Minute No. 87
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – November 19, 2019

Item No. 1 Taxis in Diamond Lanes

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and adopted the following:

1. That future reports on this initiative be made by the Winnipeg Parking Authority, in consultation with Winnipeg Transit, and included as part of the Vehicles for Hire Annual Report.

2. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the forgoing.

Report – Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works – November 19, 2019

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Allard,

That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On December 3, 2019, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On November 19, 2019, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and submitted the matter to the Executive Policy Committee and Council.

COUNCIL DECISION:

On June 20, 2019, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works and adopted the following:

1. That pursuant to section 90(1) (l) of the Highway Traffic Act, Council expressly permit taxis to travel but not stop in diamond lanes, which allows the pilot project to become permanent.

2. That the Transit Department and Winnipeg Parking Authority Vehicles for Hire office continue to monitor taxi usage and remedy any operational issues.

3. That the Transit Department be directed to provide an update on the program to the November 19, 2019 meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works, to align with the Vehicles for Hire Annual Report;

4. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: Taxis in Diamond Lanes - Annual Update

Critical Path: Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
L. Barkman	G. Ewankiw	N/A	M. Ruta, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since the implementation of permanently allowing taxis to travel in diamond lanes, issues of operational policy noncompliance have been minimal, as have any other concerns. It is recommended that future reports on this initiative be made by the Winnipeg Parking Authority in consultation with Winnipeg Transit, as part of the Vehicles for Hire Annual Report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That future reports on this initiative be made by the Winnipeg Parking Authority, in consultation with Winnipeg Transit, and included as part of the Vehicles for Hire Annual Report.

2. That the proper officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the forgoing.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

At its meeting on May 28, 2019, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works directed that the Transit Department provide an update on the program at the November 19, 2019 Standing Policy Committee meeting, to align with the Vehicles for Hire Annual Report.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

At its meeting on December 13, 2017, City Council adopted a resolution permitting licensed taxis to travel in diamond lanes, effective March 1, 2018, on a one-year trial period. The Transit and Public Works Departments coordinated the implementation of the trial and worked together with the Winnipeg Parking Authority, who consulted with the taxi industry regarding operational regulations.

During the trial period, the number of incidents of taxis stopping and loading/alighting passengers while in the diamond lane steadily decreased. This decrease was attributed to the Winnipeg Parking Authority meeting with the taxi industry to raise awareness about operational regulations.

On May 28, 2019, the Standing Policy Committee on Infrastructure Renewal and Public Works recommended that this project become permanent. At its meeting on June 20, 2019, City Council adopted the recommendations of the Standing Policy Committee which allowed the pilot project to become permanent. The Transit Department and Winnipeg Parking Authority Vehicles for Hire office were directed to monitor taxi usage and remedy any operational issues that should occur.

The Vehicles for Hire office issued a reminder notification to the taxi industry after the pilot project became permanent. Their office has received one general citizen complaint in regards to the new policy. Winnipeg Transit has not had a recorded incident of non-compliance with operational policy since June of 2019. Bike Winnipeg has not reported any incidents of non-compliance or any other operational issues.

Winnipeg Transit will continue to monitor compliance with operational regulations. It is recommended that future reports on this initiative be made by the Winnipeg Parking Authority in consultation with Winnipeg Transit, as part of the Vehicles for Hire Annual Report.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statemen Date: October 22, 2019

Project Name:

Taxis in Diamond Lanes, Annual Update

COMMENTS:

There is no financial impact from the recommendations in this report.

Original Signed by
Laurie Fisher, CPA, CA
Manager of Finance & Administration

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

Winnipeg Parking Authority

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

01-01b Key Directions for the Entire City – Key directions for connecting and expanding our sustainable transportation and infrastructure network.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

By permitting taxis to operate in diamond lanes, the efficiency of their service is increased, as is their ability to serve customers.

3.1 **"**Increase Use and Efficiency of Public Transit Systems"

- Deliver continuous improvement in transit service with a focus on customer service, reliability, and route connectivity, and public education (page 37).

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Transit
Division: Operations
Prepared by: Lionel Barkman, A/Operations Planner
Date: October 23, 2019