

February 9, 2004

MCC Invites Written Submissions on Driver Safety Initiative

The Motor Carrier Commission of BC is an independent body that regulates commercial passenger transportation services, including taxis. Taxi driver safety is a significant concern to the industry, law enforcement and the Commission, and the Commission has been working with industry to address this issue. The Commission has concluded that taxi cameras deter crime, are not as intrusive as taxi shields, are more "tourist friendly" than shields and are a valuable tool in the apprehension and prosecution of criminals. In addition, shields can pose a hazard in the event of a motor vehicle accident.

The Commission is implementing a pilot initiative that would require all taxicabs in the Lower Mainland to have digital cameras. This means that images are written over at the completion of a cycle and not stored. No one will be able to monitor images in "real-time". Only in the event of an investigation of a crime would images be accessed and only then by authorized police officers. Neither cab company managers nor drivers will have access to images. The Commission will allow operators to impose a minor, time-limited surcharge on flag rates to enable companies to purchase and maintain the cameras.

A description of the initiative is available on the Commission's website at: <http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/mcc/mcc.htm> Hard copies may be obtained by contacting the Commission at 250-953-3777.

Prior to implementation, the Commission is seeking comments on this initiative from drivers, passengers and other interested persons. Please provide written submissions to: Motor Carrier Commission, PO Box 9850, STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC, V8W 9T5 or motorcarriercommission@gems8.gov.bc.ca All submissions must be received by **February 20, 2004** and must contain the name, address and telephone number of respondents.