



TRANSPORTATION BOARD

202- 940 BLANSHARD STREET • PO BOX 9850 STN PROV GOVT • VICTORIA BC V8W 9T5

Passenger Transportation Board Bulletin

May 16, 2007

The *Passenger Transportation Board Bulletin* is published weekly on the web site of the Passenger Transportation Board. Printed copies are available directly from the Passenger Transportation Board at the address above.

The *PT Board Bulletin* gives notice of the applications for special authorization that have been received by the Board, the determinations the Board makes on those applications, as well as appeals from enforcement orders of the Registrar of Passenger Transportation. Board Advisories may also be published in the *PT Board Bulletin* to update the public and commercial passenger transportation industry on Board initiatives and changes to Board rules or procedure and policy guidelines.

May 16, 2007

Industry Advisory

Eco-Friendly Taxis in the GVRD and CRD

Context

Honourable Kevin Falcon, Minister of Transportation, issued a general policy directive to the Passenger Transportation Board on May 8, 2007. This directive was issued under section 6(5) of the *Passenger Transportation Act* which enables the Minister to provide general policy directives to the board with respect to the exercise of its powers and duties.

Minister Falcon asked the Board to consider the Government's greenhouse gas reduction policy and what the Board can do to further this policy. In particular, the Board was asked to consider establishing a requirement respecting the use of eco-friendly vehicles for any taxi licences or additional vehicles that are newly-approved in the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD) and Capital Regional District (CRD). This requirement would not apply to accessible taxis.

The Board shares Government's concerns regarding the serious impact of greenhouse gas emissions on the environment and supports the view that it is in the public interest to make the transportation industry more ecologically responsive to this issue. In fact, at its April meeting, the Board had discussed the matter of energy efficient low emission vehicles.

Board Policy

The Board has reviewed the directive in light of the Board's mandate as set out in the *Passenger Transportation Act* as well as the principles of administrative fairness. The Board concluded the following:

1. As with any application respecting special authorization, the focus of the Board's analysis of applications to operate taxis is:
 - o whether there is a public need for the proposed service;
 - o whether the applicant is a fit and proper person and capable of providing the service; and
 - o whether granting the application will promote sound economic conditions in the passenger transportation business in British Columbia.

A proposal based solely on the use of eco-friendly vehicles would not be sufficient in and of itself to meet this test.

2. If the above test is met, and the Board approves a taxi application that increases the supply of non-accessible taxis in the GVRD or the CRD, the Board will as a matter of policy establish a requirement that vehicles must be eco-friendly.

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3. In applying this policy, Board members must consider the circumstances of individual applicants and must consider any arguments put forward as to why the policy should not apply to their particular application.

Effective Date of the Eco-Friendly Taxi Policy

The policy will be effective on the date that notice is given to industry, i.e. May 16, 2007. Applications received after this date must include references to eco-friendly vehicles in their application materials. For example, business plans for these applications will be expected to show the capital and operating costs associated with the vehicles to be used.

For those who have applications in process, the Board will advise them of the new policy and provide an opportunity to update their application materials and comment on the application of the policy to the circumstances of their application.

Eligible Vehicles

Vehicles eligible as an "eco-friendly taxi" include:

- Vehicles eligible under the federal ecoAUTO rebate program, as updated from year to year.
- Vehicles that are model years 2005 and newer and eligible for the provincial sales tax concessions because they are alternative fuel vehicles.
- 6 to 7 passenger vans which are federal Energuide fuel efficiency award winners for in the year in which the vehicle is being approved.
<http://oee.nrcan.gc.ca/transportation/personal/pdfs/most-efficient-vehicles-2007.pdf>

Note: The Board may restrict the number of vans to be operated in a fleet.

Application of the Policy

- This policy will apply to Board application decisions respecting new taxi licences or additional taxis in an existing fleet in the GVRD or the CRD; it does not apply to accessible taxis.
- The actual policy is available on the Board website at: www.ptboard.bc.ca

Incentives

The Province of British Columbia has sales tax concessions for alternative fuel vehicles. For more information see Bulletin SST 085, *Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Alternative Motor Fuel Tax Concessions*, available at the Ministry of Small Business and Revenue website:
http://www.rev.gov.bc.ca/ctb/publications/bulletins/sst_085.pdf

The Government of Canada has an ecoAUTO Rebate Program that offers rebates from \$1000 to \$2000, to people who, beginning March 20, 2007, buy or enter a long-term lease (12 months or more) for a fuel-efficient vehicle. For more information, go to:

<http://www.tc.gc.ca/programs/environment/ecotransport/ecoauto.htm>

Comments on the Policy

If anyone has comments regarding this policy, please put them in writing and send them to the Passenger Transportation Board, PO BOX 9850 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9T5; Email: ptboard@gov.bc.ca; fax: 250-953-3788.

