Vehicles for Hire and Accessibility

Access Advisory Committee
November 20, 2018

winnipeg.ca/vehiclesforhire

Update on Activities

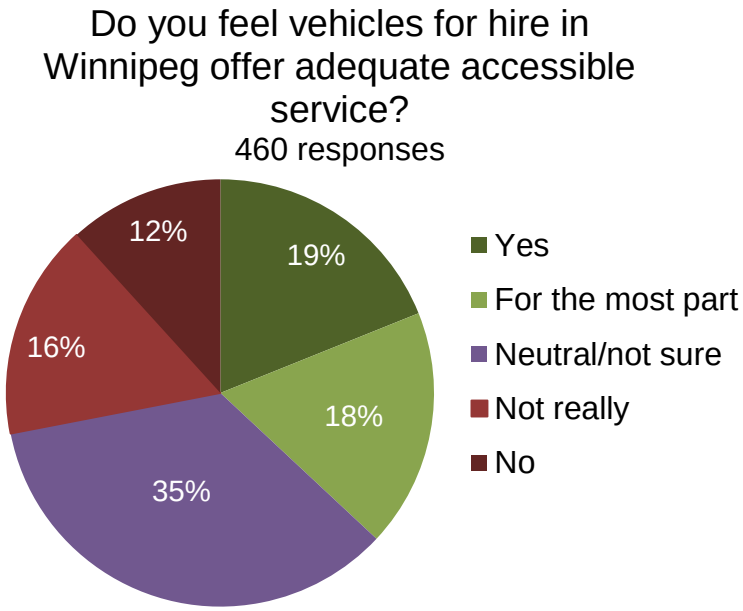
Date(s)	Activity	Details
March 1, 2018	Vehicles for Hire By-law takes effect	City of Winnipeg takes over regulation of industry. By-law approved by Council on December 13, 2017.
April 23, 2018	Accessibility and Vehicles for Hire information session	40 community members attended. The intention was to present information and answer questions, rather than collect feedback.
July 2018	Second taxi license lottery	60 taxi licenses were awarded through a lottery for accessible vehicles only.
July 8, 2018 **August 15, 2018** **September 13, 2018** **October 17, 2018**	Vehicles for Hire Advisory Committee meetings	Representation from 14 stakeholders. Discussions on safety, accessibility, draft survey, and draft recommendations.
September 14 to October 7, 2018	Online survey on safety and accessibility	460 responses. This survey results do not provide a scientific sample, but rather, provides a general sense of feedback.

Survey Overview

Most survey respondents were passengers: 72% (330 of 460)



23 survey respondents indicated they request accessible survey when requesting a vehicle for hire



Most respondents (161 of 460) were neutral or unsure if vehicles for hire in Winnipeg offer adequate accessible service.

Accessibility

What does an accessible vehicles for hire industry mean to you?

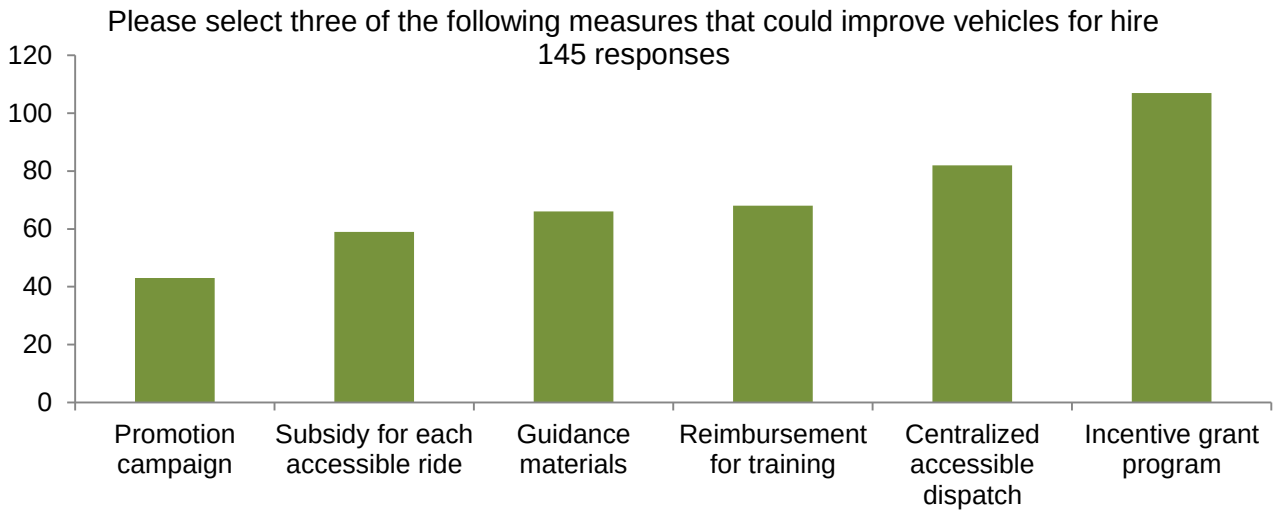
All citizens have equal access and equal rights to services. – passenger

Giving the passenger the choice. - driver

Accessibility



Of those who require accessible service (23), eight were not satisfied with the service.



"Reduce the financial impact on accessible vehicle for hire owners" was the most popular objective of an accessibility program.

Incentive grant program for accessible vehicle owners was the most popular measure for improving accessibility.

Accessibility Surcharge

A minimum ratio of accessible vehicles is being encouraged through a surcharge mechanism:

- $0.07 per trip is a fee charged to both personal transportation provider dispatchers and to taxi dispatchers.
- applicable to a licensed dispatcher if less than 10% of a dispatcher's fleet is comprised of accessible (wheelchair roll-on) vehicles demonstrated to be in operation each month (in order to qualify, an accessible vehicle must provide accessible service at least one day per week).
- All revenue will be used to support a program to improve accessible service within the vehicle for hire industry.

Options for Accessibility Surcharge Funds

- Improve access to transportation
    - Working with industry on upgraded and expanded dispatch options
- Support accessible service providers
- Centralized dispatch system for accessible service providers
- Public awareness of accessible service providers, and support improvements to service delivery
- Consider subsidy for service providers
- What is being done:
    - 60 new licences to be issued on December 1 are all accessible
    - Recommendations to Council in VFH annual report and by-law updates to further move towards improved accessible service
    - Further discussion at Stakeholder Advisory Committee meetings on accessibility and consultation regarding additional steps moving forward

Next Steps

1. Public Engagement Summary Report
2. Incorporate what we heard into reports
3. Council review
4. Implementation