



October 24, 2019

File no. 0400-60

Jason Lum, Chair of the Board
Fraser Valley Regional District
45950 Cheam Avenue
Chilliwack BC V2P 1N6

Dear Mr. Lum: *Jason,*

Re: Inter Municipal Ride-Hailing Business Licence

I am writing to ask for your support in the development of an inter-municipal business license for ride-hailing operators in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley.

Since 2013, The Township of Langley has been a part of the Fraser Valley Inter Municipal program which was created in partnership with local governments, the Union of British Columbia Municipalities and the Province of British Columbia. This IMBL partnership has proven to streamline and simplify the licensing process, making it easier to do business in participating communities.

September 30, 2019 Township of Langley Council passed the following resolution:

MOTION

Moved by Mayor Froese

Seconded by Councillor Richter,

That staff be directed to provide a report regarding developing a ridesharing policy, appropriate regulations, and supportive business licensing frameworks, working with TransLink, Metro Vancouver, and other municipalities.

CARRIED

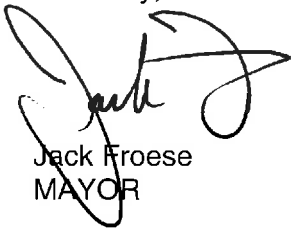
As you know, ride-hailing has a number of potential impacts at the local and regional level. For these reasons, a number of local governments in Metro Vancouver and elsewhere have expressed an interest in leveraging the authority that has been granted to them by the Province to enact some regulatory control over ride-hailing companies operating within their jurisdiction. However, experience from other jurisdictions indicates that inconsistency in local regulations, and an excessive cumulative regulatory and financial burden of multiple local licenses is often cited as a reason for state/provincial pre-emption of local authority. Coordination of local government licensing may avoid provincial pre-emption of our local authority and also allows for simpler compliance on the part of the Transportation Network Services (TNS) operators and is generally welcomed by TNS operators.

There is now an emerging consensus from municipal staff in Metro Vancouver that local government licensing of ride-hailing companies should be coordinated, and that an inter-municipal business license (IMBL) is the best option to ensure a coordinated approach. *[Footnote: An inter-municipal business license (IMBL) is an add-on to a base business license that allows mobile businesses (e.g. contractors and caterers) to operate across participating communities. The partnership is formed through a bylaw enacted by each participating community. As examples, there are four existing IMBLs in place in Metro Vancouver for specific industries: Metro West (Richmond, Burnaby, Surrey, Vancouver, Delta, New West) and the Fraser Valley (Township of Langley, Abbotsford, Chilliwack, Delta, Hope, Kent, City of Langley, Maple Ridge, Mission, Pitt Meadows, Surrey) for trades and contractors; Tri-Cities (Coq, POCO, POMO) for all mobile services (with exclusions); North Shore (DWV, DNV, CNV) for mobile trades.]*

Over the past two months, a working group of TransLink and interested local government staff have met regularly to research key policy considerations to include in possible IMBL for TNS operators. This research was presented to the Mayors' Council on September 20. In response, the Mayors' Council asked TransLink to develop options and next steps for the creation of an IMBL for TNS companies for consideration at a subsequent meeting.

Your local government's support for an IMBL will send a signal to the public, the province, TNS operators and the Mayors' Council that a coordinated local approach to TNS licensing should be developed and brought back to local decision-makers for consideration. There is some urgency to this request given TNS operators will begin service shortly. Please contact Andrew McCurran, Director of Strategic Planning and Policy, at 778.375.7643 or Andrew.McCurran@TransLink.ca if you would like more background on TransLink's work on IMBL's to date, and if your local government supports this initiative.

Sincerely,



Jack Froese
MAYOR

copy: Ramin Seifi, General Manager, Community Development & Engineering, Township of Langley
Mike Buda, Executive Director, Mayors' Council on Regional Transportation, TransLink
Andrew McCurran, Director of Strategic Planning and Policy, TransLink