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Halifax, Nova Scotia  
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**Item No. 14.2.1(i)**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**September 19, 2017**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed by Director

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Kelly Denty, Acting Director, Planning and Development

Original Signed by Director

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David Reage, Director, Halifax Transit

**DATE:** September 12, 2017

**SUBJECT:** **Access-A-Bus Service Strategic Review**

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**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

- April 13, 2017 staff report regarding Access-A-Bus Service Strategic Review; and
- May 9, 2017 approval of the following motions by Regional Council regarding item No. 14.4.2 Taxi Safety:

That Halifax Regional Council direct staff to:

1. Draft amendments to Administrative Order #39 so that Licensing Decals are displayed inside the front passenger and back passenger areas of a vehicle for hire to identify the license number of a vehicle.
2. Create a Request for Proposal (RFP) toward an in-depth industry review and jurisdictional scan including recommendations not limited to the following:
  - Incorporating new industry technologies, e.g., in taxi video / audio recording systems, GPS real-time tracking systems, smartphone applications; etc.
  - License restrictions;
  - Sensitivity and Safety Training;
  - Passenger/Driver safety measures, e.g., in car shields, emergency alarm buttons and passenger trip logs;
  - Standards of professional, moral and ethical conduct of license holders; and
  - Conditions that would result in an automatic suspension or revocation of a license

## **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Section 305 of the *Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act*, provides the Halifax Regional Municipality with the authority to make regulations or by-laws regulating and licensing persons and vehicles transporting for hire.

## **BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION**

Further to Regional Council's May 9, 2017 motion, staff have recently issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Taxi and Limousine Vehicle for Hire Industry Review (VHIR). The award of the RFP to the successful proponent is anticipated to take place within the next two weeks.

To address the portion of the June 22, 2017 motion of the Transportation Standing Committee regarding options to support a sustainable framework which ensures the 24 hour provision of an accessible taxi service, the VHIR will include a review of the current vehicle for hire system relative to the Municipality's long term accessibility and transportation requirements. In undertaking the review, the consultant will engage with various stakeholders including industry license holders and brokers, the persons with disabilities community, the general public and Halifax Transit. By early 2018, the consultant will have prepared a detailed recommendation report to address the concerns and research findings for improving the vehicle for hire industry in the Municipality.

Following the delivery of the consultant's report, staff will report to Council, via the Transportation Standing Committee, with recommendations on changes to improve the vehicle for hire licensing program. The VHIR, in conjunction with the Access A-Bus Service Strategic Review, will assist the Municipality in determining a strategy for a well-coordinated and improved for accessible transportation service delivery program.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

As noted earlier in this report, the consultant will undertake community engagement with a variety of stakeholders, including but not limited to industry license holders and brokers, the general public, restaurant and hotel industries, the Halifax International Airport Authority, the persons with disabilities community, Halifax Regional Police, Halifax Transit and the Tourism Association of Nova Scotia.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

N/A

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

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