <p><i>Office: P.O Box 316, 9573 Larson Rd., Lund BC VoN 2Go</i></p>
More Information	<p><i>Appendix 1: Rates</i> <i>Appendix 2: Supplementary Terms & Conditions</i> <i>Appendix 3: Data Requirements</i></p>
Publication of Application	November 10, 2021
Submissions	None received.
Board Decision	<p>Rates are approved as requested in the application summary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Approved Rates are effective 7 days from decision date.</i> <p>See appendices for details.</p>
Decision Date	January 4, 2022
Panel Chair	Baljinder Kaur Narang

I. Introduction

The *Passenger Transportation Act* (the Act) regulates the licensing and operation of commercial passenger transportation vehicles and services in BC. Under the Act, the Passenger Transportation Board (Board) makes licensing decisions on applications relating to taxis, limousines and other small shuttle and tour vehicles. The operation of these vehicles requires a “passenger directed vehicle authorization.”

The Board has the authority to consider and approve applications for new licenses as well as applications from existing licensees to change terms and conditions of their licences (including the addition of vehicles to their fleet), change rates to be charged for a service and request Temporary Operating Permits (TOPs). Since September 2019, the Board’s mandate has included licensing decisions relating to Transportation Network Services, also known as ride-hailing services.

II. Jurisdiction

Section 7(1)(f) of the Act authorizes the Board to approve or set, for the purpose of establishing just and uniform charges, rates to be charged by a taxi operator.

This application is made under the *Passenger Transportation Act* (the Act). As required by section 35(2) of the Act, the Registrar of Passenger Transportation forwarded the application to the Board. Section 35(3) requires the Board to publish the fact and nature of the application, and section 27(3) requires it to consider the application and any written submissions it receives as a result of publication. Section 7(1)(f) of the Act authorizes the Board to approve or set, for the purpose of establishing just and uniform charges, rates to be charged by a licensee.

III. Application

(1) Applicant

The applicant, Herbert Ernst Rehfeldt, is a sole proprietor operating under the trade name of “Coast Taxi”.

The applicant has a Passenger Transportation Licence with Special Authorization: Passenger Directed Vehicle Authorization. Under this licence, he may operate up to six taxis, of which five can be conventional taxis and one or more can be accessible taxis. Coast Taxi has authority to pick up passengers in any point in the District of Powell River and within 40 kilometers of the District.

The applicant has another licence to operate another taxi company in the Sunshine Coast Regional District.

(2) Applicant's Request & Explanation

The applicant seeks to synchronize the rates for both companies by bringing Coast Taxi "Powell River" rates in line with the other company that operates as Coast Taxi "Sunshine Coast". The applicant states that this synchronization of rates will simplify business operations and create a level playing field for the internal competition between the two companies and address any confusion the public may have when using either company which also has the same name and ownership.

The applicant provided the following public explanation that was published in the Application Summary:

[This] application [is] to synchronize taxi rates between Coast Taxi Powell River and Coast Taxi Sunshine Coast both of which are owned by Herbert Rehfeldt and operate in the same general region with some overlap of operating authority. The application is to bring Coast Taxi Powell River rates in line with Coast Taxi Sunshine Coast rates.

(3) Overview of Applicant Materials

The applicant submitted application forms and other materials that meet Board application requirements. The applicant's materials include the following:

- Financial information including a 3-year Income Projections; monthly revenues and expenses for 2020 and 2021.
- Rationale for Rate Change
- Resume of applicant Herbert Rehfeldt
- Municipal Notice includes Change of Taxi Rates letter to the City of Powell River; quathet Regional District; Tla'amin Nation

(4) Submissions

The Board did not receive submissions on this application.

(5) Procedural Matters

Section 17 of the Act allows the Board to conduct written, electronic or oral hearings, or any combination as the Board, in its sole discretion, considers appropriate. This application is being conducted by way of a written hearing.

IV. Analysis and Findings

Section 28(1) of the Act sets out the factors the Board must consider with respect to this application.

(1) Rates

The following is a summary of the rates proposed as published in the application summary:

Metered Rates*	Current	Proposed
Initial "Flag"	\$3.80	\$4.10
Distance (per kilometer)	\$2.32	\$2.60
Waiting Time (per hour)	\$46.12	\$50.64
*Rates include 5% GST		

The proposed rates relate to the applicant's desire to synchronize rates of his two companies, Coast Taxi Powell River and Coast Taxi Sunshine Coast. Since both companies operate in the same general region with some overlap of operating authority, to bring the rates in line is a reasonable request.

The current rates were approved when Powell River Taxi Ltd. operated the taxi company. They came into effect November 01, 2020. The proposed rates are in line with those approved for the applicant when he operates as Coast Taxi Sunshine Coast.

In addition to the applicant's rationale and financial information, the Board may consider the following factors or questions when deciding whether to approve rates to be charged, or rules that govern how rates are to be charged:

- Are rates and rules clear and complete so total fares are reasonably predictable and understandable for paying passengers?
- Are the rates simple to measure?
- Are the rates within industry norms for similar services in the area or in a comparable area?
- Are rates the and rules for non-taxi services distinct from rates and rules of taxis in the area?

The applicant states that there are no other taxi companies in either Regional District where he operates. Bringing the rates of these two companies in line would simplify operations when transferring customers from region to region.

I find that the proposed rates are clear, complete, and reasonable. Approving the application would make fares predictable and understandable for passengers. It would also simplify and synergize operations between the two companies.

For reasons set out above, the rates proposed by the applicant are approved as set out in the application summary.

V. Conclusion

For the reasons above, this application is approved in whole, and I establish the requirements that follow in appendices to this decision:

- Appendix 1: Rates and Rules

Rehfeldt, Herbert Ernst
Coast Taxi

Appendix 1: Rates and Rules

The following Board rates and rules are applicable and proposed:

- Standard Rules for Taxicab Rates

Rates are approved as set out below:

METERED RATES*

Initial “Flag”	\$4.10
Distance (per kilometer)	\$2.60
Waiting Time (per hour)	\$50.64
<i>*Rates include 5% GST</i>	

Appendix 2: Supplementary Terms & Conditions

Supplementary Terms & Conditions Respecting Taxi & Other PDVA Apps, effective September 25, 2019, apply to vehicles with an app that is used for dispatch but not payment processing.

Appendix 3: Data Requirements

Data Requirements, effective September 3, 2019, are applicable.