Part 1: Applications Received

Applications in which special authorization is sought are published in Part 1 of the *PT Board Bulletin*. To see a more detailed summary of the application, click on the application number.

Application	Applicant	Brief Summary of Application	Deadline for Submissions
T750-07	0768872 BC Ltd. Vancouver BC dba Imperial Limousine	Change of Rates (PDV) Proposed amendment to rates that were previously approved or set by the Board.	May 26, 2007
1191-07	Gravity Unlimited Adventures Ltd. Nelson BC (transferee) HLADIK, Miroslav & RAY, June Nelson BC (transferor) dba First Chair Shuttle Service	Transfer of Licence (PDV) Proposed transfer of passenger transportation licence 70839 from Miroslav HLADIK and June RAY dba First Chair Shuttle Service, to Gravity Unlimited Adventures Ltd. This is an administrative transfer.	May 23, 2007
243-07	Nanawin Management Group Ltd. Lake Cowichan BC dba Cowichan Cabs	Amendment of Licence (PDV) Proposed expansion of the <i>originating area</i> by authorizing the pick up of passengers from "points in the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD)." Proposed amendment of vehicle capacity from 'driver and 5 passengers' to 'driver and not less than 5 and not more than 10 passengers.' Addition of Motor Vehicles (PDV) Proposed addition of 2 motor vehicles to increase the maximum fleet size for passenger directed vehicles from 2 to 4 vehicles.	May 31, 2007

Submissions:

Any person may make a submission on an application to the Passenger Transportation Board. Submissions should relate to the following matters that the Board must consider (see section 28 of the Passenger Transportation Act):

- (a) *whether there is a public need for the service the applicant proposes to provide under any special authorization;*
- (b) *whether the applicant is a fit and proper person to provide that service and is capable of providing that service; and*
- (c) *whether the application, if granted, would promote sound economic conditions in the passenger transportation business in British Columbia.*

All submissions must be:

- *in writing*
- *accompanied by a \$50 fee (payable only by cheque or money order to the Minister of Finance)*
- *received at the Passenger Transportation Board office in Victoria by 4:30 p.m. within 15 days of the PT Board Bulletin publication date (10 days for Change of Rates applications).*

All information that a person submits on an application is routinely disclosed by the Board to the applicant. Any person who gathers and submits personal information from third parties is subject to the Personal Information Protection Act and should not guarantee the confidentiality of the information being submitted.

Within 10 days of when a submission is forwarded by the Board to the applicant, the applicant may reply by sending written comments to the Board.

Part 2: Application Decisions

Board decisions on applications for special authorization are published in Part 2 of the *PT Board Bulletin*. To see a more detailed summary of the application, click on the application number.

Application	Applicant	Brief Summary of Application	Decision
664-07UPN	ARDEN, David Richard Eustace Sooke BC (transferee) dba Shamrock Limousine GABAT, Carla & BETHEL, Edward Victoria BC (transferor) dba Sharmrock Limousine	Transfer of Licence (PDV) – Urgent Public Need Transfer of passenger transportation licence 70397 from Carla GABAT and Edward BETHEL to David ARDEN.	Approved
05-07 TOP	Time Limousine Ltd. Surrey BC	Application for Temporary Operating Permit (PDV) 3 temporary operating permits to operate additional passenger directed vehicles.	Approved as set out in the Decision
AV133-07	White Rock South Surrey Taxi Ltd. Surrey BC dba Pacific Cabs	Addition of Motor Vehicles (PDV) addition of motor vehicles to increase the maximum fleet size for passenger directed vehicles from 51 vehicles of which 43 may be non accessible taxis, to 56 vehicles of which 46 may be non-accessible taxis	Approved as set out in the Decision

Part 3: Hearing Notices

None

Part 4: Appeal Decisions

None

Part 5: Decisions Whether Application for General Authorization Requires Special Authorization

None

Part 6: Other Matters

None