

September 12, 2018

## Board Concludes Consultations & Advances Taxi Modernization

The Passenger Transportation (PT) Board has concluded its consultations on taxi modernization, released a consultation summary and is moving forward with recommendations to implement short-term actions for taxi modernization:

- A one-time opportunity in the near-term to increase the number of taxi vehicles (plates) by up to 15%
- Giving industry the flexibility to lower metered taxi fares in off-peak hours for app-hailed trips
- Increasing efficiencies at shift change with separate day and night vehicles

These recommendations for PT Board action are outlined in the report published July 2018, [Modernizing Taxi Regulation](#) by Hara and Associates.

In the past month, 55 taxi licensees participated at 8 meetings in 7 cities across the province, and online surveys obtained additional taxi industry input from 30 BC taxi licensees and 160 BC taxi drivers. Further, we met with UBCM staff, the Disability Alliance of BC, the Council of Senior Citizen Organizations of BC, and ridesharing companies.

The summary of the consultations, [Taxi Modernization: Short-Term Actions: Results of Consultations & Recommendations to the PT Board](#), reports our findings and the actions we are taking in response to the “Hara recommendations.” Highlights are noted below.

<b>Findings</b>	<b>Board Action</b>
<b>Increase Taxi Plates.</b> Support to increase taxi numbers by up to 15% was near universal among taxi licensees and broad among other stakeholders. Some stakeholders advised that additional taxi decisions should improve accessible taxi availability.	Implement a streamlined process that gives taxi licensees an opportunity to apply to expand their fleets by up to 15%. Details will be posted on the <a href="#">taxi modernization webpage</a> before September 15, 2018.
<b>Enable Taxi Rate Competitiveness</b> Both licensees and drivers request delayed implementation, in part to address systems issues.	The PT Board will give licensees the option to reduce taxi fares for app-hailed trips at off-peak hours. The implementation date will be September 2019.
<b>Improve Taxi Availability at Shift Change</b> Shift change inefficiencies affect taxi availability in some urban centres, and allowing single shift vehicles can address those problems.	The Board will allow taxi licensees to increase their fleet size to operate single shift cars (e.g. one car in the day and one in the night).

**More Info:** [Taxi modernization webpage](#)