

TO: City of Vancouver Standing Committee on City Finance and Services

RE: Policy Report - Adapting to Provincial Legislative Changes Related to Passenger Directed Vehicles

DATE: October 1, 2019

CHAIR:
Gary Pooni
Brook Pooni Associates

VICE CHAIR:
Luca Citton
Boughton Law Corporation

Dear Members of Council,


We are pleased the City of Vancouver is considering an inter-municipal approach to licensing ridesharing. Given the Passenger Transportation Board's area of operations, ridesharing vehicles are able to operate across many municipalities. By working together across the region, municipalities can ensure consistent, affordable, and reliable ridesharing services across Metro Vancouver.

However, the proposed licensing framework from City of Vancouver is inconsistent with a regional transportation model. Specifically, the proposed per vehicle fee could compound into a much higher number and become prohibitively expensive should other municipalities follow suit. We are concerned that this framework would lead to companies only affiliating vehicles in the City of Vancouver to cut costs. Such a decision would likely have an impact on Vancouver with more vehicles focused in the city core than in the suburbs than would otherwise be the case, more fare refusals, and more deadheading.

There are now more than 40 jurisdictions in Canada enjoying the benefits of ridesharing services. Metro Vancouver remains the largest metropolitan area in North America without ridesharing operations.

Transportation is regional. We strongly urge you to work collaboratively with TransLink and other municipalities to develop a framework that would enable ridesharing across Metro Vancouver.

Sincerely,



Charles Gauthier
President & CEO

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