Questions & Answers
TNS Decisions May 29, 2020

Why is the Board continuing to issue decisions in the midst of COVID-19?
- Applicants have invested significant resources in putting their applications together.
- Board staff contacted applicants on all of the outstanding applications to ask whether they wish
to have a decision on their application issued without further delay or whether they would prefer that the Board defer consideration of their application until at least June 2020.
- The Board is proceeding to consider those applications which applicants do not wish to defer.

Due to COVID-19 are you planning to temporarily scrap the Class 4 licence requirements for drivers to get more drivers on the road?
- That question should be directed to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure as that was not a decision made by the Passenger Transportation Board

When can the approved ride hailing company (called a TNS in B.C.) start operating?
- Questions concerning potential launch date should be referred directly to the company.

What are the next steps for the approved company?
- The approved company will receive a licence from the Registrar. They must then obtain appropriate motor vehicle insurance from ICBC and work with municipality in their respective operating area to ensure compliance with local by-laws

Why was the other application refused?
- That information is outlined in the application decision which is published on the Board’s website. It would not be appropriate to comment further.

When will you announce the decisions for remaining applications?
- The Board has received a total of 41 ride hailing applications to date and with today’s announcement has issued decisions on 34 of them.
- The Board is in the process of reviewing pending applications and is working towards issuing further decisions on ride hailing applications as expeditiously as possible.
- The Board will notify the public as soon as additional decisions have been made

Will you accept additional TNS applications?
- Yes, the Board continues to receive TNS applications from interested parties

Why do drivers need a Class 4 licence to operate?
- That question should be directed to the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure as that was not a decision made by the Passenger Transportation Board

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, are you planning to scrap geographic restrictions for taxi industry to help them compete with ride hailing companies?
- After consultations with the taxi industry, transportation network services (TNS) companies and others in July 2019, the Passenger Transportation Board members agreed to review taxi boundaries after a year, once data was obtained from both taxis and TNSs.
There is a statutory requirement for taxi companies to provide the data requirements outlined by the Board starting from September 16, 2019. TNSs must provide performance data from the outset of their operations.

The Board remains committed to using TNS and taxi performance data to make evidence-based decisions and will review taxi boundaries in mid-September.

**Will TNS companies be required to provide wheelchair accessible vehicles?**
- That was not a requirement imposed on the companies.
- The Passenger Transportation Act requires TNS operators to pay a 30 cent per trip fee to fund accessibility programs which fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

**What enforcement measures are in place to ensure TNSs comply with the rules?**
- Questions regarding enforcement should be directed to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure which is responsible for enforcement.

**Is the Board providing a level playing field between taxis and TNSs? Will its decisions impact the existing taxi industry?**
- We refer you to the decisions of approved companies which address that issue.

**Will TNS insurance be cheaper than taxi Insurance?**
- The Board does not exercise regulatory authority over insurance requirements for motor vehicles. This question should be directed to ICBC.

**Why are TNS rates different from taxi rates?**
- We refer you to the decisions of approved companies which address that issue.
- The use of coupons or discounts by approved companies to lower rates below the minimum rate is prohibited.

**Why is there no initial limit on fleet size; don't you think it will worsen traffic congestion?**
- The Board concluded that it did not have sufficient data to make a decision on fleet size with respect to approved applications at this stage; however, the Board will require regular data from approved companies and will be monitoring this issue.

**Can municipalities prohibit ride sharing companies from operating within their municipal boundaries?**
- The Passenger Transportation Act provides sole authority to the Board to set boundaries/operating areas for taxis and ride sharing companies.